



Aiming High, Achieving Together

Merton Infant School
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Dear Parents / Carers,

12th July 2021 – Governor Newsletter

It hardly seems like any time at all since we were welcoming everyone back to school after the last lockdown and here we are almost at the end of the school year. We had hoped to be able to celebrate the end of this year with the usual fun events such as Sports Day and Leaver's Assembly but due to the current Government guidelines this has not been possible. Scaled down versions of these events will still happen in school for the children's benefit and so they don't miss out on these valuable opportunities. We appreciate that you will not be able to share these events with your children in quite the same way and we appreciate your patience and understanding as we do all we can to keep everyone as safe as possible.

Governor Monitoring Days

Every year the Governors spend time in school monitoring all aspects of school life. This is done in a number of ways such as; one off focused visits, attending training with school staff, attending pupil progress meetings and supporting the recruitment of new staff. Once per term we also have Governor Monitoring Days when the whole Governing Body spends the day in school. This year we have managed one out of three of these days on the 25th May. We aim to spend time at the beginning and end of each Governor Monitoring day out on the playground and at entry/exit points to the school site so that we are accessible for parents and carers to ask us any questions or feedback any comments or concerns. Next year we will be making sure that you know these dates well in advance so you can be prepared to meet us and know exactly when we are available.

EAL (English as Additional Language) Gold Award

Well done to Mrs Durbajlo and all the staff for their hard work and commitment to our children in the work that they do in SEND and EAL.

Two years ago, we were the first school to receive the Bronze EAL award. This wasn't good enough for our staff so they decided to apply for the Silver award. However, when gathering all the data and evidence together for the inspector the staff realised that actually they were able to go straight for the Gold award. The inspector's comments were "You didn't just scrape through, you smashed it". Currently we have children who speak 23 different languages in school representing 28% of overall pupils in school. This award shows that 'Every Child Matters' to our staff and we truly live by our Merton Values of Motivation, Excellence, Respect, Teamwork, Opportunity and Never Give Up.

We are the first school in Basingstoke, the second infant school and only the third school in Hampshire to receive the Gold award and are leading the way for others to follow.

Fundraising

We have been blown away this year, more than ever, by the generosity of our Parents and Carers in donations to the school. We are aware that the last year and a half has been difficult for everyone both personally and financially for so many reasons and we are extremely grateful for your on-going support.

Easter Egg Hunt	£211.40
Easter Raffle	£472.00
Sponsored Merton Work Out	£1,871.85
Movie Nights	£471.00

Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH



The money raised has been to create our Well-being Garden in the internal quad including additional reading books for able readers.

School Grounds

Some of you have mentioned to us areas of concern regarding the school grounds. The path by the main gate has suffered damage and we are in the process of ensuring that this is repaired. There are a number of overhanging trees on the footpaths around the site. The responsibility for these trees lies with Basingstoke and Deane and I have made contact with them to seek their support in getting these trimmed.

Parking again!!

Parking around the school site continues to be a regular cause of concern to parents, staff and local residents, particularly those living in Romsey Close and Tintern Close. We would ask parents and carers NOT to park in Romsey Close but to use the car park at the Abbey Road shops and walk the rest of the journey to school. Parking is available at the end of Tintern Close but this is limited. We would ask all those who are driving to take extra care when parking and manouvering vehicles in areas where there are increased numbers of pedestrians.

Governor Vacancies

We are still looking for new governors to join our [governing body](#). We would be delighted to hear from anyone who:

- Is interested in children's education and the performance of the school;
- Is community spirited and would like to represent the community;
- Has spare time and the energy for the role;
- Is able to work well as part of a team;
- Has an enquiring mind and the confidence to ask questions and debate issues that affect the school;

or

- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements .

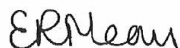
These volunteer positions are open to all members of the community. Becoming a governor gives you the opportunity to develop your own personal skills, gives you access to a programme of free training in respect of education/governance matters, a sense of achievement in helping make a difference to children reaching their potential and plenty of support and guidance from fellow governors.

In looking to fill these vacancies we are particularly interested in applications from people with finance/budgetary experience and also anyone with a knowledge of SEND, although please do not be put off if you do not have these skills. What is most important is enthusiasm, interest and the willingness to learn. Being part of this school and the children's lives is such a privilege. If you are interested then please leave your contact details with the school office or email Emily Mean, Chair of Governors on Emily.Mean@merton-inf.hants.sch.uk.

We would like to wish a fond farewell to all our current Year 2 children as they move on to Junior school next year and we wish you all a happy and healthy summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Finally, on behalf of the whole Governing Body, I would like to say a massive thank you to all our staff for all their hard work over what has been another challenging year.

Yours sincerely,



Emily Mean
Chair of Governors