

Governor Visit Feedback Form

Bidston Avenue Primary School

Governor: Donna Smith (Community Governor)

Date of visit: 15.03.2016

Class visited: Year 1 - Miss Danielle Jones

Focus of visit

Singapore Maths

Is your visit linked to a School Improvement/Development Plan priority? Yes. Improve the standards of attainment in mathematics, particularly SEN and lower ability children.

What were the key points from your visit today?

Nationally, maths is a problem subject, it has been for many years, it is still fashionable for adults to admit "I am terrible at maths". Maths underpins daily life and the national economy, people get put off maths, but outstanding teachers and methodology can find the door that opens up the understanding of the subject. It helps if this door is opened as early as possible, what I witnessed in the classroom on the day of my visit was the door wide open!

Miss Jones was confident and equipped with the skills and energy needed to enthuse children with a love for maths. I witnessed commitment and creativity in the classroom, problem solving was fun, the classroom was a maths friendly environment.

What have you learnt that you believe will make a valuable contribution to the School Improvement Plan?

The children were enthusiastic during the lesson, there was a willingness to learn, the children were confident and seeing the children think and talk mathematically at such a young age was fantastic.

The lesson was on multiplication/groups of. The lesson started with the teacher presenting a problem to the children and asking for their help to solve it, the children were engaged immediately; they all wanted to help. The children demonstrated groups of by using the ten frames and kidney beans, this allowed the children to make sense of the problem presented and work with each other, offering support. Miss Jones used the classroom and pupils very effectively, she could identify those children who had understood the concept and through careful questioning extended those children so they were mastering the concept and deepening the learning of all the pupils, the lesson was very interactive. Throughout the lesson, independence was paramount and the children were never given the answer, instead the children, with encouragement, developed the confidence to solve the problem independently and explain their reasoning without fear.

The children then went onto the workbooks to further embed their understanding, Miss Jones and her teaching assistant identified those children who needed further help with the subject area and provided

it with great success. The workbooks catered for all abilities, challenging all the children at their own pace. Watching those children receiving help and then “getting it” was very satisfying. Miss Jones provided instant feedback to all children. This was an extremely effective way of building the confidence of the children and ensuring that all children know how well they are doing. A much more effective way of moving the learning forward than simply marking the books after the lesson!

The children then went onto create their own methods, which developed creativity and further embedded their learning.

If the children are this engaged and skilled at year 1 then I am excited with what progress these children will make by the time they leave us at year 6, this will inevitably provide a brighter mathematical future for BAPS children.

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

As Chair of Finance & Personnel I have seen this expenditure be incurred, observing this lesson I have now seen the investment made in our children’s education.

Are there any further points you wish to bring to governors’ attention?

The pupils in 1J behaved impeccably, and I was very impressed with the behavioural management techniques used by Miss Jones, especially with those children who have additional needs. Miss Jones’ enthusiasm for encouraging every child to be the best they can be, was a pleasure to witness.

I would like to send a big thank you to the pupils of class 1J and Miss Jones for allowing me to observe their class.

Signed Donna Smith

Date 15/03/2016

(Gov Visit)
