

END OF YEAR NEWSLETTER

A Year of Exceptional Education



Welcome to our New Chair of Governors



Firstly, I'd like to introduce myself. I'm Chris McCorquodale and I've been elected by the governing board to replace Emma Tidby as Chair of

Governors at the school. Many of you will know Emma, as she's supported the school over numerous years but has decided that now is the right time to step back and focus on other things. I'm grateful for Emma's leadership in the time that I've known her, and will endeavour to continue her work in supporting the school.

This has been a busy year at Meldreth, and a busy year for the governing board. Across the year, governors have attended the school to monitor activities across a wide range of areas including reading, swimming, design & technology, finances, wellbeing, safeguarding and many more.

In the latter part of the year governors collaborated with governors at Hauxton school to consider whether the schools would benefit from sharing elements of governance and leadership by forming a federation between the two schools. We're grateful to everyone who reviewed the consultation document and shared their thoughts with us during the summer term. On consideration of the feedback received during the consultation period and review of the wider context of the schools, governors voted not to proceed with federation in September this year. We do however remain committed to collaborating with local schools where appropriate to benefit the children at Meldreth. As the year ends, Governors recognise the hard work of everyone in our school community—children, teachers, support staff, parents, and volunteers—whose contributions make the school a great and welcoming place.

Chris McCorquodale

Farewell from our Chair of Governors



After 15 years as a governor at Meldreth Primary School—eight of those as Chair—it's time for me to say goodbye. One of my very first roles was being appointed the

Governor of FUN, a role I always felt could have really taken off...!

Since then, it's been a real privilege to be part of the school's journey and growth. During my time as Chair, we've achieved some incredible milestones together: overseeing a significant build, bringing the caretaker's house into school use, and welcoming the pre-school onto the site. I've also had the honour of being involved in key leadership appointments, including our current Headteacher and Assistant Head, and I've worked with many inspiring and dedicated practitioners over the years—past and present.

I've also had the opportunity to be part of two Ofsted visits—both proud moments where the staff and children truly shone, showing the very best of what Meldreth is all about. To me, and to many others, Meldreth is *outstanding*—regardless of any formal judgement. The heart, care, and commitment within this community are second to none.

It's been a real pleasure to work alongside such dedicated staff, supportive and engaged parents, and of course, our wonderful children. Meldreth is a truly special place, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have been part of its story.

A quote that perfectly captures the spirit of primary education is: **“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” – William Butler Yeats** And at Meldreth, that fire is lit every day—with creativity, compassion, and a genuine love of learning. It's been inspiring to witness that spark in action, and to know how much it shapes each child's future.

As a parent, I have seen this ring true in my own children. Meldreth has been an important part of their journeys, and I'll always look back on those years with fondness and gratitude.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of such an exceptional school community. It has truly been an amazing chapter in my life—and one I will always cherish.

Emma Tidby

Governor Monitoring Visits

One of the pleasures of being a school governor is going into school to conduct monitoring visits. During the year, governors have been into the school on focused monitoring visits in a range of areas, including phonics and reading, SEND, pupil premium, safeguarding, finance and wellbeing. We are happy to report that all visits have been positive, and the school environment has always been warm and friendly.

When we have observed classes, children have been well behaved and engaged in their learning. They are also always happy to talk to us about what they're working on.

Quality of education remains a key focus for governors and school leadership. This year has been successful at Meldreth, with a hugely positive OFSTED report and strong Year 6 and overall assessment results. The good weather enabled great use of outdoor spaces, including the pool, and governors thank the PTA for supporting this facility during the summer term.

Governing Body Vacancy

All governance boards have three core functions:

- Clarifying vision, ethos, and strategic direction;
- Holding leaders accountable for educational performance and staff management;
- Overseeing finances to ensure funds are well spent.

As Governors, we are proud of this year's achievements. Governance has helped support the leadership team in providing the best learning environment and curriculum at Meldreth. In the new school year, we will be advertising our **vacancy for a parent governor**.

Email Chris at chair@meldreth.cambs.sch.uk if you are interested in this important and rewarding role.

Contact Us

We are always keen to hear the view of parents. Please 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