Tigers Class Visit 11.11 2021

I was very privileged to spend some time with Tigers class, it was my first visit to the class since I became governor and they made me very welcome indeed! I met with Mrs Gordon who told me about the activities that were planned for the afternoon. The children were going to continue their work on Buddhism as part of the Dimensions Curriculum that takes place in the afternoons.

The children came in from lunch in a very calm manner, they quickly got themselves settled in their seats and some noticed that there was some music playing in the background. Mrs Gordon welcomed everyone back to class and used the visual timetable to let the children know what was happening that afternoon and that I was their “special visitor”. Mrs Gordon then “checked in” with each child to see how they were feeling after lunch. Everyone got the chance to rate themselves 1-10 to describe how they were feeling and Mrs Gordon acknowledged each child’s feedback. I was very happy that several children rated themselves a ten as they were excited for my visit and to show me their work.

Attention was then brought to the picture on the interactive whiteboard, of a monk in orange robes. The children used descriptive words to describe the picture and what they thought was happening based on their prior knowledge of Buddhism from previous sessions. They also discussed the “music” that was playing when they came in, which was monks chanting.

The children then learnt about Buddhist temples and explored the shapes and features of them through pictures and videos. They also took turns to look at objects in the tuff tray that symbolised the five features of a temple. The class then had to label a temple and design their own, using the features that had been discussed. There was lots of repetition of the key words, such as pagoda, temple, dome, earth, air, fire and wisdom. The children were very engaged in the activity and enjoyed showing me what they were doing, I was very impressed with the designs they produced!

At the end of each activity the children were asked to use the traffic light tool on the page to reflect whether they had been able to complete it with no help, a little help or needed a lot of support. I thought this was a great way of finding out how they children felt they had done and to find out who may need some extra help.

The classroom was lovely and bright with lots of examples of the children’s work on the walls. The lesson included several short activities which involved different skills which catered to the different learning styles of the children.

At the end of the lesson the children were taken outside to do a “sensory circuit” as they had been sitting and concentrating for a long time. This looked really fun, the class really enjoyed it and Mrs Gordon described how this is often used to help the children regulate themselves, so they are ready to move on to the next part of the afternoon.

Thank you Tigers class for a lovely afternoon and for making me so welcome!