

Creative Curriculum Learning Walk 23/10/2014

A group of governors visited school to look at curriculum. The focus was primarily to find out about the new curriculum. (Link to School Development Plan)

What did we do?

We visited the following classes with the head teacher who explained features of the new curriculum as we saw different lessons.

Nursery: children were doing different activities: making patterns; painting: outside activity; imaginative play and learning with stickle bricks; water and sand.

Year 1: were using iPads using 'Bebot', a coding 'game'.

Year 2 : children were writing about a healthy breakfast as part of PSHCE.

Year 3: in RE they were preparing liturgies in groups.

Year 4: were doing Art, producing WW1 recruitment posters in the style of Leger. They had recently been to an exhibition about Leger at the Hatton Gallery. This work linked to the 'Never Forgotten' project.

Year 5: were doing a translation activity from French to English and then had another task to write in French.

Year 6 : Bikeability project (not seen as they were off-site in the neighbourhood).

What did we learn?

The school is still using themes each term or half-term but will review this as the new curriculum is embedded.

There is a focus on the core in the new curriculum: English, Maths and Science.

The curriculum co-ordinator is leading staff training on November 4th to look at curriculum mapping.

The new ICT has sections in on use of programming and coding.

Positive comments about the visit

There was a wonderful atmosphere and we saw an interesting range of subjects.

Behaviour was excellent and there was a calm feeling.

All children we saw were fully engaged, even though it was near the end of the day.

All were welcoming and were able and keen to talk to governors.

What did we ask about?

We asked about the WW1 and other themes: Never Forgotten then Northern Saints and then Christmas

We asked about the new curriculum and how it will fit with the the creative curriculum themes

We asked the children about their views on the updated classrooms and the new developments outside. They were extremely positive about all the developments.

We asked staff about their new classes. Where there had been changes, staff reported that everyone was settling in well.

What might we do in future visits?

Return to see the development of class liturgy (link to SDP).

Have ICT as a focus for a visit.

Other comments

We also stayed for assembly which was on the theme of kindness. Children were very well behaved and took part well, joining in the singing.

Children in class were engaged and we saw them working together and independently.

The children were very happy.

It is always useful to see lessons and talk to the children and the staff.

We also saw two lessons being led by HLTAs. This was useful for governors as we had discussed and approved this development at our meetings last year.

The school is looking much better: lighter and brighter hall; newly-painted classrooms with new chairs; developed outside area which we looked at (top yard).