

MELBOURNE INFANT SCHOOL

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Shine brightly together and reach for the stars!

<u>Governor Update - Working Together for Our Children</u> <u>July 2025</u>

As we come to the end of another busy school year, we wanted to share a little about what the Governing Body has been up to behind the scenes. Our main focus is always to support the school in giving every child the best possible experience – and this year, we've been working closely with the Headteacher and staff on three key priorities.

1. Supporting Year 1 - A Smooth and Fair Journey for All

With the introduction of mixed classes this year, we know some parents had concerns about how this would work in practice. Governors were keen to make sure that all Year 1 children had a consistent and fair learning experience, no matter which class they were in.

Throughout the year, our Teaching and Learning Committee has kept a close eye on this. We've visited during Open Mornings, looked at curriculum plans and children's work, and talked with staff about how children are progressing. We've also reviewed data comparing progress across the different Year 1 classes, listened to feedback from parents, and heard directly from children through pupil voice questionnaires. Co-chair Chris Lancaster also joined parent meetings to hear thoughts first-hand.

We're really pleased to share that all the data we've reviewed shows there's no difference in how pupils are performing across the mixed classes - and overall, children are doing really well. As governors, we're proud of how the school has adapted to this change. It's clear that the effort and energy of every staff member has made a real difference, and the positive outcomes are a credit to their commitment - and to the children's fantastic engagement in their learning.

2. Boosting Boys' Writing

Last year's data showed that while reading had improved brilliantly, boys' writing needed a bit more attention. So, this became our second big focus.

The Resources Committee has followed this closely. Governors have met with the English Lead and other staff to hear about their plans and actions. We've spoken with children too - and it's been great to hear how much more positive boys are feeling about writing now! The latest data shows real progress, which is fantastic news.

3. Planning for the Future

Finally, a small group of governors has been working with the Headteacher and Deputy Head to shape a new 3-year strategic plan for the school. This is all about thinking ahead – what challenges we might face, and what we want the school to look like in the future. The plan is still being developed, with input from staff and governors, and we're aiming to finalise it early next academic year.

We'd like to thank all the staff for their hard work and dedication this year - and thank you, parents and carers, for your continued support. We're proud to be part of a school community that works together to help every child thrive.

Wishing you all a restful and happy summer break!