

Mandeville Primary School Governors' Newsletter



Welcome to our Governors' Newsletter

■ **We are very excited to be reviving our Governors' Newsletter after what has proven to be a very strange period for all of us. The last two years have brought about a lot of changes, including to the governing board at Mandeville.**

We said goodbye to a few members of the team who had been with us for many years, including

our dedicated and much-loved Chair, Barry Young. Change always brings an opportunity for growth and we have been so fortunate to welcome new members to the team who have a huge amount of enthusiasm, energy and best of all a broad range of skills that will really contribute positively to the school. As always, there is a lot happening at Mandeville School and the governors have

been working behind the scenes with school leaders on many things, including the curriculum, finances, and future expansion. We aim to produce a newsletter once a term, looking to update you on the activities of our team and what we have been doing to help make Mandeville the fantastic place that it is.

Fernanda Champness
Chair of Governors



Eco-schools update

Nathan Parsad

Member of the Resources Committee and Curriculum Subject Link Governor for Geography. I am also a member of the School Travel Team and the Eco-Committee.

■ **This term the Eco-Schools programme was launched at Mandeville.**

The programme is designed to empower our children to improve our environment. Pupils applied to be on the 'Eco-Committee' at the start of

term and votes were held in each class.

We have two representatives from Reception to Year 6. The committee carried out an environmental review and have selected three topics

to focus on this academic year - Biodiversity, Energy and Litter.

The Eco-Committee are now forming an action plan and we will be able to share ways everyone can get involved soon.

School Expansion

Sarah Lilly

Chair of the School Expansion Team and Link Governor for Health and Safety.

■ **The Mandeville School Expansion Team have been busy holding regular meetings with the multidisciplinary team from HCC as we continue to develop plans for the expansion of the school to two forms of entry starting from September 2023.**

With many aspects to discuss, including the exciting intent of HCC to deliver this project as Net Zero Carbon, the Team will be working intensely over the next 2 years to ensure that our pupils, present and future, can enjoy a broad range of facilities in the additional and current buildings.

Hertfordshire Improvement Partner Visit

■ **Every term, we are visited by a 'Hertfordshire Improvement Partner' from 'Herts for Learning', who provides professional challenge.**

This term, the visit took place in November and focussed on PE. It included a meeting with the subject leader, three lesson observations and pupil interviews. A number of overall strengths were identified, including:

- The PE units that are taught are leading to explicit learning - for example, the vocabulary for dance; the formation for defence in tag rugby.
- Children value the many extra-curricular opportunities that they are provided with.
- Children understand the importance of physical fitness and

they know how they are supported with this at Mandeville through both the curricular and extra-curricular (including breaks and lunchtimes) provision.

The visit was extremely valuable and, as always, will support our ongoing self-evaluation.

Miss Hales
Head Teacher

Meet the Governor & Focus on Wellbeing Update

Clare Gowland

Lead Governor for: SEN (Special Educational Needs), Mental Health & Wellbeing, CLA/PLA (Currently and Previously Looked After Children – who have been in foster care and/or adopted) and Music

■ **As adults come to terms with changes in home and work life, we may sometimes forget that children, who need to feel safe and secure, are also living with unpredictability and uncertainty which can have a detrimental impact on their mental health, which in turn could affect their ability to engage and learn at school.**

During my regular visits and discussions with Miss Hales, it is clear that mental health and wellbeing is taken very seriously at Mandeville, particularly in these COVID times.

Some of the steps Mandeville are taking to support mental health and wellbeing are integrated into the classroom through PSHE (Personal, Social, Health & Economic) lessons and others are extra interventions, such as clubs or one-to-one sessions for pupils who require it.

Here are just some of the initiatives I have learnt about in my time as a Governor:

- PSHE – relevant topics such as the importance of a healthy diet, exercise and sleep. As well as managing the transition from primary to secondary school for year 6 pupils
- Clubs – a wide range of after-school and lunchtime clubs, all of which benefit mental and physical health, such as karate and athletics. This also includes a lunchtime Wellbeing Club aimed at Year 2, which aims to improve mental health and wellbeing through play activities.
- One to one Drawing and Talking therapy I have also been delighted to learn more about the STEPS approach being adopted by Mandeville, which all staff are trained in. It is a Therapeutic Approach to managing behaviour and one that evidence suggests is a far more effective way of managing difficult behaviour whilst promoting positive behaviour.

It is an approach that uses positive language and consequences, as opposed to punishment and negative labels, to help a pupil learn pro social skills.

STEPS information workshops for parents and carers to provide them with methods they can use at home were delivered on 23rd and 24th November and were well received.

It is hoped that the school will offer these sessions again in the Spring term 2022. Do keep an eye out for details of these.

In December 2021, we were notified that we have been awarded 'The Healthy Young Minds in Herts Emotional Wellbeing And Mental Health Awareness' accreditation.

We are one of only 20 schools in Hertfordshire to have this kitemark. It is a wonderful achievement and evidences our commitment to improving the mental health and wellbeing of the children, staff and parents/carers at our school.



■ **I have worked for over 20 years in adult and child mental health, and Disability Management in the workplace, for both public and private sector companies, as well as for myself.**

I have four years' post graduate Counselling and Psychotherapeutic training, a Certificate in Disability Management and have completed a year of Adoption and specialist courses in relation to parenting adopted children with trauma and special needs. I am a regular guest speaker at the Hertfordshire Adoption Foundation Training days.

PE Visit Report

David Evans

Member of the Resources Committee and Curriculum Subject Link Governor for PE and Design and Technology.

■ As governors we are assigned a link subject and undertake regular visits to the school. I visited Mrs Barrett in October for a subject visit. A resource

called Complete PE is being introduced to complement teaching and is a very positive step forward. The tracking, resources and support it

offers are really forward thinking. Also, pedometers have been introduced to help House challenges which is great.

