



"Aiming High, Achieving Together"

Merton Infant School
Romsey Close
Popley Way
Basingstoke
Hampshire
RG24 9HB

Tel/Fax: 01256 324507
Email: adminoffice@merton-inf.hants.sch.uk
Website: www.mertoninfants.com

Dear Parents / Carers,

18th July 2019 – Governor Newsletter

I'm delighted to bring you the last *Governor Newsletter* of this academic year. A continued aim of the Governing Body is to improve communication and links between governors, staff, parents and children and this newsletter is just one of the ways that we will be achieving this. This term's newsletter has been edited by Andy Thompson, one of our Parent Governors.

EAL Bronze award – the first school in Basingstoke!

Removing barriers and inequalities in attainment and achievement is a priority for the Governing Body. Developed by the Hampshire EMTAS Specialist Teacher Advisor team, the EAL Excellence Award is an online school self-evaluation framework for monitoring the impact of provision for pupils learning English as an additional Language (EAL). The EAL Excellence Award covers five broad areas:

- Leadership & Management
- Pedagogy & Practice
- Data, Assessment & Progress
- Teaching & Learning
- Parental & Community Engagement

Merton Infant School received a bronze award for our excellence in EAL and we are *the first school in Basingstoke* to achieve this prestigious award. Congratulations to our Inclusion Manager, Mrs Durbajlo, for her hard work in achieving this and further boosting the opportunities for our children at Merton Infant School.

School Funding

One of the key roles of the Governing Body is to oversee the financial performance of the school and ensure that the money is well spent. This often means that difficult decisions have to be made in order to balance the budget and that as a school we spend only within our means.

This job is unfortunately becoming more and more difficult as budgets that are delegated to schools are simply not keeping up with rising costs. In real terms, Merton Infant School is again receiving less money next year than we did this year and it is becoming progressively more difficult to find the money to give your child the best education, something we constantly strive for. This means that as Governors we are increasingly having to source funding in other innovative and creative ways, such as through the use of local community budgets or via voluntary groups such as the Friends of Merton.

Mrs James and her team do a wonderful job in delivering the best education possible for our children. Governors continue to support that as best we can by ensuring that we get the best from our limited resources and maximising other funding opportunities as they become available, but it is becoming increasingly difficult to do this in the face of continued budgetary cuts.

Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH



Thank You Friends of Merton

The Friends of Merton are a supportive group of parents, carers and other members of the school community who raise money for both the Infant and Junior Schools. They provide the schools with much needed additional funds to enhance the children's wellbeing and learning outcomes.

The Friends of Merton have recently donated £6,000 to Merton Infant School for the redevelopment of the Year 2 area. There has also been a donation of £2,500 to buy a defibrillator for each school, so the money that you raise as parents and carers potentially helps save lives as well as contributing to the education of our children. Governors would like to thank the Friends of Merton for their continued hard work in fundraising for us. The success of the Friends in raising such sums to support the schools comes down to the efforts of those who volunteer just a little time out of their busy lives. Do look out for the Friends of Merton events in the coming terms and if you are able to help in any way at these or other events then please contact the secretary, Sammy Thompson, via the school office.

Governor Vacancies

We are currently looking for new co-opted governors to join our governing body. Our governors come from a range of different backgrounds, skills and experience but all share the common interest of wanting the best possible education for the children in our school. 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
- Can consider matters objectively and make informed judgements

These volunteer positions are open to parents/guardians or other people from our community. Co-opted governors are not elected by a parent election but are instead appointed directly by the governing body. 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.

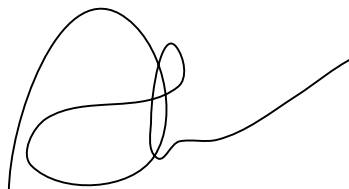
In looking to fill these vacancies we are particularly interested in applications from people with finance/budgetary experience and also anyone with a knowledge of SEND, although please do not be put off if you do not have these skills. What is most important is enthusiasm, interest and the willingness 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 Christopher Martin, Chair of Governors on Chris.Martin@merton-inf.hants.sch.uk.

Finally, as a Governing Body, we would like to wish you all a happy and safe summer with your children. We would like to thank all of the leadership, teaching and support staff for their relentless hard work over the course of this year and we look forward to welcoming you all back in September.

Yours sincerely,



Christopher Martin
Chair of Governors



Andy Thompson
Parent Governor