

04/02/2025

A few words from Mr Steve Smith – Chair of Governors

As governors we have worked hard over the last year to improve our skills in challenging the Headteacher and being her ‘critical friend’ to support her and the team to raise standards across school. To do this, we have attended training run by the Local Authority for governors, we have been given specific information/training on safeguarding, assessment, data analysis, curriculum design, immersive classroom environments and much more by the Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher.

Governors have met personally with Subject Leaders to gain an insight into their roles and responsibilities and to talk about their aspirations for the forthcoming year. Governors have also been encouraged by the Headteacher to come into school and to drop into classrooms to see what is happening daily. Governors have been invited to INSET days and events through-out the year which has helped as governors to give us a more in-depth knowledge of the day-to-day running and management of the school. It has also enabled us to see what we hear at governors’ meetings in practice and talk to the children and staff. Annually we have a Governor training day where key staff talk to us about the curriculum and school. At the end of the day we come up with some strategic priorities which we focus on throughout the year. (Please see below)

Mrs Appleby and her team have high expectations for the children socially, emotionally and academically and this shows in the strong results they achieve every year. We are very proud of the results achieved by all the children across school again this year.

I always enjoy going into school for a walk around as it is a pleasure to see the children learning. I particularly enjoyed going into ‘Happy Street’, our new permanent role play area for the children. It was so lovely to watch the children learning whilst having fun. There were so many smiling faces. I witness this over and over again around school with the Immersive classrooms, visits and visitors helping children to focus on their topics and bring their learning to life. The children are always very keen to talk to me about this. I know that visitors to the school always comment on the friendly, warm environment and the excellent behaviour of the children.

All the governors are extremely pleased with our Headteacher and her team of dedicated staff who work tirelessly to provide our children with the best education in order for them to reach and exceed their own individual potential.

I am very proud to be the Chair of Governors of such a forward-thinking school where in the words of our Headteacher ‘Children are at the heart of everything we do’.

Mr Steve Smith
Chair of Governors

This year these are:

Strategic Priorities	Objectives	Indicators of change	Monitoring
EYFS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor provision needs to replicate inside fully. In order to comply with new legislation we need to appoint a Deputy Manager. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outdoor provision enhanced and used everyday. Deputy Manager appointed and supporting Nursery manager. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FG CF
Curriculum Development	<p>English -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To continue to roll out the new systematic phonics scheme and measure the impact and progress. To moderate reading/writing across school using exemplification materials and checklists to ensure consistency of approach. To continue to embed Oracy across all year groups to try and narrow the Vocab Gap. <p>Maths -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the amount of children achieving Greater depth in each year group. Look at different ways to enrich training of staff and give them the resources they need to carry this out. Audit the use of manipulatives within lessons. Ensure manipulatives are embedded throughout all classes within school 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children will have a secure knowledge of the 44 phonemes and be able to apply them to both their reading and writing. Phonics outcomes will be measured at the end of Year 1 and Year 2 to ensure we continue to achieve above national average in the Phonics Screening Check. There will be a consistency of assessment throughout school. A system for regular moderation meetings where teachers can agree on judgements of assessment within reading and writing is in place. Staff are more confident in their judgements and assessments and are quick to identify the gaps in learning and be able to work on these. Children are more confident at speaking out loud and are able to structure their questions and answers and can support others to improve. More children are achieving Greater Depth in Maths in each Year group at the end of the year. Staff training is evident and staff feel more confident in creating 'Masters' in Maths. Children have increased confidence in using manipulatives to support their learning and understanding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EJ FG EJ FG EJ FG NC FG

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Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the quality of teaching and learning in Science and look to gain the Primary Science Quality Mark. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teaching & Learning improved and the children's knowledge is enhanced. Primary Science Quality mark achieved
Art & Design Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To look at adapting which artists we study to ensure there is more depth for the children rather than too much breadth of Artists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The children will have more time to investigate an artists techniques and develop their own skills in line with them.
Staff journey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at ways to support staff well-being. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Morale of staff in school is good.
Pupil behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop happy and healthy children who are resilient and understand how their brain works through the My Happy Mind project. • Continue to develop strong behaviour management systems • Continue to train and support staff to ensure effective management of challenging behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children's behaviour improved • Become a My Happy Mind ambassador school. • Children happy and healthy across school • Healthy Schools award achieved • Children demonstrating resilience • Exclusion rate reduced
Governors engagement and CP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunity for governors to come into school regularly • Governors to meet with their curriculum leader on termly basis and feedback to Full Governors • Governors to attend events such as sports days, assemblies, nativities and Christmas dinner • Governors to access training through Governor services and Governor Net • Govs to access training – modern governor and NGA learning link 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and monitor all data and results • Governors continue to challenge through Q&A, book scrutiny, learning walks etc • Governors are accessing online training throughout the year.

**Local community,
parents &
stakeholder**

- Develop and promote joint events, alongside existing school events.
- Make contact with local businesses and colleges
- Look at doing a project in the local community encouraging parents to become involved
- Supporting our local community in carrying out a joint project
- Promoting Kincraig Children in a positive light within the community
- All Govs

H E A R T