Adopt a Class – Phonics Class 6

It was great to be back in the classroom and meet the pupils again. I’ve not been in school at that time of the day before and the sense of structure and organisation stood out to me immediately. The pupils all knew to line up in their classes and as they walked into the classroom they proudly handed their homework in and proceeded to their seats. When sat down they each started to take out wooden alphabet letters from a small bag. I watched in fascination at the way they all lined them up in order, some in a semi-circle shape and some in lines but all of them had the letters in order. Mrs Tunna then asked who of the children would like to read the alphabet and the children were so keen to respond! Arms flew up in the air and one by one repeating the chant of the alphabet. Some children were that keen to impress that they were trying to say it as fast as possible which made me smile.

Mrs Tunna proceeded by asking the pupils to pull out and spell with their letters certain words and it was great to see how well everyone was doing. This really was a great way to make learning words more interesting and I could tell from the way the children behaved they were totally engrossed.

The lesson progressively seemed to get harder as Mrs Tunna wrote 6 letters down on the board and asked the pupils to remember them while she counted out loud to 10 in a distracting manner and then I was so surprised as they children had to recite them on their white boards – it was really interesting watching the pupils as they tried so hard to do this task – and they did it well. The task was repeated and I was blown away to be honest.

Having completed the letter work it was all about sounds and the difference between words with ‘aw’ and ‘or’. This even got me thinking as Mrs Tunna showed various clues and pictures on the board and the pupils where asked what the word was and did it include ‘aw’ or ‘or’. I could see that all pupils were still concentrating hard which was great to see. Moving on, the next piece of work was to read sentences that had missing words that including either of these letters and the pupils read and worked through carefully what words went into the gaps. This finished with pupils being asked to write words on the board under the two headings of ‘aw’ and ‘or’. This was a great way to reflect on what they had just learnt and the children really enjoyed writing on the board.

The phonics lesson then finished with a word search looking for 16 words and the pupils faces where great as they were happy to be using a highlighter to find the words as opposed to just a pencil. I couldn’t quite believe how much was covered in this short amount of time and it was a really joy to watch. I can’t wait to visit my class again to see how much they’ve progressed. I knew that the children had enjoyed it too by the show of green traffic lights held up at the end of the lesson.

Thanks for having me Class 6,

Mrs McGowan