Visit to Orrets 25/3/2014

**Miss O’Brien’s - class 4**

Listenening to a child reading.

Faye seemed quite happy to read to me. We started with Faye’s Probe sheet. Faye struggled with the words initially but improved quickly as the words were repeated. Faye then read from her reading book which seemed well matched to the probe sheet which practised long vowel sound at the beginning of two-syllable words. The book was about bugs which was suitably gruesome.

The children now had a group session focusing on direct and reported speech. The children were given out two cards, and needed to decide which one was direct speech and which reported speech. A discussion of speech marks ensued followed by the use of punctuation.

The children were then given out punctuation fans which covered speech marks, exclamation marks, brackets, question marks and full stops.

The children practised finding the correct punctuation for sentences presented to them.

A discussion of ellipses ensued.

The children were then given an exercise to reinforce what had been covered.

The Teacher, Assistant Teacher and I then each listened to a child reading.

Lewis read his probe sheet and then we shared the book with Lewis reading a page and then I was told I was to read the next page. As I finished reading Lewis commented that I obviously enjoy reading. As we were called back to class, Lewis explained how I was to fill in the Reading Log. When he realised I had not done the same for Faye, Lewis went and got her book to ensure Faye would have her homework to do.

Back in class the Plenary session was on contractions which was in the form of large dominoes which the children enjoyed and wanted to complete even after the break bell rang.

The children were well behaved and well focused for the whole session. The handwriting in the books was good and the children seemed to enjoy what they were doing.

Having been a Literacy Co-ordinator and then a SENCO for most of my teaching career, I had a very enjoyable session watching the Year 6 children. Thank you for the opportunity to enjoy these sessions.

Design Technology Session

The hall was set out for this session where an outside agency was to be in school for the whole day.

Before the break, each child had made a movable toy which was an imaginary bird which had a mechanism to flap the wings.

The session I was watching was to make a stage set where the characters were movable. This involved colouring a background of a sea scene. The children then had to measure pieces of wood which were then sawn using a hack saw. The wood was then stuck on to the piece of card that had coloured earlier. The children then had to saw a piece of wood with 45 degree angles.

There were a lot of children not just from the class I have been involved with but also other classes including the Inclusion base. There was plenty of adult support and the children were incredibly attentive and well behaved. Initially I felt that there were too many children and it would be difficult to keep them on task but with the support from the staff and the fact the children obviously wanted to take part, they managed very well and there were no problems as far as I could see.

I will look forward to seeing the finished pieces of work when I am next in school.