



Governor Visit Report

Name	Mr P Landsborough
Date of Visit	Tuesday 3 rd May 2022 at 108:45 am
Focus of Visit	Literacy – Focussing on Phonics
Classes/staff visited	Hosted by Mrs Angie Brady; visiting Foundation 2, Year 1, and Year 2 classes, during lessons.

Summary of activities e.g. observing classes, talking to staff and pupils, looking at resources, had lunch etc.

1. In **F2**, Mrs Caldicott was employing “picture cards”, demonstrating words beginning with “sh”-“sharp” and “sheep” Children were encouraged to make the shape of the sound they were using – “S” was the slithering snake and “H” the horse. There is a consistent approach to handwriting across the school. All staff use the same ‘phrases’. Words were used which were preceded by, or ended with, “sh”. (sheep, gosh, fish, wish), and were familiar with “Fred Talk”, Fred being a puppet who can only say words in sounds! I was then introduced to the concept of “Red Words” (‘tricky words’) Children in F2 were very attentive, participative and enthusiastic, and of all F2 pupils, 75 were on track, and some above. Punctuation is now starting to feature in the lessons.
2. Next to be visited was **Year 1**, with Mrs Butterworth Year 1 Teacher. Emphasis on how many sounds in words, including multi syllabic words. Reading is done in partnership, with one pupil pointing as the other reads, and then alternated. “Spotlight” children are always placed at the front of the classroom. “Spotlight” children are those identified as needing support. Additionally, and a very wise tactic, all children sit in a “V” formation facing the teacher and the material, so that all can see! As with F2 children all shared, participated and were clearly enjoying their lessons.
3. Finally, it was **Year 2**, involved in the Steps to Read Programme, with Mrs Birch. The session focussed on “how are you feeling?”, following the reading of certain selected passages. Comments such as “melancholy” and “downcast”, and were entirely appropriate to the passage read. One question was “How would you feel as a child in London, in 1666 during the Great Fire, and why?” Responses as to the why included “my father was a fire fighter” and “we had all been made homeless”.

How do you feel this visit has helped you to develop your role as a Governor?

It provided me, as a Literacy Governor, an insight into Phonics which, whilst now embedded into the school’s reading and writing policy, is still relatively new to me. Read Write Inc. Phonics is developed by Educationalist, Ruth Miskin, and books published in this initiative are beautifully written, published by Oxford University Press, and are so popular with children and parents alike.

I would appreciate being able to make further visits to increase my own knowledge, but also to witness the real pleasure and benefits our children are deriving from “Phonics”.

Aspects I would like clarified / questions I have

Any questions raised at the meeting were fully and well answered

Ideas for future visits

I would appreciate being able to make further visits to increase my own knowledge, but also to witness the real Pleasure and benefits our children are deriving from “Phonics”.

Any other comments

Many, many thanks to the staff involved. It was a great privilege to see such professionalism and skills, and, of course, sincere thanks to our beautiful children for their wonderful behaviour and excellent participation.

Signed: P Landsborough

Signed: S.G. Brady

Literacy Governor:

Headteacher:

Date: 11th June 2022

Date: 13th June 2022