**Governor Class Visit – Bears**

**Friday 8th December 2023**

As part of our usual termly class visits it was lovely to come into school on a special themed day to be with the children and see their work.

At curriculum meetings I am aware that school dedicates a block of time to immerse the children in a specific curriculum area. The focus this term is art and looking at different painters, styles and approaches to art. What is art? What does it look like? How does it make me feel? What materials are used and how do the different techniques work?

I joined my class just after registration and was greeted with wonderful singing along with signing in Makaton. The children were asked how singing made them feel and did it make them happy. In accordance with the zones of regulation in which the child can express a colour to indicate how they were feeling one pupil said he felt yellow/green which means it made him feel happy.

The artist the class focused on was Pablo Picasso and the styles he used as well as where he was born/ lived. He was born in Spain but lived a lot of his life in France and was married twice, he had four children. The teacher explained that Pablo Picasso had a very long name and that some of the names might have been other family member names he would have been given. The Mrs Billington asked if any of the pupils had been named after a family member. Children took it in turns to share their experiences and were engaged and enjoyed joining in. In addition the children learnt that he not only produced distinctive art but also did sculptures and poetry. Discussions around how art made you feel and how everyone saw art differently, no right or wrong but how that piece of work made you feel. Different paintings were shown of Picasso’s work including sculptures. The group discussion also covered different ways you could produce art e.g. paints, water colours, clay etc. Mrs Billington explained that the technique that they were going to use today was collage, she modelled the shapes and explained at what the task involved and what collage was. Mrs Billington asked if all the children understood what they needed to do and they put thumbs up to say they did.

Before the task began the children were able to go into the hall and take a sensory break and you could see how this allowed the children to switch focus for a short time to unwind. When they returned to the class they were a lot more relaxed and everyone was happy ready to continue.

Upon their return they began with an exercise where they could practise their cutting our skills. Each child was provided with a picture frame and four different shapes as well a variety of eyes, noses and ears to use to create a masterpiece. All children were reminded to keep the shapes within the picture frame, the children worked in small groups and there was support for the children so no child struggled and if needed it was explained again and modelled by the adults with them. All the children joined in and completed what was asked, each piece of work was different, lots of positive reinforcement and each child had their name put on their work e.g. David by David which I thought was a lovely idea and the children were proud of their work. The class at the end was shown each other’s work so that everyone could feel that their work was of value and they could see the different ideas. The work will be put up on the display board so I am looking forward to seeing that when I return.

Mrs Billington explained that later on in the day the children would be moving onto material collages so this first activity was helping prepare them for the next activity.

Unfortunately I had to leave not long after break time as I had a meeting, however, it is always a happy time when I am in class and the adults and children are so lovely. The atmosphere that is created is one of respect and time to listen and communicate so everyone has a voice.

This method I am sure will help the children gain in confidence and when I return to school next week I hope to see lots of beautiful pieces.

My thanks to all of the class, adults and children for letting me join in with their class activity and am looking forward to seeing them again.

**Cindy Cooper**

**Class Governor - Bears**