Governor Visit to Owls 29.04.25

By Cathy Cotgrave

Animation – History of animation, DT

I arrived as the pupils were preparing to move into the lesson, and it was clear that there are structures in place to support this transition. One pupil independently got up and changed the arrow on the visual timetable – demonstrating her confidence to take charge of that job and also that the class teacher creates the environment which nurtures independent decision making.

The lesson began with the teacher greeting the students warmly, setting a positive tone and then encouraging a quick brainstorm of past learning before moving to the introduction for the new lesson.

The pupils were enthusiastic to watch a short film called “Fantasmagorie” which someone recognised as a “Paris word” and was given positive feedback for this observation.

The small class is enthusiastic and were excited to offer contributions to the session, but it was noticeable that they have learned to listen and take turns with each other and stayed on task, quickly returning attention to their teacher.

The main task was to create their own Zoetrope which was challenging as it required dexterity ( using scissors, sticking tape and following visual and verbal instructions). The pupils demonstrated that they could use a broad variety of skills including deduction, prediction and explanation to understand and explain how the zoetrope worked. There was a lovely moment of discussion which involved all the pupils and adults as they considered how they would manage to create a real-life zoetrope using a Drone or roundabout etc. I hope they have a go at this!

The most standout aspects of this visit were the relationships that have developed between the pupils and also between pupils and adults in the room. Also, the independence demonstrated by the pupils when copying a quite challenging building task.

The lesson concluded with a whole-class discussion where each group shared their work. The teacher praised their efforts and provided constructive feedback, fostering a growth mindset. It was evident that the children felt proud of what they had achieved, and their confidence had clearly been boosted by the positive reinforcement.

Thank you for inviting me to join in with such a creative lesson. I look forward to seeing if you try the real-life zoetrope.