**GOVERNOR – CLASS 6 VISIT – 23RD NOVEMBER 2017**

**Focus – Additional needs groups**

Thank you once again to the teacher and staff of my adopted class 6 for making me feel so welcome today. I know from the data that each child has a story and each child is treated as an individual so their needs can be met.

My focus this time was to see how the additional support groups were delivered to gain a better understanding of how the school supports each child and helps them to break down their barriers to learning.

During the first part of my visit I was able to join class 6 for a mental maths lesson. The children were working in small groups, each table had an adult to help if anyone needed it. All the staff were really supportive and the children were very well behaved and did not deviate from the task at hand. The tasks covered today were planned to give the children the opportunity to revisit division, this was really enjoyed by all the class. The children were encouraged to write neatly in their books so if they needed it they could refer to their work. At the end of the lesson the children marked their work using the traffic light system so the teacher could see if they felt confident or more support was needed. It gave the pupils a voice to say how they felt about what they had learnt and this made them feel more confident. All pupils know this system and are happy to use it. The teacher was never far away, it was an enjoyable lesson and paced so they did not become bored.

After my class visit I followed some of the children into their own individual support groups. I was able to get a good overview of the types of support offered in school from thinking skills, literacy and telling the time, these were just three of the sessions I was able to see and I know there are more, perhaps on another visit I could join those groups. I watched two of the groups to see how the teacher or teaching assistant delivered the session. The thinking skills session was quite challenging because it required each child to listen carefully to instruction and then process the information and action it. I could appreciate the many elements that went into this and it was very interesting the children did very well. In addition, I joined the literacy group, the teaching assistant was discussing grammar when I joined them. The children were asked if they could identify an adverb and a noun from a sentence. To clarify what she wanted there was an example first. The children were good at this and even if they made a mistake they felt comfortable to try again. The second activity was around reading a piece of work and then deciding if it was fiction or non-fiction, each text came with some questions that the children were asked to answer. Each child had a different text so they needed to work independently. All the children were enjoyed what they were learning and their behaviour was excellent. In all the work I observed today running through all of the activities it was clear to see that how everyone was empowering the children to evaluate their own responses and challenge them in a way that made them think. These life skills will help them as they grow and give them confidence to tackle new things.

I was able to stay during the lunchtime which is something I have not been able to do previously. I was stuck how well all the children behaved in the lunch hall and the noise level was such that children could ask for their meal and they could be heard. Soft music playing in the background was really calming and this is something that the headteacher said they had only recently introduced.

I did ask some children about the school lunches and if they were enjoying them. Children with packed lunches said they did like school meals but only sometimes. The pasta/baked potato served today was very appetising. From the questions I asked the children the feedback was positive, those children who did have a school meal they appeared to enjoy it and ate the majority of it on the plate. The cook worked hard to make sure all the meals were served quickly and children did not have to wait too long. When I spoke to the children I asked if some of them would like a sticker if they ate their lunch and some said they would. I passed this on to the headteacher.

The school offers a lot of clubs during the lunchtimes and all the children knew the rules and how to register interest in a particular club. In the playground I joined Mrs Duncan at the skipping rope, a very popular activity. There were plenty of resources out so children could have the choice of quite a few things to play with from stilts, scooters and there was a log/climbing walk. Quite a few boys registered for the football and were eagerly going off to have a game!

Finally my thanks to all the staff and children, whenever I visit I am always made very welcome and it was wonderful to be able to visit at a time of day when the children are away from formal learning and developing their social skills. It is lovely the children remember me and address me by name.

I look forward to returning to school before too long.

**Cindy Cooper**

**Governor**