**Governor Visit**

**Orreyts Meadow School**

**Wednesday 5th June 2024**

Today, I had the opportunity of visiting Giraffe class to observe part of maths lesson. This is a class I have never visited this year so it was lovely to be able to join a different group of pupils and see for myself how the lesson was structured.

I would like to thank Ms McGregor, teaching assistants and pupils for making me feel welcome.

The teacher explained that the activity today was to reinforce multiplication and counting skills. The children learnt by participating in a variety of tasks that included exercise, singing, games as well as table work and a whole class group activity.

The lesson was such a happy one and lots of smiles and happy faces. The first activity was the use of a laminated sheet that the children could write on. They were instructed to think about multiplication and to use the worksheet, each pupil had a different number. I noticed they could multiply in 2, 5, or 10. They then needed to write their answers on the sheet. The children were seated and worked at their own tables in small groups. Lots of support and the adults were able to ensure that no one was left behind and were kept on task. Each activity was not too long so that the children did not become overwhelmed. All the children engaged with their learning and had lots of support and encouragement from the adults. Whilst I was there one pupil went into the sensory room for a quick break but it did not disturb the pace of the lesson.

The next activity consisted of watching a Jack Hartmann video in which he sang and exercised whilst counting one at a time to the number 100. The second film was counting from 100 to 1 backwards whilst doing a variety of exercises. The children really enjoyed the counting and the physical workout it really energised everyone.

Ms McGregor explained one boy in the class worked at a booth when he first came into class. With a lot of support and the right help he has now gone from working alone and he was happily joining in with the rest of the class. This is such a wonderful achievement and something that the school does exceptionally well, providing the emotional support so children can relax, have fun and learn. The children worked in their books to sequence higher or lower, numbers. They had the use of a number line to help them make a judgement. I walked around to observe what the children were doing and the pupil who had struggled initially working in a booth came back over to me to show me his competed work which was fantastic. I noticed the use of the traffic light system at the end of the activity which is a great way to find out how the children felt.

The focus changed from the books and the whole class participated in an activity using pegs and a washing line. Numbers were given out by the teacher randomly and then they were put on the washing line accordingly. To make sure knowledge was reasoned and not just repeated the teacher would throw in a number out of sequence or leave out a number but the children knew and quickly told her. The teacher made the session fun and all of the children really engaged with the lesson and loved it. All the time the same underlying message of number, sequence higher, lower etc. was being reinforced. It really did make the lesson fun for the children use of physical activity combined with the mental concentration made the session feel enjoyable.

At the end of the washing line activity the lights were lowered and the focus became more relaxed by encouraging the children to put their hand up and speaking in a lower tone changed the atmosphere. Teaching still continued but the lesson had a different feel and energy levels were much calmer, the pace was the same but the feel felt much more relaxing.

When the group activity had finished the children had a break from mental concentration. Ms McGregor explained for 15 mins the children could now play with a variety of games to relax a little before the next session began it felt for them more like play. The games were maths focussed so again learning did not stop. Some of the children preferred to sit in the sensory room. It allowed the children a bit of space to recharge their batteries before they would begin their next piece of work. Due to the length of the maths sessions it ensures that children remained happy as many struggle with concentration over longer periods of time. By keeping each segment at a manageable time frame it ensured that every child gained something from the lesson and did not feel stressed.

It was my time to leave and as always it was a pleasure to be able to join the children and staff so I could see how maths is taught. It was good for me as numeracy governor to observe a different class.

I would like to thank everyone again.

***Cindy Cooper***

***Numeracy Governor***