**Governor Classroom Visit (17th March 2017)** **– Class 7**

Thanks once again to Miss O'Brien and the children of class 7 for a very enjoyable visit. This term the objective was to learn more about the additional need groups and to observe engagement in a maths lesson.

When I arrived, half of class 7 were hard at work in the hall exploring measuring. This involved water, jugs and a lot of fun. The other half of the class were in the classroom learning the theory and looking at scales.  The interactive whiteboard and individual problem sheets were used to explain and ensure understanding. The children sat on the carpet and answered questions. I was very impressed with the way in which Miss O'Brien managed to make the children feel good and remain confident while telling them they had the wrong answer, although it didn't take long for everyone to find the right answer.

The children told me about some of the ways their learning was optimised. They were particularly keen on the use of motivational music and pictures. Their current favourite was "Ibiza Chill Out Ambient Music" and a picture of a beautiful beach at sunset, they said this helped them to relax and concentrate. Slippers have been brought in from home too and were successful in creating a calmer, more comfortable learning environment.

The additional need groups were focusing on SATS and particularly targeting maths on the day of my visit. I had two very interesting sessions observing the use of "Mathletics" and was reminded that it is a fantastic tool; absorbing, informative and challenging. The boys sharing their session with me were excellent and impressed me with their mental maths skills. They obviously enjoyed using the programme and were finding it a great help in their revision. Recent additional need groups have included topics such as writing, memory, thinking skills and gross and fine motor skills. There are usually 6 groups at any one time shared between class 6 and class 7 each one lead by the staff of these classes. Topics are chosen depending on identified needs and children placed accordingly. Every child has their own set of aims and objectives for achievement within the group, at the start of term these are informed by individual EHCPs but as the group advances and evolves these are modified and altered. Children move groups throughout the year. The groups are meant to enhance the curriculum, plug gaps, enable individual development, and are less formal than curriculum driven lessons.

Thank you very much Class 7 you were polite, helpful and welcoming.

Caroline Innes
Parent Governor