



February 2021



An update from your Education Governors

A duty I love as a Governor is coming into school and speaking to the children – I had the chance at the end of the Autumn term to talk to three groups of 5 children about the new behaviour policy launched in Sept 2020 (my notes say it was only 5, I remember it seeming like at least 10!); I did feel like I'd been hit by a train afterwards (in a good way!) – such was their passion to tell me they feel safe in school, of the good things about school, of what they love about school, and an honest account of behaviour in school. It seems a lifetime ago with another lockdown, but I learnt how playtimes can result in games being banned if too many arguments result; I learnt how Miss Rundle sets high standards for her pupil attainment and that she is very competitive [but not at all costs when there was some doubt about the worthiness of some of the reading signatures!]; I learnt how teachers and pupils deal with disruptive behaviour and how pupils really do know what is expected of them in terms of behaviour. My favourite quote was from a year-5 girl - who had a great understanding that you don't get involved in other people's situations – unless you see something wrong and then you go and tell a teacher!

I intend to meet the younger years soon to talk to them – but lockdown 3 has delayed that for the moment. In all honestly, I don't know how teachers manage a whole full class for the whole day, I take my hat off to them! As a governor and not a teacher, I'm much happier with a good policy review - I have time to think about the content and the direction, my well written questions completely went out of the window when faced with live children!

Of course, the well-being of pupils and staff has been at the forefront too of what Governors have contributed to school, there is a new Governor role specifically responsible for this. Forest school, training from an educational psychologist, the valuable roles of our ELSAs (Emotional Literacy Support Assistants), Jean our PFSA (Parent & Family Support Advisor) and some dedicated INSET training have helped enormously. "16 habits of mind" was such a timely introduction to the ethos of the school and it's really rewarding to see the Vision and Values of the school explicitly stating what makes us at Kingsmoor "us".

As we caught up before half term as Education governors, it was great to hear about the impact of zoom lessons – where pupils love of being together is evident, albeit virtually. There has been some great English and Maths learning from the live lessons and it seems Kingsmoor staff have got the right balance between live lessons and printed work packs. No-one is under any illusion this is easy for staff, pupils or parents but it really seems we're making the best of the situation – all we can ask of our children as they grow up (us being grown-ups!) is to be your best.

It's been strange not to have the same facts and figures to analyse this term given the absence of formal testing at various stages of the school year. However, the comprehensive teacher assessments and tracking, that is normal school business, has come into its own to ensure that pupils continue to make the necessary increases in attainment and make good progress. Subject leaders have been given a curriculum area that they can really develop and dive into – ensuring teaching expectations are high and teaching builds on what they have already learnt. And Governors too have been allocated a specific year group to follow through the school – allowing greater depth of knowledge and opportunity for joint working with the teachers. Year 2 phonics results were something for the teachers, pupils and parents to be proud of and I am confident that children are making progress in lockdown – and more reassuringly for all of you balancing home-schooling, your jobs, being your children's social life - and trying to just be mum and dad too, your children will return to a love of learning and school just as soon as deemed safe to do so. Hang in there, the end will be in sight!