

## Meet the Governor – Colin Hartley

Governors have an important role in ensuring that Mossgate is constantly seeking to improve by working with myself and staff to provide the best education we possibly can. They have **three core functions**:

1. Planning the strategic direction of the school.
2. Overseeing financial performance of the school and ensuring money is well spent.
3. Holding the headteacher and senior leaders to account.

**How did you become involved with Mossgate?** After taking early retirement I knew that I would have some time and I wanted to help in the community. Education is so important – it's the building block for everything so I wanted to get involved. I had heard that schools were always looking for governors and that they were essential for their running/development so I contacted Lancashire County Council. They suggested four local schools. I spent some time looking at the Mossgate website and was 'blown away' by what it was achieving. I wanted to be part of this to help its continued success. I applied and was accepted and have not regretted it for one second. Mossgate is fantastic!



**How long have you been a governor at Mossgate?** Since 2013

**What is the most enjoyable part of being a governor?** I'm not going to pick just one.

- Coming into school to see some very well behaved and hardworking children in class (of course).
- Seeing special events such as themed assemblies which the children have planned and presented.
- Speaking to the dedicated staff and hearing about the school's achievements.
- Last but not least, seeing some small people arrive each year in Reception and knowing they will leave Year 6 confident, well prepared and ready to face the challenges of secondary school.

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## Big Walk & Wheel Fortnight

We will once again be taking part and encouraging our families to make a healthy alternative to driving to school. From **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**, we want as many children, parents and staff as possible to **walk, scoot or cycle** to and from school. The aim, as ever, is to inspire as many families as possible to get active on the school run, so if you have to drive for work commitments, please park a little further away and walk, scoot or cycle for 5 – 10 minutes on as many days as possible. Our Eco Committee, made up of House Captains, will be submitting class totals daily using the Sustrans website and will be awarding prizes to the best class and inspiring individuals at the end of the fortnight.



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## Parents' evening appointments – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March

On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, we have our second date for mid-year parents' evenings which provide an opportunity for parents to discuss their child's progress so far this year and look at learning in books.



Don't forget  
parents'  
evening!

Thank you to the parents who have already made an appointment. For those who have not yet done this, a reminder was sent out earlier this week. On the day of your appointment, the School Spider app will send you an alert as a reminder. If you are unable to make your child's appointment, please contact the school to let us know so time is not wasted.

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**Academy Photography** will be in school on **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March** for class photos.



**Non-uniform day** on **Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March**, with children asked to donate Easter chocolate items please for PSFA events.



**Our value is Honesty** which of course links very closely with our values of courage and respect.

**Definition:**

- ✓ Honesty is telling others what really happened.
  - ✓ Honesty is telling the truth.
- ✓ When I feel honest, I feel clear on the inside.

**Related Words or Phrases:**

- fairness
- faithfulness
- integrity
- loyalty
- honour
- sincerity
- truth
- trustworthy
- morality

**What does honesty look like?**

**People who show honesty:**

- ✓ Tell the truth.
- ✓ Explain what really happened.
- ✓ Feel clear on the inside.

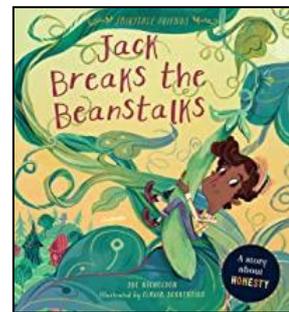
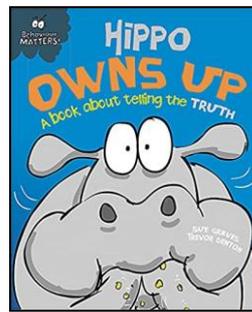
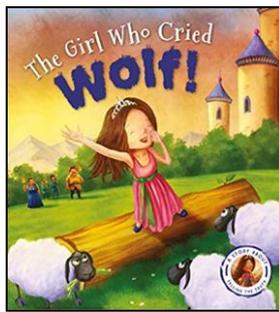
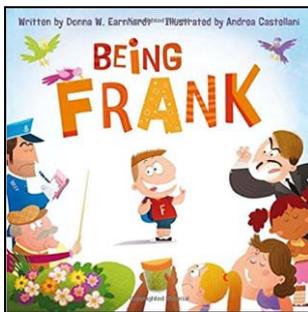
**People who show honesty realise:**

- ✓ Telling the truth is for the best.
- ✓ Sometimes you have to be brave (use courage) to tell the truth.
- ✓ People may not always be happy hearing the truth.

**People show honesty by:**

- ✓ Telling the truth.
- ✓ Saying what really happened.
- ✓ Staying true to themselves.

**Suggested books about honesty to enjoy at home**



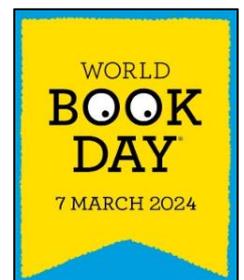
**Curriculum Newsletters**

Curriculum newsletters for this half-term have been sent by email and School Spider message earlier this week. They can also be downloaded from our website under the 'Curriculum' section, then 'Curriculum Newsletters'. The newsletters detail the key topics being covered, areas of learning and key vocabulary. If you have any questions about your child's curriculum newsletter, please speak to your child's class teacher or myself.



