

Launde Primary School

Governor Newsletter

March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased to see the children finally back in school this week; it has been a tough lockdown for them, the parents and the teachers. Hopefully this will be the last time we have to go through this type of disruption, and we can look forward to better times ahead. No doubt the children will be over the moon to see their friends again and be able to JUST BE children again!

Home schooling is over!

We would like to extend our enormous thanks to all parents; it has been an exceptionally difficult few months. As parents you have taken on the role of teachers, as well as your daily challenges of being a parent and managing your own work; an extremely challenging balancing act. Without your efforts the progress of the children in their studies and their wellbeing would have been hugely impacted. You can all be proud of yourselves knowing that you have made such an important contribution. And who knows, some of you may even miss it!

Thank you to the staff at the school

As parents, all of you at some point must have thought or said how much you now appreciate what the teachers do. We absolutely echo that and once again thank them for their hard work and tireless effort. Many have had to adapt to the new ways of online teaching, as well the teaching of the pupils who remained in school. The teachers have also had to cope with the things all of us have had to, including illness from Covid and the associated consequences. Many teachers have also been taking more than one class to cover for staff that may be ill or self-isolating; a truly heroic effort. Of course, it is not just the teachers that make a school run, but all the other staff too, including the leadership team, office staff, premises officers, cleaners and support staff. We would like to acknowledge all of your efforts too.

In some respects, the challenge for the teachers going forward will be just as hard. They need to assess where the children are in terms of learning and ensure that children catch-up as much as possible the learning they may have missed. As Governors we will do everything we can to support the school and the staff to implement this recovery.

Changes to the Governing Body

At the last Launde Governing Body (LGB) meeting, we held elections and a new Chair was appointed. Mr Malvinder Plaha is now the Chairman of the LGB, with Mr Barry Thomas taking on the role of Vice Chairman. We also welcomed new Governors, Mrs Nafeesa Katib and Mrs Mumtaz Kynaston- Pearson, to their first LGB meeting.

My name is Nafeesa Katib and I have been living in Oadby for over 10 years with my husband and two children. I am originally from Pakistan and moved to UK (London) in 1993. I am a foster carer alongside working in education too. Prior to my educational background, which I started in 2005, I was a mortgage advisor for Natwest and Halifax. I also worked as a credit controller and decided to change my career after having our first child.



I am also part of the ladies' board committee for Oadby Wigston Muslim Association (Oadby Mosque) which gives me the opportunity to work with the local community to create positive relationships, raise money for various causes (Wishes for Kids, Rainbows, Red Cross etc), work on our local issues and find ways to resolve them as a joint effort. I also take part in partnership with Interfaith communities, local churches and the Jewish community.

I'm excited to be part of the board to help and support everyone.



My name is Mumtaz Kynaston-Pearson and I am a mum to one, hopefully two (in September), students at Launde Primary School. I am also a qualified solicitor who has worked both in private practice and in industry. I currently work as legal counsel for a FTSE 250 company. As such, as well as having a firm grasp of the law, I have a good understanding of how successful organisations work and I want to bring this success to Launde. On a personal level, I enjoy contributing to developing individuals as well as supporting the learning environment for students. As a Parent Governor I intend to offer commitment, enthusiasm and determination to make a difference; striving for academic excellence and to be a link for communication between governors and parents.

We would also like to extend our thanks to Mrs Jackie Sheffield for her years of service and active contribution to the LGB, particularly in her role as Safeguarding and SEN Governor.

New Staff

After the half term break, we welcomed two new members of staff to the Launde team. Miss Dadabhoy, a teaching assistant, is working in Year 5 and Year 6. Miss Chapman has joined the office team in reception. We are sure you will have the opportunity to meet them over the next few weeks.



Covid etiquette for all visitors to the school

Just a quick reminder for all parents dropping off and picking up their children from school, please continue to follow government guidelines. This includes maintaining social distancing (if possible) and wearing a face covering when on school grounds. This is for the protection of all the other parents, children and staff at the school. Hopefully all of us are looking forward to being vaccinated soon (if you haven't been already) and we can get back to a normal life!

Monitoring of Educational Standards through School Visits

Despite the lockdown Governors have been conducting visits either virtually or in person where it was essential (following social distancing guidelines). Some of the highlights of our recent visits were:

Health and Safety: Mr Malvinder Plaha conducted an in person visit in February as a follow-up to a virtual visit done late last year. We found that corrective actions described in the virtual visit had been carried out as described. We also found some minor issues with paths and walls that the school will address. The school has made good progress in getting ready for the return of the children including the re-painting of the canteen and new markings in the playground. We discussed at length the condition of the old temporary classrooms; the Head Teacher has submitted a new bid for funding to replace these buildings, but will also develop a contingency strategy should this funding not be approved. Despite the condition of these buildings, the school has been doing all they can to make the classrooms a suitable learning environment for the children.

Maths: A follow-up virtual visit was conducted by Mr Malvinder Plaha and Mrs Pat Thompson from the Scholars Academy Trust late last year. At the time we found that Maths leads were making good progress in running a recovery curriculum and implementing initiatives to raise the profile of Maths in other subjects.

English: Mr Barry Thomas conducted a virtual English visit late last year with Mrs Sarah Richards from the Scholars Academy Trust. We found that in general the children have found it easy to catch up from the missed time in school during the first lockdown. Learning from March 2020 is already embedded and there does not need to be much repeating or re-learning.

Science: Mrs Mumtaz Kynaston-Pearson & Mrs Nafeesa Katib conducted a virtual science visit in March this year. We found that all year groups are attaining expected standards. We also discussed the links Launde has built with Beauchamp to offer STEM sessions to our students. In addition, we learned that the school is currently gathering evidence to renew the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) at Outreach level, the highest level there is to recognise the work the school does both within the Trust and supporting other schools further afield.

Website compliance: Mr Visveswaran Mallayan conducted a thorough review of the website and found it to be compliant with Ofsted requirements.

Our Easter message to you

A very happy Easter to you all and also happy Vaisakhi for the 13th of April. We also acknowledge that many of you will begin Ramadan on the 12th of April.

Whatever you are doing over the Easter break, enjoy the time off, hopefully the weather will be kind and allow us to enjoy the outdoors with friends and family.

From Launde Governing Body



Launde Governing Body

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

