



Launde Primary School

Governor Newsletter



December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

The autumn term has brought back a feeling of things almost being back to normal after a very long time! And although the pandemic continues to throw out some challenges, we hope that this does not impact schools and children in the way it has done over the last 18 months. It is vitally important that the children attend school to maximise their ability to recover from the disruptions in schooling they have been through.

As a governing body we have been working closely with the trust and school to set out priorities and update the school strategy. The head teacher report that we review twice a term now fully aligns with the strategic objectives, allowing the governing body to assess progress against these more robustly. We have also attended meetings in person with the trust and the school for the first time since January 2020, which is a welcome progression out of the pandemic. Whilst winter meetings continue to be held virtually, we are attending school visits in person and look forward to more in-person meetings in the new year.

Welcome to our new Governors

We have the pleasure of welcoming two new members to the governing body team this term. Both new governors have children in the early years of the school and are raring to go! Below are some short personal statements, so you can get to know them and what they will bring to the governing body.

Sumeya Vankalwala

My name is Sumeya Vankalwala, I am a mother to two daughters. My eldest daughter is in Year 2 and my youngest is two years old. I have enjoyed a successful ten year career in the education sector working as a secondary school English teacher. Currently, I have taken the decision to have a break from my teaching profession to concentrate on my young family; and hopefully be able to spend time contributing to the wider society. I have a strong belief in giving children the maximum number of opportunities to discover their full potential through education in the classroom and extra curriculum activities. With my extensive knowledge and experience within the education system, I will be able to bring my expertise to the governing body to ensure high standards of achievement for all learners within the school to provide a broad and balanced curriculum. I am proud to be part of the governing body at Launde Primary School as my skill set, experience, enthusiasm and passion for the pupil's development would make a positive impact to the school.





Ahmed Khan

I am honoured to serve Launde Primary School as a governor. I take a keen interest in the education system and have had the privilege of providing legal advice to many of the country's top education institutions. I am currently Ofsted's litigation lawyer and I hope that this experience will allow me to bring something unique to the governing body. I look forward to working with everyone and please do not hesitate to approach me if I can assist you with anything.

Governor priorities for the school year

At the start of every school year the governing body sets out some key priorities for the year. For 2021/22 those are:

- Monitoring of achievement of the Trust's priorities – During the year we will look to understand how the school is implementing the priorities set out by the Scholars Trust, these include: improvements in oracy and reading amongst the children (which have been particularly impacted by the Covid lockdowns); middle/senior management staff development and achieving greater depth for all children with potential.
- Wellbeing and Safeguarding – with the wellbeing of some children continuing to be of more concern than prior to the pandemic, we will meet regularly with the Parent Officer to understand the specific issues and discuss any improvement actions that could be implemented with the school. Our safeguarding Governor will also conduct regular safeguarding visits (completed for this term).
- Ofsted – Our Ofsted visit is overdue and Governors are key to supporting the school in achieving the right outcome. We will continue to ensure the school is adequately preparing for a visit and that the governing body is also ready for visits. We will attend Ofsted visit training and ensure all governors are up to speed with what questions may be asked of us.

Enrichment Activities

The school continues to be involved in outreach work with schools within the Trust, local schools as well as welcoming in visitors to support and enhance the children's learning. A close and supportive relationship continues with Glenfield Primary School. We have been pleased to hear that moderation sessions have taken place between the two schools to ensure judgements against national standards are accurate and sharing of ideas takes place. Teachers have worked together on developing new foundation curriculum together to ensure it incorporates very best practise.

We were also delighted to learn about Leicester City's visit to school to launch Move it Boom! an initiative to raise awareness of the importance of being physically fit.



School visits to a variety of places in all year groups from Year 1 upwards have taken place this term to enhance the children's learning, as well as swimming lessons for Year 3 and guitars for Year 4. These activities are all important for the children and have had to be reduced over the past two years, so as Governors, we are so pleased these have been taking place again.

We have been updated about plans for the residential for the children to be taken later this academic year, a super opportunity for the children to develop other character skills and learn skills that they couldn't develop within the classroom.

Monitoring of Standards through School Visits



Throughout the year, the governing team have conducted sessions with the school staff to continue in the spirit of working together and reviewing the processes and outcomes. This has continued in the latter part of the year with virtual school visits conducted for Health & Safety, English and Safeguarding. These have all been carried out in person at the school. We thank the staff involved in these visits; it really highlights to us the hard work they have been doing to continue to improve standards. We will include details of our findings next term.



School Awards

We have been delighted to hear that the school achieved Science Outreach award status and the Quality Mark status this term which judges the school on their English and Maths standards.



The Governors were involved in this process and were interviewed about their involvement. I am pleased to share that the school report was positive in all areas. Special thanks to Mr Woodhead, Miss Tailor and Miss Barratt for their subject leadership in these areas as well as all the staff for their tireless determination to support the children make the very best progress.

Christmas 2021 Activities

This year we will see a welcome return to the normal festive concerts for the children with all children participating in year group Christmas concerts. We have enjoyed developing our community this term and being able to share the joy of seeing the children on stage at the concerts is part of this. We thank our parents for wearing masks and handling the well-ventilated hall by wearing coats.





Our Christmas message to you all

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. We would encourage all parents to follow the Government guidance on vaccinations and mask wearing to help us all stay safe over the winter period.

From Launde Governing Body

Launde Governing Body

For information about the Governing Body, please go to our school website.

