**Visit to Giraffes Class for Phonics- Spring Term 2022**

It was lovely spending the morning with Giraffes class to join in their Phonics and English lessons. As always, the children and Mrs MacGregor, Mrs Mervyn and Miss Johnson made me feel so welcome and I was very impressed by the children’s enthusiasm for their learning throughout the morning.

The class were split into two groups to complete their Phonics activities. I first spent time with Mrs MacGregor and Miss Johnson’s group in the classroom, then joined Mrs Mervyn’s group in the Outreach Room. I was incredibly impressed by the range of teaching activities used to support the children’s learning. Videos, games, Phonics cards and whiteboard activities are used to introduce and practice new sounds. To consolidate the learning further, fun worksheets, including wordsearches, are used. I loved looking through the children’s books at all the different pieces of work they have completed. They are clearly working very hard!

It was interesting to hear how Phonics is taught throughout the school. The class targets one Phonics Family a week and every day, the lesson focuses on this sound. I joined Mrs Mervyn’s group on their fourth day of learning about one Phonics Family. The group were really engaged in the activities and enjoyed the group Challenge at the end of the session. This really highlighted how confident the group were with the target sound. This style of overlearning is clearly very effective for the children and not only helps them to recognise and use the sound within activities, but also start to generalise this to outside of the targeted lesson.

After the Phonics lesson, the class moved on to their English lesson. This started with Mrs MacGregor reading a story. The class were then given the opportunity to discuss the story and think about what the story meant and how it related to them. The class engaged well in the group discussion and shared some lovely ideas. The class then completed a drawing activity based on the book and it was great to see how proud the children were of their drawings. Well done Giraffes!

During my visit, I also had the opportunity to observe the Sensory Circuit in the hall. The children loved taking part in Sensory Circuit! Kieran was great at supporting the children to access the various sensory activities and he clearly has a lovely relationship with the children. It was fantastic to see how beneficial accessing the circuit was, as children arrived feeling high and left feeling more regulated, helping them to access their lessons more effectively.

I greatly enjoyed my visit to Giraffes class and was so impressed with their friendliness and strong work ethic. Thank you to all the children and Mrs MacGregor, Mrs Mervyn and Miss Johnson for welcoming me. I can’t wait to come back and see you all again!

Bethany