**World Book Day 2024**

This World Book Day, we will once again be prioritising books and reading. (Children will have the opportunity to dress up on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March for our non-uniform day.) On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March, we are inviting children to bring in their favourite book to school which is wrapped to keep the book a mystery! (The book could be from home, the school library or the local library.) On the front of the wrapping, which doesn't have to be anything elaborate and you can use newspaper or brown paper from an Amazon delivery, we would like you to write three exciting words which describes the book to make it as appealing as possible to others. During the day, children will spend time sharing their book with their classmates, reading their favourite extract and discussing what they like about their book. Each class will then decide which book they would like their class teacher to read to them.



**Home Reading Reminders**

Home reading is essential for children to develop their vocabulary and reading fluency so they can access the full curriculum and learn. Please read daily for at least 20 minutes, regardless of age, with your child so you can support.

**Junior children (and some Y2)** will be expected to read at least one book and score 80%+ in their reading quiz every week – this is **monitored every Thursday**.

In the **infants**, staff monitor home reading every Friday and will contact parents if they are concerned. Reading records are **monitored every Friday**.

The **MORE** that you **READ**, the more things you will **KNOW**.  
The **MORE** that you **LEARN**, the more places you'll **GO**.

## Pupil Voice: Health, Behaviour and Safety

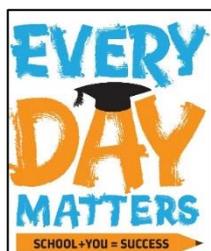
Over the last few weeks, we have been seeking the views of pupils across the school by asking them a number of questions - a selection of the questions are included below. Results will be shared in my next newsletter. We will once again be sending out our parent questionnaire very soon.

The behaviour of other children in my lessons is good.	There is an adult at school I can talk to if something is worrying me.	I feel safe when I am at school.
Is bullying a problem at your school?	My school encourages me to look after my emotional and mental health.	My school encourages me to respect difference in people and to treat everyone equally.

## Healthy Playtime Snacks and Allergies

Mossgate is part of the National Fruit for Schools scheme which means that all children in Reception Elm, Y1 Maple and Y2 Willow are offered a free piece of fruit for their morning break. (If we have extra fruit, this is also offered to the juniors at playtimes.) Fruit varies weekly, and across the seasons, and typically includes: bananas, carrots, pears, apples, raisins and satsumas. All children can bring in their own fruit from home if they wish. Please do not send in unhealthy snacks like cereal bars, crisps and biscuits for playtime snacks. (Please note that these can still be included in your child's packed lunch as part of a balanced packed lunch.)

I have previously shared that we have a Y1 child with a severe peanut and egg allergy who has suffered from anaphylaxis and has an Epi-Pen autoinjector in school. Once again, I am asking that all families, do their part to keep him safe in school. Please can you refrain from including foods as playtime snacks and / or packed lunches which contain nuts or eggs, for example, loose nuts, peanut butter sandwiches, egg mayonnaise etc. Thank you for your understanding and support.



## Attendance & Punctuality Matters

Regular and punctual attendance is vital for children's learning. The vast majority of children at Mossgate have great attendance with some days missed due to serious illness or medical needs. When attendance falls below 97%, this will be monitored closely. Attendance below 96% may result in medical evidence being required before absences are authorised, home visits and attendance plans.

- Mon 26/02 Clubs restart from last half-term
- Mon 04/03 Academy Photography in for class & leavers photos
- Wed 06/03 Reception walk to the post box to post cards
- Thurs 07/03 World Book Day – See details above
- Mon 11/03 Big Walk and Wheel Fortnight – week one
- Tues 12/03 Governors' School Improvement Committee, 4:30pm
- Wed 13/03 Parents' Evening with children's books
- Fri 15/03 PSFA Non-uniform – chocolate donations please
- Fri 15/03 Red Nose Day – fundraising activities to be organised by the Mossgate Parliament
- Fri 15/03 Reception Stay and Learn Afternoon in the hall, 1pm
- Mon 11/03 Big Walk and Wheel Fortnight – week 2
- Tues 19/03 Y5&6 Be The Change Trip to Lancaster University
- Thurs 21/03 Y2 taking part in Singing Festival, Lancaster Town Hall, 7-8pm
- Fri 22/03 Y3 taking part in Singing Festival, Lancaster Town Hall, 1-2:15pm
- Mon 25/03 No clubs this week
- Tues 26/03 Wheelchair Basketball session for KS2
- Wed 27/03 Y4 Virtual Ancient Greece session with the British Museum
- Wed 27/03 PSFA Chocolate Tombola, after school
- Wed 27/03 PSFA Easter Bingo, 6-8pm (£1 per book of 6 games)
- Thurs 28/03 School closes for the Easter break

