**Giraffe’s Class Visit – Dimensions**

**15/10/19**

I was really intrigued walking into the class this afternoon as I was aware of the change in the way the school is teaching the curriculum but didn’t have an appreciation of the impact this would have on the children.

What I can say now after my wonderful afternoon with the children is how fantastic it was to see. I walked into the classroom a little early and was instantly greeted by the teacher Mrs Gordon who was so proud to show me the children’s topic books – and so she should be! I couldn’t quite believe just how much in the first 6 weeks that the children have covered. Topics covered in this new curriculum included Science Concepts, Life Cycle, Bag Research & Evaluation, a trip to the library to understand if all fairy stories end happily ever after, PSHE sessions including bullying, being friendly v unfriendly and even History looking at Hans Christian Anderson.

The calming music started, the children came in from lunch and the look of excitement when they saw the clay on the desk was brilliant! The register was taken and the children each said good afternoon and told the teacher what number they felt they were out of 10. This is such a great way to get a quick understanding of how the children are feeling.

The teacher then explained how the topic lesson today was going to involve making clay pots. The teacher gave small demonstrations at each stage around a table where children intensely listened and earnt house points by showing respect to one another by putting their hands up to answer the questions being asked as opposed to just shouting over each other.

There were 5 layers to the pot and it was really encouraging to see the children independently wanting to make each layer of the pot. If a layer broke while rolling the clay out they didn’t get upset, instead they showed signs of resilience and just put the clay back together to start making the layer again.

At end of the clay making we walked around each pot in turn and the children were encouraged to say what they liked about each other’s pots which all had a touch of personality due to there being time to add a lid. The respect they showed each other was great to see as they complimented each other’s pots.

The last part of the day was yoga where I caught a quick 5 minutes of and was fantastic to see the children in a more relaxed environment listening carefully to each instruction concentrating hard on the different moves.

A thoroughly enjoyable afternoon – I’d recommend people to look at the Curriculum Maps on the website to see just how much is being covered. I’m already looking forward to my next visit!

Christine McGowan