



27 th March 2019	Following the greater depth interviews with year five and six children, Lesley Lyon gave feedback to the leadership team, 27.3.19. Discussion focused on the language used with children and parents regarding those working at or towards greater depth and how they know this. This will be explored further in a staff meeting, leading to an updated more able children policy and a more consistent approach in how we share this information with children and parents. The leadership team are going to explore the possibilities of challenge or enquiry after school clubs in different subject areas. A group of children will be given the task to design a library area, funded by the P.T.A. next academic year.
Friday 15th March 2019	For Governor Monitoring week, I spent time with Grace, Wendy, and the Foundation classes. We visited the Science Fair, which was fantastic. The children's favourite activities this week have been making a volcano erupt at the Science Fair, and a visit by the Fire Service to the school with one of their fire engines. I also spent some time talking to children about how they were making new friends and interacting with each other since they had joined Foundation. Anne Peach
Wednesday 13th March 2019	During Governor Monitoring Week last week, it was a privilege to interview a selection of pupils from Years 5 and 6. At the last Pupil Progress Meeting Governors discussed the progress made by our cleverest pupils. As a result, we decided to find out for ourselves by talking to those pupils aiming for a Good Level of Development across the school. To this end, I met with the pupils in Year 5 and 6. I asked them the following questions: How clever do you think you are? How do you know how clever you are? Does your family know how clever you are? In lessons, do you get the chance to do harder work? Do the questions the teacher asks you make you think deeply? Are there more opportunities you would like to extend your ability/knowledge even more? Their responses were fascinating and I learned a lot. They would really like a school library with more challenging books, they and their families would like more information about their ability and they would really like to go on beyond 'The Deeper Question' to 'The Impossible Challenge'!!!! As a result of this work the governors will be bringing back responses to the Leadership Team so that they can work out a plan of action to address the ideas and issues raised by the pupils. Lesley Lyon

Tuesday 12 March 2019	Fantastic visit to KS1 today as part of our Governors' Week. Many thanks to Krissie Dickens for spending time explaining the Ofsted Action Plan that she has devised and begun to implement with the Key Stage 1 team. It was really interesting to gain an appreciation of her ideas for simple tweaks to the team's already excellent approach, which should translate in greater efficiencies, and benefits for teaching and learning, particularly in relation to reading and phonics. It was great to hear about the many children achieving greater depth in Year 2 (c.25%!), their progress since joining Mellers and the challenge that they are being given to help them to achieve their full potential. I am looking forward to our follow-up meeting in June to review the results. It was also lovely to spend time in the Year 1 and 2 classes watching the children enjoying their maths learning and having fun during Science week. Who knew you could make bouncy balls with cornflower, water and food colouring? Carol McCrone
Friday 1st March 2019	Lilian Greenwood MP and I held a surgery in Mellers this morning to talk to parents about local and national issues. We talked to a group of parents who are concerned about the Government's RSE proposals. We explained that the proposals for young children deal sensitively and in an age-appropriate manner with healthy lifestyles, good physical and mental health, and healthy and safe relationships. We will follow this up with Amanda and I will raise it at the next Governors meeting. Anne Peach
Wednesday 16th December 2018	During Governor Monitoring week, I joined Grace Atherton for a Phonics lesson in Foundation - today's subject was 'ee'. Afterwards, I talked with children who were writing letters, and then sat in on a one-to-one reading session with a little boy who had little English when he joined Foundation, but only a few weeks later was making very good progress and gaining in confidence. Anne Peach
Friday 14th December 2018	I attended Assembly this morning with Lilian Greenwood MP, where Lilian presented awards to winners in her Christmas Card design competition. Anne Peach
Thursday 13 th December 2018	The KS2 Christmas concert was awesome, even the staff band were good. A real testament to the hard work of the music teachers and pupils. Well done everyone. Mark Gilmore
Wednesday 5th December 2018	I spent the day, as part of our Governor monitoring week visiting every classroom in the school. The focus of my visit was to look at how well our most able children are supported and challenged in the classroom although in doing the activity, it was great to see all children on task and enjoying their learning. In Year 6, they are studying the novel Journey to the River Sea. As a secondary school English teacher, I could have been watching a lesson for Year 8. The children were discussing the different character types in the novel using words such as protagonist, antagonist, dynamic and many more. They were being constantly asked to justify their answer and look for evidence from the text in support of their opinions.

