**Visit to Tigers Class for Dimensions**

It was a pleasure to join Tigers Class for the afternoon and take part in their Dimensions lesson. The class are looking at the topic ‘Picture Our Planet’ this half term and today’s lesson focused on Brazil.

As I arrived in the classroom after lunchtime, the pupils were engaged in their Relaxation time, with calming music playing in the background. Following this, the class took turns rating how they were feeling on a scale on 0-10, with each pupil having the opportunity to explain why they gave their rating.

Looking around the classroom, I was impressed to see that the class have fully adopted a Total Communication approach by using symbols and photographs alongside writing. This is carried through to the various teaching styles used by Mrs Tunna to support the range of learning needs in the class. As well as using spoken methods of teaching, visuals were also used in the form of pictures and writing, displayed both on the whiteboard and on individual sheets given to each child. A Visual Timetable is also used, with symbols to represent each activity of the day. This all combines to create a communication-friendly and supportive environment for the pupils.

What really impressed me was the enthusiasm of all the pupils in Tigers Class. Rather than explaining the work by talking at the class, Mrs Tunna encouraged an open class discussion and all the pupils were eager to get involved and volunteer their own thoughts and ideas. It was fantastic to see how comfortable and confident the pupils feel in the classroom environment.

The class was split into three smaller groups to complete the work activity. Each group was supported by a member of staff. I noticed that positive feedback was used consistently throughout the lesson by Mrs Tunna, Mrs Wynne and Mrs Bridson, either through verbal praise or by rewarding the pupils with Team Points. I could see that this really helped to motivate the pupils.

Once the work activity was completed, the pupils were given the opportunity to volunteer to show their work to the rest of the class. A sea of hands shot up! It was lovely to see the pride each pupil took in the work they had completed. The lesson ended with the children ‘Traffic lighting’ their work. This allows the child to rate the lesson as Green, Amber or Red, depending on how easy or challenging they found it- an excellent way to empower the children and gain feedback from them.

I also had the opportunity to look through the class’ Dimensions work books and was very impressed to see that not all the learning is work-sheet based. Photographs in the work books showed the pupils learning through acting, making things and taking part in activities, such as participating in a class vote. Another example of how lessons are adapted to meet the various learning needs of the class.

I really enjoyed my visit to Tigers Class and would like to thank the staff and pupils for making me feel so welcome. I look forward to returning to share another lesson soon!

Bethany