**Orrets Meadow**

**Governor Class Visit – Sharks**

**Thursday 21st November 2019**

My thanks to the pupils, staff for making my visit an enjoyable one.

I arrived a little early so was able to see the end of a Judo session the children were participating in. Everyone was having fun and they really enjoyed the session. Pupils listened well and completed the tasks given in a timely manner.

I was then able to go into the classroom and have a few minutes with Mr Saul. Mr Saul is currently leading the Dimensions curriculum and he explained how the curriculum was divided into four key areas e.g. Conservation, Communication, Culture and Conflict. This is a curriculum that is highlighting a world curriculum. We had discussions and a presentation during a governor meeting so I was aware of the different concepts this curriculum would bring. I had the chance to look through a pupil’s book and was impressed with the quality of the handwriting and content. The children are currently at the Adventurers level and their recent lessons had been on Athens v Sparta which fell into the Conflict element of the syllabus. The use of art as well as debate made the lessons more fun and interesting whilst still not detracting from the key learning objective. What was exciting about the topic was that the children not only learnt about the past and conflict resolution but the thinking and reasoning they are developing can be transferred and is still a key skill relevant today. Taking this approach gives a more rounded experience for each child and develops their ability to think and consider.

The focus of the lesson today was on the Conservation element, and the current topic was Brazil. The teacher spent 10 minutes going over what they had learnt previously and the children had opportunity to ask questions and make any observations that they had learnt already. Urbanisation and discussions around the different levels of the rainforest and how they all interact with one another e.g. animals, trees etc. The discussion around deforestation challenged the children to think about why deforestation takes place, what are the reasons behind it? The size of the rainforest as well as what happens to the land and the impact on climate change. All of these issues are relevant today, the children had the opportunity of listening to a BBC news item about deforestation in Brazil. That particular item has only just been broadcast in the last couple of months so the information the children are accessing is very up to date. During the lesson there was clear information without a bias that encouraged the pupils to think for themselves and then discuss with others why they felt their decision was the right one. It was teaching discretely how we can have different views but by speaking to one another we can develop understanding of a different viewpoint and this underpins respect and acceptance of diversity.

The lesson was interesting and well-paced, I observed the children really enjoying their learning and they did remember the key pieces of information they had learnt.

The lesson finished with a quiz and the children really enjoyed answering and trying to be the first to get them all right. It was using technology for a group activity something that they all got excited about and they were very competitive!

The new curriculum is exciting and uses a variety of resources to enrich the learning as well as developing their ability to consider different sides of an argument. Something that will help them in their life no matter what age they are.

My thanks to everyone in the class again for making my visit an enjoyable one.

***Cindy Cooper***

***Governor***