	I saw Year 5 in Maths, alongside 3 other teachers who were visiting from local schools to learn from the good practice at Mellers. They were being encourage to work systematically through the problem solving exercise - a word they clearly understood. The children demonstrated a language of mathematics and an enjoyment and curiosity in their learning. Year 2 were studying World War 1 and asking questions about the feelings of the soldiers in the trenches. They showed empathy and understanding. The Year 3 Art lesson showed children learning how to blend colours and an understanding of what a silhouette is. In the other Year 3 class children were learning about adverbial sand conjunctions. I could write so much more but the things I picked up were that the learning of children was building year on year and I could see skills developing from the early years through to year 6. The teachers and teaching assistants worked together to support learning. Work in the books were beautifully presented and the behaviour for learning was excellent.
Friday 7 th December 2018	Popped into Y4 today as part of Governor's monitoring week. I saw some fantastic Writing as well as inventive and interesting Maths. Loved it.
Monday 3 December 2018	Excellent visit today. Accompanied the Headteacher on learning walks to observe Key Stage 2 classes. Started by admiring the fabulous World War 1 exhibition that was taking shape near the Staff Room. The theme continued in all of the KS2 classes. Some fabulous work and the children were totally absorbed by the topic. Year 6 were particularly impressive with their enquiring minds and analysis of the reliability of source material. The shoebox WW1 trenches were also fantastic and it was great to see the excellent community spirit with many parents coming in to work with their children on the project. The children obviously loved what they were doing and told me what life must have been like in the trenches, particularly the rats and trench-foot!
Monday 26th November 2018	As Governors, we have a responsibility to ensure that all staff are supported in their professional development and personal well-being. In particular, this extends to our Newly Qualified teachers. To this end, I accompanied Mrs Patel to the classroom of our NQT to watch while she did an observation. We observed the children on the carpet having a discussion and following a busy sequence of activities where children were engaged in reading, role play and coordination and shape activities. I was pleased to learn that our NQTs are mentored very closely and have a range of opportunities to participate in training as part of the Transform Reaching Alliance as well as other training offered by the Local Authority. Our NQT told me 'I feel really well supported at Mellers. There is always someone to help with planning and give me good advice about how to organise the learning. I have enjoyed my first term at Mellers. It has been hard work but good'. I felt happy that our Newly Qualified Teacher would develop into a good teacher for the children.

Thursday 22 nd November	Met with Sarah Elliott today for a catch-up on her role as SENCO. We had a walk round school and observed some of the SEND children in their classes which was very useful to help my understanding. We also discussed how best to track the SEND and Pupil Premium budgets in relation to progress of individual children.
Tuesday 12th November	On Tuesday 12th November Sharon Pratt, parent governor, and I met with Miss Dawson to review the school progress and set her new targets for this academic year. We were joined in the meeting by Carol Norman who is the ex Headteacher of Welbeck School. Her role was to advise Sharon and myself as to whether Miss Dawson and the leadership team have made good progress. We are pleased to report that the targets for last year were met and exceeded in most cases. We discussed the progress of the most able children in school and were especially pleased with excellent results particularly in reading and writing. We walked all-round the school to look at the standards of display in school. We were pleased to see some wonderful displays on a range of subjects, which celebrated the work of children and stimulated conversations and interest. Last year, after the new build walls were white and bare. The displays are now vibrant, colourful and informative. We were very impressed. The final target was to provide support for another school that was experiencing difficulties. Miss Dawson and our Mellers team visited the school and advised how to make improvements in English and Maths and how to assess and track the progress of pupils. This was much appreciated by the school and their results were much better because of this valuable work. Our team from Mellers also learned much from providing the support which has improved our own practice. We then set some new targets for this year which are based on improvements in maths, research into new and innovative teaching methods which will make our pupils into more curious learners and to ensure that our pupils are well supported as the school continues to grow. As governors, Sharon and I felt privileged to be advised by our external advisor that the school is making excellent progress and whilst there are always improvements be made Miss Dawson is leading us to becoming an outstanding school. Lesley Lyon Chair of Governors November 2018
Wednesday 10 th October 2018	I met with Mrs Buttress to discuss English throughout school. English continues to improve in all year groups in both reading and writing. On world book day this year, we will be joined by author Dom Berry. Teeny Reid



