

Governors' Annual Report to Parents, Summer 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your child has enjoyed their experience at Nursery School this year despite the unsettling changes in all our lives due to the pandemic.

Looking back over the year the staff have given a huge amount of care and attention to providing a warm, secure, nurturing environment in school for the children attending whilst continuing to provide online teaching that was engaging and stimulating for those children who were learning at home. We can see from parents' feedback that the dialogue between home and school is much appreciated.

"...during the pandemic, all the staff at KNS did an exceptional job at ensuring that the children continued to learn. The daily zoom calls, the activity boxes and the remote learning activities were so helpful to our family. It kept the children engaged, continued to develop them, gave them fun activities to do and mostly, it gave them something to look forward to every day – seeing their teachers and friends on the screen was a source of comfort."

At the start of the school year, it was apparent that this year's group of children were behaving differently to children in previous year groups due to the confinements of lockdown. Whilst some children arrived with excellent communication skills, many others were noticeably quiet and preferred to stay close to an adult rather than engage with other children or get involved with the activities in the classroom.

With guidance from child psychotherapist, Gill, the staff carefully adapted the activities and classroom environment to help the children feel secure, encourage social interaction, and develop confidence in exploring and decision-making. Once they felt more secure, children were encouraged to think imaginatively beyond their immediate experiences. Carefully planned creative art and music activities allowed the children different ways to express themselves.

By the summer term all the children had gained in confidence and the children who were initially more reserved have made huge progress in social and emotional development and are now ready to move on to reception.



What sets our Nursery Schools apart is the quality of the highly skilled staff who live and breathe the schools' ethos of 'Recognising and Valuing the Uniqueness of Every Child'. This means that adults work alongside the child, understanding what kind of encouragement each child needs in order to develop, knowing when to intervene and when to step back and let the children explore and discover for themselves.

Their learning is most powerful when the children share their ideas with each other and spark off each others' curiosity. Staff are highly attuned to facilitating ways for children to interact creatively with each other.

The Nursery Schools not only provide an outstanding education for the children in our local communities, but they have a wider role in training the early years sector and the next generation of teachers through their Teaching School arm. In her role as a National Leader of Education, headteacher, Rachel Gillett, has recently completed a video for the Department for Education about Expressive Art and Design. It was filmed at Whitnash and features Rachel, Lizzy - the music specialist and Matt - the resident artist, and children being creative. You can watch it by following the link below and then clicking on Expressive Art and Design, within that there are 3 sub-sections and a video is embedded in each. <https://help-for-early-years-providers.education.gov.uk/>



As governors our role is to monitor the performance of the schools and set strategic development objectives. The safety and well-being of your children is the schools' top priority and governors regularly monitor that the staff team is fulfilling its duty to safeguard children.

The Governing Board includes people with a range of skills and professions to support the school. Governors have provided practical help in software support, marketing advice and safeguarding. We currently have governor vacancies, if you feel this is a role you would be interested in, please contact me via the school office.

There are still places available for children at both schools for September 2021, so please pass the word on to friends, family and neighbours.

And finally, if you child is moving on to reception, I wish them all the best for the next stage of their education.

Alison Paveley

Chair of Governors
The Federation of Kenilworth Nursery School
And Whitnash Nursery School

“From our first visit round the Nursery (after visiting others) I knew instantly this was the place for D.”



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