Adopt a Governor – Marking and Presentation

I visited Orrets at 2.30p.m. on Tuesday 20th. January. I was welcomed by Mr McAteer who had selected a few maths and English books. I looked through the books and then asked if I could see the books of the rest of the class. When I first became a governor at Orrets I was very impressed by the standard of handwriting in the books. These books showed that this class has far greater problems with handwriting. I then realised that this class have far more complex difficulties which could make it far more difficult to achieve such a high standard as was evident before. Mr McAteer showed me the Handwriting Booklets showing the different levels from 1-10 to support the teachers with levelling the standard of handwriting.

Mr McAteer and I discussed about seating and pencil grip. Mr McAteer explained that he uses the daily phonics lesson to reinforce the basic skills of handwriting whilst the children are sitting in an arc so that he can model the correct seating and pencil grip. The children also have writing boards which help support the children’s writing. Mr McAteer explained that he uses multi-sensory activities to reinforce letter formation.

Mr McAteer, with the support of an Occupational Therapist, has initiated some fine and gross motor work to support the children’s handwriting skills. This included gross motor activities in the school hall and fine motor skills using dominoes and building blocks as well as sewing. The final assessment showed that there had been a significant improvement in the core strength of the children.

The books showed the marking policy, of which Mr McAteer had produced a copy, is being followed. I saw a consistent use of Traffic lights used by the children where they put a circle of red, amber or green to show how they assessed the difficulties encountered. Highlighting with pink and green highlighters as well as constructive comments used by the teacher was evident. There was also an indication of when discussion had taken place.

Mr McAteer is an enthusiastic member of staff who I am sure will be a great asset to Orrets’ children.

Dot Swailes