



Aiming High, Achieving Together

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Dear Parents / Carers,

5th April 2022 – Governor Newsletter

It hardly seems like any time at all since we were welcoming the new starters to school in September and here we are already at Easter 2022!! Where has the time gone?!

We are thankful that Covid restrictions have been lifted and that life is getting back to the most “normal” it has been since the pandemic began. However, we are very aware that case numbers have fluctuated since the easing of restrictions and this has certainly been felt in school with high numbers of both staff and pupil absences. The impact of staff shortages has been minimal to the children at Merton Infants and we are very grateful for the flexibility and resilience of the whole staff team over the last two terms.

New Parent Governors

We are delighted to introduce two new Parent Governors who have joined the Governing Body this term.

Jenna Perkins

My son is in Year 2 and we have been so impressed with the school over the last 3 years. It will be sad to see him go to the Juniors but then my daughter will be starting in Year R in September.

Outside of school, I am a Fitness Instructor with my own business called Choreofit. I run classes 3 nights a week as well as classes On-Demand that you can do in the comfort of your own home. I run a selection of classes ranging from Clubbercise in the dark with disco lights and glow sticks to a good old stretch and tone class.

Stacey Pearce

I am a mum of three and all have attended Merton Infants, my youngest is still a pupil at the school. I also work at the school as a lunchtime supervisor. I am really looking forward to being a Parent Governor.

Lead Learning Partner (LLP) visit and Special Educational Needs (SEN) audit

Hampshire County Council provides school with a Leading Learning Partner (LLP) who supports the school and provides an essential link between the school and the Local Authority. Our LLP, Alaster Moses, visited the school in March to assess our progress against our school improvement priorities and to offer any further advice and support. The report reflects the dedicated hard work by all teams in the school as summarised:

‘All staff are focused on delivering a high-quality inclusive education to the pupils who attend the school’

We also commissioned an SEN audit and were visited by Sarah Kiel, SEN Advisor, who evaluated our SEN provision and the progress of children who are identified as having additional needs. School is awaiting the report.

School Council visit to the House of Commons

Jan Beard, our longest serving Governor, had the opportunity to attend this visit with the School Council.

“On the 1st April representatives from the School Council and Year 2, together with 5 adults had the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. It was an early start, catching the bus to town at 8.40 before boarding a train to Waterloo. Two children were very excited as they’d never been on a train before!

Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH



On arrival at the Houses of Parliament we were shown a short video, projected onto 3 walls retelling the history of Parliament and how times had changed, from the rules being made by the Monarchy to the Constitutional Monarchy that we have today. We were able to visit the House of Commons and see where Boris Johnson sits together with all the other members of parliament. Unfortunately, the House of Lords was closed to the public as there was a debate being held.

The children were very interested in everything that our guide had to tell us and were a credit to Merton infant School. Even the adults learnt a thing or two as well."

Mental Health Governor

Gary Pierce, a Parent Governor, has the responsibility of Mental Health, supporting the school's priorities for both staff and pupils. He will be attending an event called P.A.C.E run by Hampshire Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in June and will feedback knowledge and information to the staff and Governing Body. Any advice will be upated on the school's website in the Safeguarding link. Gary said 'I am looking forward to the new challenges that will come with this role and excited to get started.'

Venetia Memorial Garden

In honour of Venetia (Vee) Merritt, our Learning Support Assistant (LSA), who sadly passed away last July, we will be officially opening the Venetia Memorial Garden in the summer term and have invited Vee's husband and family to join us for this special occasion. The creation of our Well-being Garden has been made possible by all your generous contributions and fundraising events over the last year. It will be greatly used by the children and staff to support their mental health and well-being.

Reverend Arthur

Many of you will know Reverend Arthur, Vicar of The Parish of Popley with Limes Park and Rooksdown, who has been a regular visitor in school for 18 years. Arthur is due to retire at the beginning of May this year and we would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his commitment to and support of the school over many years. We wish him a peaceful retirement.

Governor Vacancies

We are always looking for new governors to join our [governing body](#). We would be delighted to hear from anyone who might be interested in joining our team. Please view the video on our website to learn more about our Governing Body.

Look out for us.....

We will be in school on Wednesday 15th June for our Summer Term Governor Monitoring Day. We would love to chat to you and hear your feedback. We aim to spend time at the beginning and end of the day out on the playground and at entry/exit points to the school site.

We wish you all a Happy Easter and an enjoyable holiday with your family.

Yours sincerely,

Emily Mean
Chair of Governors