Parent Governor visit to Owl Class

PE session outdoors - Basketball

08/03/23

Today was the second lesson in basketball skills. The children had previously practiced their dribbling skills, spatial awareness and had become familiar with the equipment. Following on from feedback given by the children about not liking the texture of the balls, Miss O’Brien had provided a selection of different textured balls for the children to use.

The lesson started in the classroom with a recap on skills previously practiced and what the next steps entailed. There was a lot of enthusiasm for this lesson and despite the snow starting to fall, this did not dampen the children’s energy or commitment.

Once outside Miss O’Brien and the two teaching assistants got the children engaged and moving straight away. After asking the children what dynamic warm up moves they could remember, Miss O’Brien called out these warmup instructions for the children to follow. This role was then handed over to one child at a time. With some encouragement to use a clear voice to call out a warmup move, children were given the chance to take the lead. Praise was given throughout by all staff members.

Miss O’Brien then moved on to talk about and model the importance of static warmups and the significance of mobilising shoulders, arms, wrists and hands in basketball. One of the contributions offered by a class member was “It helps you to keep control of the ball.” All the children took part in practicing these new movements.

Each child was then given the opportunity to choose a ball and practice individually their dribbling skills. A recap of the rules was given by Mrs O’Brien and reinforced throughout by the staff. After practicing these skills, the children then progressed on to a game of traffic lights – Red meaning stop and hold the ball still, amber meaning walk and dribble, green meaning fast walk and dribble.

After observing the children’s skills, the children were set a challenge. Miss O’Brien demonstrated some passing skills and encouraged the children to work in pairs to practice these new skills. Despite some tricky starts all of the children persevered. Peer support and encouragement by one young man in particular went a long way in encouraging his partner to keep on trying, and by the end of the challenge his partner had mastered a new skill.

Miss O’Brien clearly knows the children in her class who respond well to a competitive challenge and those who don’t react well to competitiveness. Based on this knowledge the children were split into two groups, both practicing the same skills but presented in different ways. The competitive group worked with Miss O’Brien and a teaching assistant. Rules were explained and they were split into two teams. This opportunity allowed the children to combine all their newly learnt skills in a game of basketball, using hoops on the floor as a scoring system.

The non-competitive group worked on combing their new skills with aiming the ball through a hoop that was being held by a teaching assistant.

Praise and encouragement was given throughout by both staff and peers. Children openly engaged in celebrating each other successes and this went a long way in encouraging those children who were less confident.

At the end of the lesson the children were encouraged to reflect on their learning and what they had personally achived.

Thank you once again, I have toughly enjoyed today.

Michelle Blakemoore-Irving