**Visit to Giraffes Class for Dimensions- Autumn Term 2021**

It was a pleasure to join Giraffes Class for their Dimensions lesson. The focus of today’s lesson was Emotions and it was lovely to see the enthusiasm of the pupils, as well as their willingness to get involved in the various learning activities.

The lesson commenced with an idea generation activity during which pupils were encouraged to name as many feelings as they could think of. All pupils took part and were keen to share their thoughts and ideas. The teaching staff did a fantastic job of encouraging the children to share their ideas and it was evident throughout the lesson that the praise and positive feedback from staff really motivated the children.

One thing that certainly stood out during the lesson was the range of teaching styles adopted by Mrs MacGregor. After the initial introduction to the topic of the lesson, a number of different activities were used to support the children to consolidate their learning around emotions. The various teaching styles used ensured that all the learning needs of the class were met. There were speaking and listening activities, creative activities, acting activities and opportunities for pair and group work. These activities also created plenty of social opportunities for the children and it was impressive to observe the way teaching staff facilitated peer interactions throughout.

There were lots of opportunities for class discussion during the lesson and I really enjoyed listening to the children’s thoughts on the topic of emotions. Part of the lesson focused on facial expressions and how we can recognise different emotions based on someone’s facial expression. All the children got involved in making different facial expressions and it was clear they greatly enjoyed this activity!

Mrs MacGregor also encouraged the class to consider emotions in the context of their own experiences, both through class discussion and through a drawing activity. The children responded extremely well to this and it highlighted that the children had a secure understanding of the learning from the lesson.

During the lesson, some of the children kindly let me look through their Dimensions book. The children have been learning about Light and Dark and it looks like they have had great fun in their lessons. It was evident that the children were extremely proud of the work they had completed. I especially loved seeing all their wonderful drawings and the photographs of the class playing games in the hall!

The lesson on Emotions ended with the children recreating different facial expressions with playdough- an activity the whole class loved and a chance for the children to be creative. Again, the children responded well to this activity and it was a great way to summarise the learning from the lesson in a fun but effective way.

I greatly enjoyed my afternoon with Giraffes Class. I would like to thank Mrs MacGregor, Mrs Mervyn, Miss Johnson and of course all the children for welcoming me and I cannot wait for my next visit!

Bethany