**Orrets Meadow School**

**Governor Class Visit – Bears**

**Tuesday 11th February 2025**

It is always a pleasure to visit the school and see the children again in my adoptive class. This term the focus is maths and even though this has been a topic on a previous visit it is always useful to see how the school delivers the curriculum and the changes to reflect best practice.

The session began after mid-morning playtime. Children were welcomed back to the classroom after play to relaxing music and a calm atmosphere. The focus today was on addition and subtraction. The activities were designed so that children worked in smaller groups and they had been organised according to their needs and level of understanding. The lesson was organised so that over learning takes place every day and this gives the children plenty of opportunity to revisit key learning objectives and become secure in their thinking and reasoning. It is a challenge for many the children as retaining and drawing on their previous knowledge is not easy for them to recall.

There was an emphasis on fluency with speaking and listening during the lesson and each activity was clearly explained by the teacher. The children were each given a set of mathematical sums either in red or green and each table used the mathematical sums according to the colour. Sums written in green were not as tricky as the ones written in red. The children worked in small groups and had an adult to help them so there was plenty of support. The importance of mathematical fluency is a key focus and the teacher modelled the sentence and children put up their hands so they could read out the sum on the whiteboard.

After table work the children then worked as a whole group and using the smartboard talking about shapes and how we would describe shapes. Each activity was long enough to keep children engaged and all the staff know the children well so could keep them on task if their attention began to wander.

The table work after this supported the identification of shapes using pictures of buildings, landmarks etc. The new maths routine to help reinforce number and what that would look like is a new strategy that is being used. The children need to be able to understand the link between number and what that would look like. Appreciate what less means and what more would mean if you add or take away. The short activities using cubes and units of 10 has already helped and this is something that the school are monitoring to help children become secure in their learning.

The class then split into two halves one group went into sensory circuit and half stayed behind to do speaking and listening with the teacher in a small group. I was able to observe both the sensory circuit and the speaking and listening. This gave everyone the opportunity to unwind and have a mental break and the other group had the opportunity of speaking and listening and recalling a visit to the beach or to a café. I can see the difference to how settled the children are this term and they have settled into a routine.

The next activity was in small groups and the children became *shape detectives*, the spy glasses were definitely a hit and children had to identity different shapes and then draw them on a piece of paper. The activity finished off as a whole group and using the smartboard the teacher asked about the shapes on the board. What qualities each shape may have e.g. corners, size of the sides etc.

The children are beginning to be able to structure sentences and share this with the class, both doing table work and group work.

I can see the children progressing and everyone in the whole class celebrate achievement in trying their best. The traffic lights were used at the end of the activity to see if pupils understood and I saw plenty of green dots.

I look forward to returning to meet the children again, they are a wonderful class. The atmosphere is one of calm, positive acceptance and try your best.

**Cindy Cooper**

**Class Governor – Bears**