

Governors' Newsletter

April 2017 Issue 5

Another busy term has just flown by yet again. It's such a cliché, but where does the time go? We have a new Parent Governor on board, Kathryn Galati, so a big welcome goes to her. This term, as well as trips to Hatfield Forest and helping at the science workshops, governors have also done focus visits on maths teaching, English, Most Able, SEND and have had class visits and several pupil voice sessions. It all happens behind the scenes!



Maths Mastery

You may have heard your children talking about their Maths lessons at Mandeville and the new approach the teachers are using. To really get a feel for how maths is taught and to witness this new 'Mastery' approach, governors went back to the classroom to watch lessons in action. The aim of this way of teaching is to provide children with a deeper knowledge and understanding of mathematical procedures and related concepts. To do this, the children use all sorts of different resources or manipulatives to work out the answer to a sum and to prove this answer is correct. And despite there being a whole new mathematical language to learn, the result is, that Maths is actually fun! Any ideas what these manipulatives are?



Put A Spring In Your Step

To mark the first day of spring, 20th March, governors helped organise the 'Turn Sawbridgeworth Green' Day. Despite the very wet Monday, pupils, staff and governors from schools around Sawbridgeworth, turned up to school wearing something green and found an alternative to driving, such as walking, scooting or cycling.



Fitness Fun

On 16th March, a Duathlon company came into the school and set up static bikes and a running track in the playground. Each class, from nursery to year six had a half an hour session cycling for two minutes, running for two minutes, resting for two minutes and then repeating the cycle. A year three boy commented "I loved doing this, especially the cycling, even though the bikes didn't go anywhere. I was definitely going faster than my friend though!" Annelise Furnace and Kate Clark were also spotted cycling and running along with the children, whilst gasping for breath!



Junior Travel Ambassadors' Voice

At Mandeville we like to give as much responsibility to the children as possible. Our newly appointed JTA's from Year 5, chosen by Herts County Council, will have a voice in matters of road safety and sustainability, from a child's perspective. So far, they have worked alongside governors to promote the 'Spring In Your Step Day' and the Big Pedal, encouraging children to cycle or scoot to school for two weeks.

