

Governors' Annual Report to Parents, Summer 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a quite different kind of year at the nursery schools because of the Covid-19 pandemic, but despite this, I hope that your children have continued to enjoy their nursery education. The staff teams have really risen to the challenge of providing exciting activities for all the children who are home-school learning via daily Zoom sessions, Seesaw and Facebook. It has been great to see the creativity and enthusiasm of the children engaging in the activities at home, often with siblings joining in too!



The children who have come into school for Rainbow Club have adapted very well to the change in the pattern of activities required by social distancing. Governors know that the staff have taken great care to reorganise the classroom space and activities and put in place strict hygiene routines, so the nursery environment is as safe as possible for your children and families and the staff. Rainbow Club was developed with advice from child psychotherapist, Gill, and the children who have attended have benefitted from the smaller groups and nurturing staff support and have made great progress in their language and communication as a result.

It has been a priority during the pandemic to continue the relationships between school and families. As Maintained Nursery Schools, we have been able to keep up the communication whereas many private early years providers had to close completely with no contact with families.

"I already knew that what you are all doing is outstanding, but it really made me appreciate it even more. Your appetite to teach, the kindness in your voices over a digital forum, your responses to R's activities and your unwavering patience on zoom when a child is explaining something at a snail's pace. I just wanted you all to know how much it is appreciated. R loves his connection with nursery." Quotation from a parent

As governors, our role is to monitor the performance of the school and to set strategic development objectives for the schools every year. This year we specifically wanted to work more closely with parents because children make greater progress in their education when there is a close relationship between home and school. One of the positive things to come out of the pandemic was the development of home-school learning. Staff rapidly developed many ways of working together with parents to progress the children's learning: special

projects devised by our artist in residence, Matt; dance and movement sessions with music specialist, Lizzy, and phonics sessions from the early years keyworkers. Governors have seen some very appreciative feedback from parents in response. As this has been so successful, the school will continue aspects of this way of co-working with parents in the new school year.

Kenilworth and Whitnash Nursery Schools are State Maintained Nursery Schools which means they have staff teams led by a fully qualified teacher and a headteacher and are run along the lines of primary schools. Governors feel strongly about protecting our Maintained Nursery Schools, not just because they provide an outstanding early years education for the children in our local communities, but because they have a wider role in training the early years sector and the next generation of teachers through their Teaching School arms. However, funding is under threat. Our headteacher, Rachel Gillett, has continued to fight relentlessly on behalf of maintained nursery schools, at local and national government levels, to try secure future funding. If you would like to write to your local MP about your personal experience of Kenilworth or Whitnash Nursery Schools, that would be wonderful.



The Governing Board includes people with a range of skills and professions to support the school. Recently governors have provided practical help in software support, marketing advice, safeguarding and sourcing PPE equipment. 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 spaces available for children at both schools for September 2020, so please pass on the word to friends, family and neighbours. I would encourage you to look at the new video tours of each school on the website.

And finally, if your 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



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