



“Aiming High, Achieving Together”

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

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

Dear Parents / Carers,

5th April 2019 – Spring Term Governor Newsletter

This term's newsletter is brought to you by Andy Thompson, a Parent Governor. 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.

Governor Monitoring Day

Governors regularly come into school throughout the year to carry out our duties but on 25th January we had the opportunity to come together as a Governing Body during the school day to see the school in action. This is a useful exercise for all Governors but especially for those who are new to the role to observe the teaching and learning in practice. The day was spent visiting the classrooms, undertaking learning walks, talking to parents and children about their experiences and speaking to specialist school staff about their areas of responsibility such as special needs, safeguarding, finance and health & safety. Governors made notes throughout our visit and held a debriefing with the Senior Leadership Team at the end of the day where we asked questions discussed our findings, before writing up our observations in governor reports afterwards.

Governors were particularly impressed with the team spirit observed at the school during our Monitoring Day. The focus on wellbeing was evident, balanced with an emphasis on learning and a high interest that all staff have in the pupils. Feedback from parents was positive and the children clearly enjoy their learning.

School Trips

Governors regularly accompany the children and staff on school trips and this term has been no different with days out to Wellington Country Park with Year R and the SeaCity Museum in Southampton with Year 2.

The Year R trip to Wellington Country Park was the first Merton school trip for these children. They had been learning about dinosaurs so to see 'life-size' dinosaurs was eye-opening. There was lots of time to play and explore with their friends with plenty of areas to learn and discover. The Year R geography topic was on the countryside and towns and at the very end of the visit they had a chance to listen and see what the countryside looks and sounds like and compare that to their urban environment in Basingstoke.

The Year 2 trip to the SeaCity museum in Southampton was an opportunity for the children to further their learning about the Titanic and its historic connections with the city. The school received some great comments from the museum about the children's behaviour and that's just the sort of feedback that makes us proud to be Governors of this school.

Governors will be accompanying children and staff from Year 1 on their trip to the National Motor Museum, Beaulieu next term as part of their Transport topic as well as the School Council visit to the Houses of Parliament.

The Governing Body – Who We Are

Headteacher: Mrs Larissa James BA (QTS) NPQH



Christopher Martin (Chair of Governors) – Christopher is a Local Authority Governor and is Head of Assurance for a London Borough Council. With 18 years experience of education finance and administration, Chris enjoys being able to apply this to his role as a Governor in providing robust challenge and support to the school. Chris serves on the Resources Committee and is the Safeguarding and Health & Safety Governor.

Nicola Caveney (Vice Chair of Governors) – As a parent of children who have been through the school and currently working as a Parenting Support Worker, becoming a Co-opted Governor allows Nicola to use her knowledge and training to help support the school and pupils. Nicola serves on the Resources Committee and the Headteacher Performance Management Panel. She is also the SEND Governor.

Lee-ann Dirienzo (Co-opted Governor) – Lee-ann started as a volunteer at the school and is now Trailblazers co-ordinator. She finds this and her role as a Governor to be very rewarding. Lee-ann is a Year Group Governor.

Jan Beard (Co-opted Governor) - Jan initially became a Governor in 1995 when her oldest child started school as she wanted to take a more active and supportive role in her education. Jan is also employed as an Admin Assistant at Merton Infant School and finds both roles to be both rewarding and informative.

Emily Mean (Co-opted Governor) - Emily is Chair of the Resources Committee, Literacy Link Governor and on the Head Teacher Performance Management Panel. She is a Physiotherapist at Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and is passionate about her community. She attends one of the local churches and as a family are involved in supporting the running of Popley Fields Community Centre and the Popley Festival.

Brigitte Symes (Co-opted Governor) – Brigitte is an HR specialist and has been a Governor since December 2018.

Louise Silverton (Parent Governor) - Louise is an HR professional and is our Dedicated Training Governor. She is Vice Chair of the Resources Committee and sits on the Head Teacher Performance Panel.

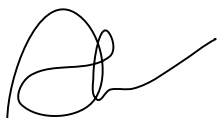
Andy Thompson (Parent Governor) - Andy is a personal trainer specialising in fitness for the whole family. He became a governor to invest in the school and the community – as a family, they have always wanted to be part of their local community. Andy has a passion for sports and for the growth and encouragement of children.

Kady Pike (Parent Governor) - Kady has been a Parent Governor since December 2018. She is a mum to 3 young children, with her eldest being at the school in Year R. Being a Parent Governor is an effective way of being a part of her child's time at Merton Infant School, whilst also providing a commitment to the school and its values.

Laura Bennett (Staff Governor) – Laura is a Year 2 teacher at the school and is KS1 Leader. She is one of the Dedicated Safeguarding Leads and the Mathematics subject manager. Laura became a Governor to help improve outcomes for the school and the children by liaising with others that have the same passion.

Have a happy and safe Easter break.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Andy Thompson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Andy Thompson
Parent Governor