Reporting a Governor visit to Kea School

Name Tracy Baker

Date 8th November 2019

Purpose of Visit

To get to know Year F – first visit.

Links with the School Development Plan 2018/2019; 20 Questions

Q16. Regularly visiting the school to get to know it.

Governor Observations and Comments Teaching and Learning

What a lovely start to the day! Calm, happy and purposeful the children sing along with Mrs Harvey (with added numeracy!). Mrs Partridge sorts out the pile of books, bags and admin; children independently sort out their belongings and readily join in with the class.

Proud Clouds are shared and all understand why the identified activities are to be celebrated. Special Person is chosen and immediately leaps into action. The children are confident in this safe classroom space.

Learning Sounds uses prior learning, auditory, visual and kinaesthetic cues. Everyone joins in. Everyone knows what is expected; challenge is supplied when some children fall into easy habits rather than concentrated engagement. This is 'bouncy and stretchy' learning, with another bit of hidden numeracy! Mrs Harvey has the class totally focused and making very good progress!

Next there is Choosing Time ... everyone knows where to go and what to do. Selected individuals work with Mrs Partridge or Mrs Harvey to improve their writing skills. All children are keen to explain their activities and show their achievements. There is impressive writing of names on blackboards, making Divali paperchains, drawing, sequencing numbers and playing with train tracks to develop fine motor skills.

In Maths, the class recall their experience of eating Indian foods – they will make a bar graph of their favourite foods using individual blocks. Mrs Harvey adapts the way that the children's choices are collected and each child benefits from individual attention, consolidating their learning to make a joint bar graph of the classes results out of coloured locking cubes. This technique will be developed to use actual numbers in the next lesson, showing that progression is carefully planned.

All this happens before break and snack time! A great pacey start to Friday. Mrs Harvey has an excellent knowledge of her class and relationship with them. Her clarity, calm and sense of purpose creates such a positive learning environment. Mrs Partridge is continually engaged throughout the morning, working purposefully and independently whilst being ready to assist Mrs Harvey whenever requested.

I had the opportunity to discuss Tapestry and assessment with Mrs Harvey and I will report back on this to the Teaching and Learning committee at our next meeting.

Classroom Environment

This is worthy of note, as the classroom is lovely! On the walls are The Golden Rules, an Under the Sea display, the behaviour rainbow, self-portraits, an interesting maths area and woodland reading area. The Proud Cloud wall is covered with fantastic achievements showing that parents really engage with class activities.

Behaviour

All pupils were respectful, polite, happy and keen to relate to me as a new adult presence. All immediately responded to the high expectation of behaviour expressed by both teacher and TA. The growth in pupil independence is notable - opportunities to develop these skills were used often.

Safeguarding.

Mrs Harvey introduced me and my white lanyard – raising understanding of a school safeguarding policy for these young children. Children were very well supervised throughout, with both staff very aware of what is going on at all times in the large and varied classroom environment. The pupils knew what to do when milk was spilt and coped admirably.

Any issues for the governing body

The few extra classroom resources that I think Foundation has benefited from over the last year or two have been well used. Staff have wisely used the resources available and created a great learning environment. What a positive start for our pupils and parents when they choose to join our school.