

# The History of our School

The name 'Kingcase' derives from 'Kilcase', which is linked to the ruins of an old chapel which was close to Robert the Bruce's well. It is said that Robert the Bruce gifted this chapel to the people of Prestwick as he was grateful to the many men of Prestwick who joined the fight for independence.

The proud history of Kingcase Primary School goes back over fifty years. The school opened its doors to children and staff on September 17th, 1971. Kingcase was one of the first open-plan designs in Scotland and was considered very 'forward thinking' for the time. It was also the first school in South-Ayrshire to be designed using centimetres and meters instead of feet and inches. The Log Book states that many Head Teachers and other Educationalists came from all over to see Kingcase and to consider how they would teach in this 'modern way'.

The children who were enrolled at Kingcase came mostly from Prestwick Public School. When the school opened in 1971, it was organised into thirteen classes. The management team comprised of a Head Master, a Depute Head Mistress and an Infant Mistress. Of course, we now use more gender-neutral terms in schools and the Infant Mistress role no longer exists.

During his address to parents, the Head Master, explained his vision for Kingcase. He was keen that it would be a beacon of inspiration to all involved in education across Scotland. Mr Simpson, the Head Master, was keen that all children should be taught at the level of their own ability and that teachers should teach children in smaller groups. At the time, this was a new way for teachers to work and came about as a result of the 'Primary Memorandum' on Primary Education in Scotland. Open-plan schools with large 'shared areas' were part of the principles of this new way of teaching children.

Since 1971, Kingcase has gone on to serve a large area of the town. Kingcase Primary School has a long-standing reputation for providing children with a strong start to their formal education as well as providing them with many rich extra-curricular experiences. Many of our children attend Kingcase through 'A placing request'. This means that they are not catchment for our school but parents choose to send their children here.

If you have any interesting stories, photos or memorabilia associated with Kingcase, then we would love to see this.

Our Log Book also makes for interesting reading, and dates from when the school opened to 1994, when schools were no longer required to keep such a document.



## Over 400 years of history...

The Auld Kirk Bell which is situated at Kingcase Primary was first hung at St Nicholas church and then moved to Prestwick Public School before being moved to Kingcase in 1971.

