**Autumn 2018 – Class 4 – Governor Visit – Science Investigations**

This afternoon I had the enormous privilege of sharing a science lesson with Mr Ferris, Miss Deer, Mrs Nicholls and most importantly the superstars that are Class 4! My arrival was met by a very friendly welcome, so I instantly felt right at home. The aim of the science lesson was to investigate our pulse – what it is, how it relates to the rest of the body, and how we can test what happens to our pulse when we exercise.

The first thing that struck me was the way in which Mr Ferris, Mrs Nicholls and Miss Deer took enormous care to ensure that each and every child understood exactly what was being discussed, what the answer to the question was, and WHY that was the answer. No child ever ‘dropped under the radar’; each child was shown individually how to check their pulse both in their neck and wrist, and the lesson didn’t continue until each child was successful in achieving each goal.

I must say that I was terribly impressed with the rigorous scientific methodology that Mr Ferris introduced to the class – there were a few scientific terms that the children were asked to work out that I must admit had me scratching my head!

Mr Ferris never failed to maintain that perfect elusive balance between work and fun; he had seemingly endless ways to keep the children ‘on topic’, thus ensuring that they remained engaged with the subject matter. It was very clear that all the teachers know the children very well, and so knew the optimum ways to get the best out of each child. Mr Ferris ensured that each child always strived to do the best work he or she possibly could; no corners were cut, correct grammar and neat writing was insisted upon (in the nicest possible way of course!) and each child’s best standards and maximum capability were consequently maintained at all times.

Each child was made to feel that their opinion was valued and whether the answer they gave was right or wrong, it was always met with a positive response from Mr. Ferris. The atmosphere was engaged, enthusiastic and lively, at the same time as being calm and focused – how Mr Ferris achieved such a remarkable balance of apparently opposing forces is quite astonishing!

Even more impressive was the way in which at the same time as teaching, Mr Ferris was constantly aware of each child’s individual needs and ensured that all were met. Mr Ferris knew instinctively how each child reacted to the others, and how a particular behaviour in one child may cause an effect in another. Along with Miss Deer and Mrs. Nicholls, Mr Ferris was constantly monitoring and responding to behaviours, foreseeing potential issues and preventing problems before they arose.

The children seemed to thoroughly enjoy measuring their own pulse, and definitely enjoyed going outside to exercise and re-test their pulses afterwards. Making themselves the subject of the lesson seemed to me to be a fantastic way of helping the children to understand how relevant to their lives an apparently complex subject as science could be. As for me, I thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience – it was a true masterclass of a science lesson. And what’s more, I learned some science into the bargain! Thank you so much to fabulous Class 4 for making me feel so welcome – I really hope I’m invited back to see you all again soon!

Thanks

Emma McCarthy