**Orrets Meadow School**

**Class Visit –Bears**

**8th May 2025**

Today I was fortunate enough to be able to visit my adoptive class Bears and observe them participate in a Dimensions lesson. Today the focus was on music which is a subject I have not observed for a while.

Mrs Fleming was teaching the children today as Mrs Billington was off timetable. It is so nice to be able to observe the different lessons as it really does give you a flavour of the school and the ethos and culture.

The session began with the children returning from their lunch break and again calming music and a restful picture on the smartboard gave the classroom a calm and relaxed atmosphere. Today has been quite warm so it was a nice shaded cool place to relax after being outside in the playground and children had time to have a drink of water and cool down before the lesson began.

The session continued with the register and again each child was asked how they were feeling and if they were happy. On the smartboard the topic focus had been broken down into different tasks and as each task was completed she was able to tick them off one by one. This gave the children a clear understanding of what was coming next. This has only just been started as an additional resource for the class, but had positive benefits.

The class worked today as a whole group and the tables were arranged as one so there was enough room for everyone to sit around and there were 3 adults supporting as well as the teacher at the front.

The teacher explained each step of what was going to happen and she also explained the class rules of not shouting out and put hands up. Today the topic was on music and the lesson started with various traffic signs that the children would see outside e.g. a stop sign or a diversion. Mrs Fleming discussed the signs and as a group they decided what each sign meant, there was plenty of speaking and listening which helps reduce the barriers with communication. There were a number of musical instruments on the table at the front of the class and in order to link a musical sound with each image the children were all given a road sign and the opportunity to pick an instrument that they felt represented that sign. After a whole group activity of playing a sound to match the pictures the children then had the opportunity of cutting and pasting a strip of paper and pick their own images. Mrs Fleming explained that they were composing their own piece of music that would be unique to each person. In addition she asked the children if they could remember what P and F meant from a previous lesson. P meaning piano and F meaning forte (piano softly and forte loudly). On their own strips they had to decide how softly or loudly the sound would be played, there was also an option to leave a blank square to represent no sound. The children enjoyed cutting and pasting their own strips of images and then a couple were played. The children were enjoying the lesson and one of the pupils needed the sensory room the adults are very in tune with the children’s feelings so can offer early intervention before escalation occurs. The lesson continues as normal and children just return when appropriate.

During the lesson the children had lots of support, the length of activity was not too long so they did not become bored or distracted. After each activity the teacher ticked off the individual tasks and explained what they had just learnt. They particularly like the bin option when the list had been completed at the end of the lesson.

Orrets know the children so well and are very skilled at supporting each child. My thanks to Mrs Fleming, Mrs Forshaw, Miss Duggan and Miss Hobbs. Everyone always makes me feel welcome and included and it is so nice to see how the children are enjoying their lessons and they are engaging with their education. The school provides such a lovely atmosphere for the children to learn it and you can see how they make progress when we do get the chance to see the books.

I look forward to returning again.

**Cindy Cooper**

**Class Governor - Bears**