**Adopt a class report - Dimensions**

Bears Class – February 2020

On arriving at school I was greeted by Mrs Billington, the class teacher who escorted me to the Bears classroom. She began to tell me about the children in the class including their needs and what level they were at. The classroom was well set out and very welcoming.

She then told me that they would be doing their Dimensions topic which this term is Come Fly with Me. She showed me the Dimensions booklet and explain how it covers different subjects within that topic. I was shown one of the children’s book which was very well presented, lots of pictures and I really liked the stickers used at the top of the pages to differentiate the subjects covered by the work. The children came in from lunchtime all smiling and happy. One boy even asked if I’d like a hug, which of course I said “yes to”, who says no to a hug.

There was calm music playing as they took their coats off and this continued as they sat on the carpet and did some relaxation breathing before beginning the lesson. Visuals where shown to explain what lesson they would be doing, Dimensions and they would be talking about what makes a good friend and a bad friend?. The topic was introduced by reading the story “The Grunt and the Grouch” which is a story about two friends. The children had read this story before so where asked questions to see what they could remember. It was also used to discuss feelings and emotions. Each child was then asked if they had a good friend, who it was and why? They all put their hands up and listened to each other’s answers which were all very thoughtful.

They then drew around 2 of the children onto large pieces of paper. There was lots of giggling and they all enjoyed it. One by one they then picked a piece of paper from a jar with a word that would describe a friend eg cares, dishonest, bully etc. With each one, the teacher checked their understanding of the word and they then decided whether it was the characteristic of a good or bad friend and stuck them onto the drawings. On a couple of words they would have a vote (it was explain this was part of their British values), and decide collectively where to put the word. They were asked why they thought it should go on that friend. Throughout the activity the children all listened carefully and followed the instructions they were given. The children were then told which groups they would be working in for their written work.

I worked with 3 children who were all extremely friendly. They worked very well together and tried really hard. They all took great care with the presentation of their work and had beautiful handwriting. They took turns to choose a word to write and when I asked for examples of how they could be a good friend they came up with lovely answers.

Once completed they were asked to colour code their work, Red if they were not sure, orange if they needed help or green if they had understood. All the children chose the green pencil and put a circle in the top corner of the page.

Visuals were used throughout the afternoon for what was next or if a child needed to listen to the teacher.

They were then asked to gather at the SMSC board where they recapped what they had done so far this term. Al the children could answer questions and remembered what they had done well. It was explained how what they had done today about friends linked into the social and moral parts of SMSC, and the relaxation after lunch was part of their spiritual section.

On returning to the carpet they were told that they were going to be looking at something that is happening in this country at the moment to lots of people and a website about UK flooding was put on the board. They read through the page, looking at the pictures (there were lots of gasps at all the water in the streets and houses) and discussed what had happened and why. The children put their hands up and asked really good relevant questions. They all enjoyed telling their stories about flooding they have seen, and especially liked Mrs Billington’s camping story.

The discussion naturally ended and Mrs Billington checked that all the children understood that we are very lucky were we live and that they were safe and had nothing to worry about. They all gave a thumbs up that they understood.

Bears class is a delightful group of children and staff and I thoroughly enjoyed meeting them and working with them this afternoon. I am already excited to return for my next visit in the Summer term.