**Governor Classroom Visit – 10th October 2016**

Many thanks to Miss O'Brien and class 7 for allowing me to join their class and observe their morning session. The mission was to target reading and explore its central role and importance.

Reading at Orrets Meadow is given a huge priority and focus. Every day each pupil has a one-to-one reading session usually with one of the teaching assistants. The reading book is chosen at the appropriate level by one of the staff. I heard some really excellent reading and some exciting stories. The children were all keen to read and happy to explain the meaning of words and interpret the story in their own words. Reading homework is set every weekday to reinforce the classroom learning experience. The children I spoke to said they always completed their homework. Sometimes it isn't possible to do homework at home and in this case there is homework club. This is especially useful for and used by repeat offenders and those children who can't get help at home. Homework is set sympathetically if there are issues at home and difficulties managing to complete set tasks. In the classroom, group reading is used to develop comprehension, fluency and confidence.

I also had the opportunity to hear some of the children practise their probes. These are chosen specifically for each child and are linked to individual phonic, set of key words, or curriculum words. The children repeat them and are encouraged to say them as fast as they can while being timed. It was explained that this helps make reading less tiring by enabling recognition of words subconsciously and automatically. Again all of the children I saw had practised well and were able to speed on through their lists. I was told that Hickey cards are used to rehearse taught phonics to aid memory and automatic recall.

I asked the children if they enjoyed reading and if their reading had improved and was pleased by the positive response. They also said they liked using Bug Club where they were able to interact with their reading material and read through a different media, enjoying the listening option with Bug Club as well as the reading option.

I enjoyed my morning with Class 7 and was very impressed with their enthusiasm and interest in reading.

Caroline Innes
Parent Governor