**Visit to Giraffes Class for Maths- Autumn Term 2022**

I thoroughly enjoyed my morning with Giraffes class. It was lovely to meet some new faces. As always, the children and the staff were all so welcoming and I was really impressed by their eagerness to learn. I joined the class for their Maths lesson, which focused on Tall and Short.

The lesson started with the Maths Fluency Routine, which focuses on developing mental maths. The class do this every day for 15 minutes after Play Time and today’s topic was multiplication. Giraffes class and I had great fun dancing and singing along to the 2 times table songs. It was fantastic to see the children enjoying the Maths activity and learning at the same time.

Miss MacGregor introduced the focus of the lesson and clearly outlined the objective of the lesson. To introduce the topic, the children were encouraged to consider and give examples of how we use measuring in everyday life. The children gave lots of brilliant, imaginative examples. It was great seeing the ‘real life Maths’ approach in action- it really made the learning more relevant and emphasised how it can used in real life.

Throughout the Maths lesson, a variety of different activities were used to consolidate the learning. There was a whiteboard activity, a drawing activity, a sorting activity and a gluing and sticking activity. The children had opportunities to work individually, in pairs, as a whole class group and one-to-one with a member of staff. The children tackled each activity with enthusiasm and the thing that really stood out was that they all enjoyed the activities that Miss MacGregor had planned. The various activities were adapted to meet the differing needs of the children in the class, which just highlights the primary ethos of Orrets Meadow.

Embedded into the lesson was the ‘Talking Maths’ approach, which puts emphasis on using the language of Maths. The vocabulary was modelled to the children throughout the lesson by all teaching staff and children were encouraged to use the topic vocabulary in a sentence.

The lesson ended with the opportunity for all the pupils to RAG rate their understanding following the lesson. I wasn’t surprised when every pupil shared their understanding was at ‘Green’.

I was also really pleased to see the additional interventions that are on offer for the children at Orrets Meadow. During the lesson, children accessed the Sensory Circuit and attended a Speech and Language Therapy session with Mrs Williams. Children also had access to the Sensory Room within the classroom and you could see that following this, children were regulated and more able to access the lesson.

 Once again, I would like to thank Miss MacGregor, Miss Johnson, Mrs Welch, Mrs Randall and the children of Giraffes Class for welcoming me into their class. As someone who struggled with Maths in school and never really enjoyed it, it was refreshing to see a completely new and fun approach to the subject. I really look forward to my next visit!