Governor Visit – Mr McAteer’s Class

21st May 2015

It was a beautiful sunny afternoon which was fortunate as the lesson was on the school playground.

Before joining the class I looked at Youth Sports Cards which were being used for the lesson.

It was to practise Tracking and Fielding skills.

On the playground there are some impressive activities for the children to use.

* Hopscotch
* Target throwing against the fence
* Cricket
* Balance bars
* Climbing frames
* Football targets
* Basketball
* Shaded seating area
* Swinging ropes

The children arrived with Mr. McAteer. There were only 6 children as 2 children were absent. One child was with an assistant working on his own as he is ADHD and also Obsessive Compulsive about germs. There was also a visiting teacher from the Secondary School where the child is to attend in September.

The other children were with Mr McAteer. There was only one girl who did seem very withdrawn. The lesson started with Mr McAteer reviewing the lesson from the week before talking about Hand/Eye co-ordination and about the skills of co-operation, sportsmanship and encouragement towards others.

The warm up was throwing a ball to a partner. I was surprised to see how difficult some of the children found it to catch the ball but as the lesson continued this improved significantly. The next activity was balancing the ball on the tennis racket as the children moved around the area, moving forward and backwards. The children then moved on to batting the ball in the air moving around and then hopping as the ball was batted into the air with forehand and backhand. There was plenty of praise especially for those hitting on the sweet spot in the centre of the strings. The children were brought back in a group to discuss what was going well and a child who was having difficulties was helped by changing a tennis ball to a sponge ball which made the task easier.

Some of the children needed reminding about the task.

The next activity was in pairs, child bowling underarm or bouncing the ball to the batter. There was discussion about body position. The children were reminded about encouraging partners.

The final activity was a game where the children were in two teams. Of the three batting, one batted the ball and then all of the team had to run around the four bases whilst the fielding team had to throw the ball around the other fielders to get someone out. The batter could have up to three tries to hit the ball. This was when some of the children became upset and Mr McAteer had to give time out to one boy. He was encouraged to rejoin the game after the time out and eventually he did join back in. There was constant repetition by Mr. McAteer for the children to encourage each other. Luckily there were plenty of extra balls as several went over the railings.

At the end of the lesson the children were encourage give ideas as to how to hit the ball well by rotating the hips, as there was one boy who was particularly good at hitting the ball. There was also discussion about how they would change the rules of the game. The children collected in the apparatus before going back into school.

Mr McAteer mentioned at the end of the session that four of the children have ADHD. It was a shame that there were two children absent as this sort of game would work better with a larger group.

I would like to thank Mr. McAteer for allowing the observation of his lesson.

D. Swailes