Thursday 17 May 2018	Governors were taking a closer look at school data today. We are all really proud to see that we are in the top 10% in the country for Maths results. A fantastic achievement by the pupils and staff. Mark Gilmore
Friday 11 May 2018	Interviewed for Y1 maternity cover, pleased to welcome another good teacher on board in September. Mark Gilmore
2nd May 2018	I met today with Mrs Patel to discuss the amazing progress made by your children at Mellers, especially in reading, writing and Maths. We also looked at the attendance figures, which are improving, and it looks like we will meet our targets. However we are still worried about a small number of children who are, absent from school far too often. Especially well done to our 100% children. Lesley Lyon
3 May 2018	Met with Sarah Elliott today for governor catch-up on SEND children at Mellers. Lovely learning environment, lots of happy children and a real hum of activity. Sarah explained progress she was making with interim bids. Sensory tent area looks great! Well done all concerned for their resourcefulness! Carol McCrone
Thursday 22 nd March 2018	Visited FS2 with Trisha the dog. Great to see kids so excited to spend time with Trisha and overcome their fears. Trisha also made a surprise visit to a very impressively behaved Y1 class. Mark Gilmore
Wednesday 21 st March 2018	Attended monthly safeguarding meeting, it's good to see all that's being done to keep children at Mellers safe. Mark Gilmore
Monday 5 th February 2018	The power of reading continues to make a positive impact on writing across the school. This impact is evident for all children, even those working below expected. The content of writing is very impressive and topic writing is good. Although the power of reading does not always fit with the topic being covered, the strategies can still be used. Teeny Reid
Tuesday 23rd January 2018	I attended a meeting with the Maths monitoring lead Lorna Dermody to discuss mathematics in particular fluency and geometry. Great work is taking place to ensure improvements are continually made in this area. Sharon Pratt
Wednesday 17th January 2018	I attended and participated in year 6 open maths lesson and thoroughly enjoyed seeing the practical side of Maths being taught. The teaching support that was present was appropriate for the size of the class and teachers were very much engaging with the children. Sharon Pratt



16 November 2017	Attended lovely opening ceremony for our fabulous new building today. What a great celebration of Mellers' success! Carol McCrone
13 November 2017	Met with Sarah Elliott to look at possible space for a sensory area for SEND children to use. Identified four possibilities for Amanda to consider. Also had a catch-up on current SEND progress. Carol McCrone
4 October 2017	Attended Team Around the School Meeting as a guest of Sarah Elliott. Really impressed with the excellent, joined-up multi-team working for the benefit of our SEND children. Carol McCrone
27 September 2017	Excellent email update from Sarah on SEND progress in new school year. Intend to attend Team Around the School Meeting, if possible, on 4 October. Carol McCrone
28 June 2017	Met with Sarah Elliott today for update on SEND children at Mellers. Able to share info from my training on 15 June. Two extremely polite year 2 children held the door open for me! Carol McCrone
15 June 2017	Attended SEND governor training session this evening. Very interesting and useful insight into the SEND governor role. Carol McCrone