

## Governors' Annual Report to Parents, Summer 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your child has enjoyed their experience of nursery school this year. It has been wonderful that the schools have been able to open their doors again to allow parents and governors to come in and see the children in the calm nursery environment, purposefully engaged in their activities and interacting confidently with each other. The recent sports days were the first real on-site events for parents since 2019 and the school has received some amazing feedback from parents.

Because of the ongoing effects of the pandemic, some children started the school year less socialised and needing more emotional support than normal to cope with feelings of insecurity or wanting to be close to an adult all the time. With guidance from Gill, the Child Psychotherapist, the staff team analysed the needs of the children and decided to put in place a more structured routine to help children feel secure. Whereas children would previously have coped with lots of free flow, in which they choose their own activity, this was replaced with more adult-led skills progression at Whitnash Nursery School. The result was that children gained confidence, began communicating more freely and started collaborating cooperatively with each other, sharing and taking turns.

In December Ofsted inspected Kenilworth Nursery School and again judged it to be Outstanding and "a superb place for children to learn." Whitnash was also judged Outstanding last time and is due another inspection soon.

"The carefully planned and sequenced curriculum is centred around the school's core value of recognising the uniqueness of every child. Staff develop children's communication skills exceptionally well. They place great emphasis on talking and listening to children and encouraging them to explain what they are doing and how they are feeling." Ofsted Dec 2021

As governors, part of our role is to monitor the performance of the school in terms of curriculum and children's progress. I visited Whitnash Nursery School with another governor recently to see evidence of planning, assessment and tracking across the curriculum. We were very impressed by the detailed planning journal, a living document used by all staff, which is also a record of the creative and innovative use of resources and teaching points for future reference. It is evident that staff use their deep understanding of child development. When we walked round the school, we could see the impact of the planning in the progression in representative mark-making and construction, and in the calm, happy atmosphere and the relaxed way children were communicating with each other and adults.

A lot of the activities staff plan for the children are designed to encourage communication and language. The music and movement sessions run by Lizzy our music specialist are hugely popular and a great stimulus for children to express themselves. "This is beanstalk growing music.... It's getting bigger.... It's going up and up...Look at me, I'm a beanstalk Lizzy"



The eagerly awaited arrival of the chicks was another opportunity for children to come together and talk about what they can see and explore language and learn new vocabulary.

The resident artist Matt is highly skilled at devising projects to spark children's imagination and get them talking and telling stories together. The clay pit has become a mini world with tunnels and bridges at Whitnash. Matt has also completed a 5 week project at Kenilworth this summer term and the children have been engaged in fixing and tying ribbons and fabrics and work in the clay



The School's generate income and use pupil premium funding to support the costs of the enhanced work that Matt does on our schools.

The role of the Governing Board is to monitor the school, set strategic objectives and check that the school is fulfilling its statutory duties such as safeguarding and health and safety.

The Governing Board includes people with a range of skills and professions to support the school. In return we get a valuable insight into how learning is planned, delivered and assessed and what makes the schools tick and create a happy, safe and encouraging environment for your children. Parent governors have an important role to play in putting the parents' perspective. **We currently have vacancies for parent governors, so if you feel this would be of interest to you, please contact me via the school office.**

The biggest challenge facing our nursery schools is the lack of proper funding from government. Maintained Nursery Schools are more expensive for government to fund than day care or other early years settings because they have fully qualified teachers and are run like primary schools. Nursery schools not only provide outstanding education for those fortunate to attend but also have a vital role in training other early years providers as part of Warwickshire County Council's education strategy. They also provide expert support for children with SEND special educational needs in a climate where other early settings are reluctant to take on SEND children and the government is cutting funding for SEND. Our Executive Headteacher Rachel Gillett continues to fight relentlessly for high quality early years education, at local and national government levels, to try to secure future funding.

We still have some spaces available at both schools for September 2022, so please pass on the word to friends and family. This is feedback from a parent following the sports day

*"What a beautiful morning for our children watching how they have grown and flourished. I'm gutted we have to leave. The KNS has been completely faultless highly recommended to anyone looking for their children."*

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

Best regards,

Alison Paveley

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



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