Governor visit to class 3 – Focus Reading

14th November 2016

I visited the school today to observe the class undertaking reading activities. I was welcomed by both the teachers and the children with enthusiasm and there was a lovely sense of calm within the classroom.

Mrs Ward initially showed me the phonic checklist and the probe words that the children learn and the system in place that helps the teachers to see the progression and to log the work the children do on a daily basis. There is a great sense of organisation and keenness to see the children progress and the teachers rightly are proud of the work they do and the system in place ensures that the children advance in difficulty of the words at a pace determined by both the teacher and child.

Each day the teachers try their best to undertake some one to one reading with the children, utilising the probe words. I observed two children reading with a teacher, and the enthusiasm from both the teacher and children was fantastic, and the questions that the teacher asked the child about the words and content that they had just read was very effective to see how well the child digested what they were reading, the response was excellent. The children used great expression whilst they were reading, which was lovely to hear. There was a lot of praise for the children following reading, and there was obvious pleasure from them when they heard this.

I was shown ‘Bug World’, a computer programme that the children are encouraged to use both at school and at home, whereby they have a user name and password to access it. This is a fun and informative way to learn, and the children get an opportunity to advance and increase the level of difficulty as they progress.

Mr Saul talked me through the process by which the teachers log the advancement and attainment of the children, and it is very apparent that seeing the children progress well (and in a happy environment) is something that Mr Saul and his TA’s are very passionate about.

There appears to be such a joy for learning amongst the children and a great sense of happiness in the classroom, it was a pleasure to spend the time there, and I would like to thank Mr Saul and the Teaching Assistants for spending time with me today, it was very enjoyable.

Thanks Sue Mason