**Orrets Meadow School**

**Governor Class Visit**

**Thursday 29th June 2023**

As always it is a pleasure to see the children and visit school and to be able to join them for a lesson. I would like to thank Mrs Fleming, staff and pupils for making me feel so welcome.

The school takes great pride in delivering a diverse curriculum and one that supports the vision and values of the school. RE is a subject that gives the children the opportunity to learn about all faiths and beliefs, underpinning a respect of diversity.

Mrs Fleming gave me the class book for R.E. so I could see what topics have been covered so far this year. It was interesting to see what had been covered. Mrs Fleming also gave me the lesson plan for today’s input which I found really helpful, in addition she also gave me the long term plan for RE so I could see how during the year the lessons were relevant to the time of year, and this was reflected in the class book.

The lesson began after lunch and the atmosphere upon entering the class was one of calm, soft relaxing music and the children used peg board each to focus on whilst the register was being taken. Focusing on this task helped calm the children down after being in the playground after lunch. Mrs Fleming took the time to ask each child how they were doing and she had an awareness that showed she knew each child well and what they would need to help them begin to be ready to learn. I was introduced to the children again and it was nice that some of them remembered me.

The focus of the lesson today was the natural world wonders. Mrs Fleming began by revisiting the previous RE lesson to recap and discuss the story of God’s Creation. The children worked as a group and sequenced the Creation story using pictures to help support them.

The class sang the hymn All Things Bright and Beautiful using sign language and all the children participated and knew a lot of the sign language. There was a short film of a lady signing as they were singing, so there was always a visual reminder.

After the hymn, children were asked to think about what the words in the hymn meant and what they could remember. As a group discussion the children shared what things were in the hymn that we needed to be thankful for e.g. creatures, sea, sun, trees, sky etc. The children came up with a variety of suggestions and all the children listened and interacted.

Mrs Fleming then went on to show the children by using the smart board about the natural wonders of the world e.g. Aurora Borealis, Mount Everest, the harbour at Rio de Janerio and the large Christ the Redeemer that overlooks the people. The teacher explained these natural Wonders were made and referenced back to the story of creation. As a follow on from this activity the children were encouraged to make a prayer and they were provided with a little book shaped like a hand to represent putting hands together in prayer. Each child had to think about making up a prayer to acknowledge the things everyone should be thankful for. The small group and the adult support really made a difference. I could see how the pupils had become more confident and engaged with the lesson. One little boy in particular who has speech and language difficulties came up and said my name and that was a huge positive step. All the children wrote a short prayer and they were encouraged at every step to use descriptive language to help describe what they were grateful for e.g. the deep blue sea, bright yellow sun. There was time then for all pupils to share their prayer with the rest of the class. What always impresses me when I visit is that the staff know each child so well so they can support them and encourage at every step of the way. Many of the children find it hard to concentrate for long periods and staff know exactly how to support. It kept the lesson moving forward and on task. All the children read out their prayers and lots of appreciation and encouragement.

The session finished with the hymn again All Things Bright and Beautiful and it was a lovely way to revisit the subject and reinforce the learning experience. The children then had five minutes outside to enjoy the fresh air and enjoy the green grass and the sunny afternoon.

I would again like to thank Mrs Fleming for the information she shared with me and it was a pleasure to see the children again. They have all progressed since joining Orrets in confidence and self-esteem and that is a wonderful thing to witness.

I look forward to coming back into school again and I hope all the staff and pupils have a wonderful exciting summer holidays and perhaps they may get chance to see some natural wonders this time with a new understanding.

*Cindy Cooper*

*Class Governor*