**Parent Governor visit to Owl Class**

**12/10/21**

I would firstly like to thank the pupils and staff for allowing me to visit them this afternoon.

I arrived just before the end of lunch break during which the pupils had been taking part in their lunchtime clubs. As the pupils returned to class the excitement and enthusiasm of their lunchtime was palpable with talk of who got man of the match, who had been injured, who scored a goal and who would be playing tomorrow. Mrs Walsh clearly knew what to expect and had prepared for this by allowing for a period of decompression time with calming music being played in the background.

Once settled in their seats the pupils quickly refocused and enquired as to what they would be learning about. Some of the pupils used visual aids to remind themselves what was going to be happening next in their day. Following the register Mrs Walsh confirmed that the pupils would be carrying on with their Law and Order topic, with one pupil going further by confidently explaining it was part of their Dimensions Curriculum and that he understood why we had rules. This then led into a class discussion that was used as a recall exercise to encourage all pupils to share their previous learning linked to this topic. All pupils were confident in contributing to this and were encouraged by Mrs Walsh to extend their thinking in order to clarify their understanding.

Mrs Walsh then refocused the pupils by asking them how they think rules apply to art. This led to further discussions and links being made to artists. One young person then went further by linking his understanding to a previous art day held in the school, where he had learnt about the different techniques that can be used in art. Mrs Walsh then moved the conversation on and explained to the pupils that they were going to be learning about and using ‘The Rule of 3’. Pupils contributed their thoughts around what they thought this term meant. One pupil linked the concept to; “Like in maths, thirds.” Mrs Walsh built on this contribution and used visual resources of world landmarks to explain the concept further. One image prompted an impromptu quiz question for ten house points, which was greeted with an abundance of enthusiasm by the pupils.

By the end of the session all the pupils had identified which of the selected images they wanted to recreate and despite some reluctance to have a go, with the correct encouragement and praise from staff, all pupils were able to use their previously learnt and new techniques to recreate their chosen image.

During the lesson Miss Keville, the classroom teaching assistant, would quietly and confidently tailor her behaviour management approaches to encourage individuals to re-focus. Both Mrs Walsh and Miss Keville clearly understand the needs of all their pupils and work in tandem to ensure the emotional well-being of their pupils takes priority. Throughout the lesson children where actively encouraged to take breaks from the focused task to use the sensory room and engage in Sensory Circuit activities.

Thank you for a lovely afternoon and I look forward to having lunch with Owl Class very soon.

Michelle Blakemoore-Irving