**Orrets Meadow School**

**Governor Visit – Thursday 26th May 2022 – Bears Class**

It is always a pleasure to visit the school and meet with the children and staff. I would like to extend my thanks to the children and staff because you always make me feel so welcome. Thanks to Blake who remembered I had a birthday and he wished me happy birthday, he has an amazing memory for numbers and dates.

As a governor we have been made aware that instead of having one science lesson per week it would be more beneficial and suit the needs of the pupils at Orrets to have a targeted week for science. Immersing the pupils in science for a week would offer plenty of opportunity to revisit the topic and their workbooks would then become a good source of reference when they came across aspects again. The children also cover science in the dimensions curriculum during the year and so their workbooks can also provide a good source of information to help them remember.

The lesson began with everyone singing together, it was a nice way to begin the morning and all the children enjoyed singing.

Mrs Billington began with a group discussion about the seasons of the year, how they differ and what the children could recall about how things felt during each of the seasons. Mrs Billington explained about how the earth rotated away and towards the sun and how this affected the seasons. Discussions around what type of clothing we might wear at different times of the year. In addition the children watched a video of a weather forecast and she explained what the different parts of the chart represented. She made it fun and entertaining as well as sharing important information. The children shared their thoughts and Mrs Billington explained about the different colours on the map as well as the arrows and how this represented the wind direction.

The class went outside to visit their weather station, they looked at what the temperature was, how much rain had fallen, the conditions if it was windy cloudy etc. There had not been a lot of rain and so today was the first time there was anything in the measuring tube. In their own groups and with the support of an adult they recorded the information in their books. The activity supported information already shared and I had the opportunity to look through a workbook and you could see how much work had been covered during the week, from plants to different types of weather conditions and how this impacted on the things that grow, it was very interesting.

The lesson was structured so that the children did not linger on one activity for too long there as plenty of opportunity to learn and keep their interest. The staff are extremely skilled at knowing the children and deflecting any concerns before they become an issue. This kept the learning on track as well as promoting a relaxed atmosphere.

Mid way through the children went into sensory circuit and this supports them to stay emotionally ready to continue with their learning as the morning progressed.

All too soon it was playtime and it was time for me to leave. After seeing the pupils I can appreciate the difference the target weeks are. There is so much over learning and ways to reinforce knowledge in a differentiated way. At the end of each activity the children mark in their books green, amber or red so the teacher knows if they need any additional support.

I did have the opportunity during the playtime to visit the sensory garden to see what the children are learning. A lot of hard work has been undertaken as a keen gardener I appreciate that takes a lot of effort. The children will enjoy seeing plants grow and see first-hand how the climate can impact on them. I will visit after half term as I have grown some plants to put in the garden.

Thank you again for all the hard work, Orrets if an amazing school and you can see how the children are thriving in such a caring and support environment.

***Cindy Cooper***

***Bears Governor***