

# END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

July 20, 2021

## Living with a pandemic



### Recovery and a new normal

We have reached the end of another academic year, and this year too, has been like no other. We have seen another lockdown and further disruption to education and our school has yet again had to adapt to different ways of working at *very short* notice. We have seen the rollout of vaccine programmes and ever-changing advice in the face of this.

We are now looking ahead to a world where we are encouraged to live with COVID; schools will once again take on the inordinate task of doing this with the children's education, their well-being and safety at the forefront. It has been lovely to see some of those old traditions such as sports day reappear, albeit in a different format.

### Stakeholder and community focus

Stakeholder view as always remains a key focus for Governance. This year we have been particularly focused upon pupil and staff well-being.

The challenging environment that schools and educators find themselves in as we learn to live with COVID presents different challenges that arise daily. This has meant that staff have had to adapt and many members of staff have performed outside their roles. Staff well-being is key to ensuring we are a resilient workforce and are providing the outstanding level of education our pupils are used to.

As with last year, our normal focus on strategic priorities has been overtaken by a COVID recovery plan and overseeing the implementation of this. Unfortunately we are not yet in a position to leave this behind.

This year, Governors have monitored the school's provision for distance education in the second partial school closure. Parent feedback was monitored just before returning to school provision in March. **Parent's responses to our survey was strong.** The results were compared to those over the previous three years. This year there was an overwhelming response to our survey, with 115 responses. **100% of**

parents would recommend our school to other parents. Encouragingly, 99% of parents agreed with the statement ‘the school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year (and has provided a balanced range of home learning during school closure)’.

The governing board acknowledge all the additional hard work put in from staff and thank children and their parents for supporting school in the many changing scenarios we have seen. We have also seen the community come together to support the excellent work of the PTA who are trying to get the school pool back up and running and we thank them for their dedication and innovative ideas; fund raising during COVID has required some creative thinking!

Governors have also been working hard to support school, securing a grant from a local business and helping to provide more books to expand our school library.



## Impact identified this academic year

Governing board activity undertaken to monitor the progress of the school’s recovery plan:

- The governing board has developed a strategic monitoring plan and COVID Recovery Plan governors have been assigned specific monitoring tasks linked to the plan.
- Members of the governing board collaborated with the Headteacher and Leadership Team to review the COVID Recovery Plan (against

existing National restrictions and Ofsted best practice documents)

- Leadership response to pupil outcomes from internal teacher assessment was monitored.
- The school has successfully integrated the preschool setting and this has remained open going from strength to strength throughout partial school closure.
- In-year assessment data has clearly identified any gaps following partial school closure for individual and groups of pupils.
- effective use of the catch up premium has included high quality small group tutoring for pupils

## Assistant Headteacher Recruitment

We were extremely lucky to have a strong field of nine applicants, which encouragingly shows the desirability of Meldreth Primary for prospective staff members as well as pupils.

The appointment panel had a tough time shortlisting such a quality field of applicants and they thank everyone who applied.

Those who were shortlisted went through a rigorous process including two days of presentations and interviews, which resulted in the appointment of Mr Chapman. **Mr Chapman** joins us from out of county bringing with him fresh perspective and new ideas.

## Changes in Governing Board membership

We are delighted to announce that two new Governors joined the board this year:

**Matthew Paradis** as a co-opted Governor, and **Joanne Faires** as a parent governor.

We are very excited they have chosen to come and work with us, bringing excellent expertise to the board.

We have said goodbye to **Paul Hopkins** and **Sarah Helme** this term who have both been outstanding Governors and their input has been very much appreciated.

If you would like to find out more about our governing board, head over to our [website](#) where you can read all about us.

## Governor recruitment



**Meldreth Primary School Board of Governors is now seeking to recruit new governors to complete our team.** Being a school governor is an interesting and hugely rewarding role. We are currently recruiting people with the skills set of those familiar with education as a sector and those with some legal experience. **If you would like to support our school and have experience in these areas, we would love to hear from you.**

### Who can become a school governor or trustee?

Anyone aged 18 or over can be a governor and you do not need to be a parent. There is no requirement for you to have an understanding of the education system, just the necessary skills, character and time to contribute. Schools need and benefit from a range of professional knowledge on their governing board including education, finance, human resources, legal, marketing and public relations, property and estates management, and organisational change.

### As a governor, you will be able to:

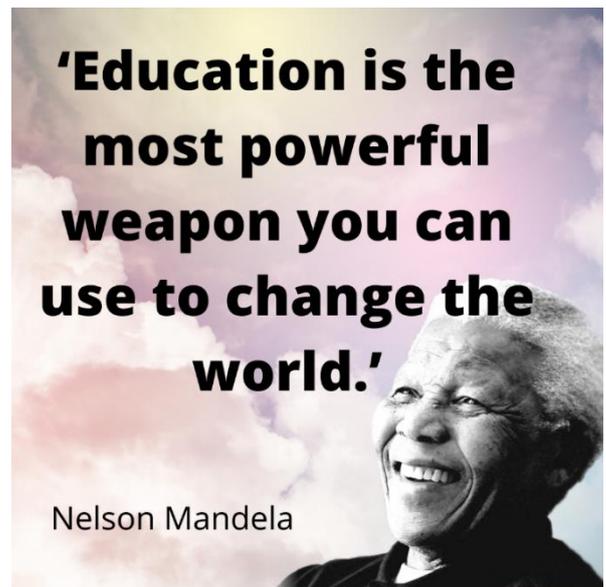
- use your own experience of life beyond school to inform conversations
- develop your skills in a board-level environment
- make a valuable contribution to education and your community
- support and challenge the school so that it improves for pupils and staff

- bring your unique experiences, perspectives and insights in to decision-making in the interests of the school community

Typically, Governors spend between 5 and 10 hours per month on governor duties; attending two meetings per term and coming to these with questions about the reports, which school leaders provide. Contact [me](#) for more information.

### From the Chair...

I have to mention here the departure of our beloved Mr Jones, who has been such a strong pillar of Meldreth and the wider community. Both of my children have been influenced by Mr Jones and I know this is true of many people in the community. I wish him all the best in his retirement, his shoes will be big ones to fill.



The quote above resonates because it captures what educators are striving to achieve. In a time when many issues are coming to the forefront, by educating ourselves and our children we can be the change we want to see in the world. Meldreth Primary strives to inspire learning and engage children with their education

*L. Tidby*

Chair of Governors

## Contact Us

We are always keen to hear the view of parents. Feel free to tell us what you think at any time. You can contact us by:

- Leaving a note/comment addressed to the Chair of Governors in the school office post box
- Emailing: [chair@meldreth.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@meldreth.cambs.sch.uk)