**ORRETS MEADOW – GOVERNOR VISIT CLASS 6 – MONDAY 15TH NOVEMBER 2017**

I was pleased to be invited back to school so that I could visit my adopted class again. I would like to thank Mr Kophamel, Mrs Doyle and Mrs Mervyn for making me feel welcome.

I had requested a visit to observe a sensory circuit in practice because during a recent governor meeting it was discussed how it has been effective in calming and focusing children so they were able to continue to engage with their education. During my visit I was able to see first-hand how this intervention worked in practice.

A pupil was taken out to work in the hall with an adult, she explained to me that this routine was undertaken twice a day at set times. It has helped this pupil to calm down so he could continue with his lessons. The routine consisted of a set of activities e.g. skipping, stepping in and out of a ladder shape on the floor, press ups and he had a choice of one activity and he opted to play basketball putting balls into the hoop on the wall. The session finished with him doing press-ups, after this a large ball was run along his back, applying pressure to his back and legs whilst he lay on a mat. I observed this more than any other activity appeared to calm him down and you could see him visibly relax. The session was only short but you could observe the physical effects on the pupil, he was happy and much more relaxed. I returned with him to the class and he happily joined in with the maths activity being undertaken. The staff know the children well and you can see that each child at Orrets is treated as an individual and strategies flex in order to support their needs.

I was aware that the school had had a maths focus week recently and it had proved to be very successful. I wanted chance to look at the books because Mrs Duncan said there had been some fantastic work done. During my visit I was able to see three different books and noticed that the handwriting and setting out of the work was very clear and the presentation was well set out in the book. One book the presentation was exceptional and during my class visit another pupil was sent to the headteacher for an award because his work was so neat and well laid out.

I observed a variety of exercise completed within the workbooks including the following:-

* Length
* Time
* Weight/Measure
* Mapping skills

The marking from the teacher was positive and always encouraging. When a pupil appeared not to understand there was a comment to underline and support the learning. In one case the teacher had drawn a picture within the marking. It provided visual feedback and so made it easier for the pupil to remember. With the aid of the traffic light systems as well there is plenty of opportunity to revisit work that needed more clarification.

The books contained a good spread of worksheets as well as written work and information sheets. Data was presented in different ways to make it more like a quiz type of activity in some cases. I appreciate this would make their lesson a lot more fun for the children, however, it did not detract from the learning objective.

Whilst looking through the books I was able to speak to Mr Kophamel briefly, he explained that it was important that each child was challenged but it was a fine balance so he could reinforce the learning but not overwhelm them. He was aware that self-esteem was very important and he has a good relationship with the children. All the children were engaged in their learning whilst I was in the classroom. They behaved well and a mutual ethos of respect was clear between the adults and the children.

All too quickly it was time to leave. I would like to thank all the staff I spoke to and I appreciate their time.

I look forward to seeing the children again before too long.

***Cindy Cooper***

***Governor***