

## **Banks Road Infant School and Nursery**

### **Governor Day Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017**

An overview and highlights of the day:

On Wednesday 5th July, the Governors experienced a day in the life of Banks Road School. We visited all year groups, joined in with morning and afternoon breaks and had school dinners with the children.

It was wonderful to see the children respond to their learning with such enthusiasm and energy. The Brilliant Expectations were evident throughout the school.

Comments on the day have included -

- I joined in with year 1 and 2 maths lessons, the children were engaged with practical class demonstrations on how to tell the time and undertake fact families on multiplication and division. The children sat and listened and actively participated in the lesson showing great understanding and energy for the topics.
- Playtime was great fun! We were invited by the children to join in with playtime games and we were told of the playtime rules, 'wear your hat and suncream in the sun'!
- Some of the evidence of the Children's expectations included a girl requiring support to slide down the fireman's pole but then trying it repeatedly until she could do it without help, an F2 boy building a ladder his height then estimating how many more bricks he would need to reach my height and finding a way to build on the extra height, a nursery child coming into class to check on a child who had had a fall and the problem solving and co-operation within a group constructing a pirate den, not to mention the train ( with tickets) made out of boxes which was going to Mallorca!
- I particularly enjoyed the special Golden Stars assembly. Seeing the children's faces as they realised that their teachers had been chosen as this weeks Stars was priceless. To see the schools values and expectations demonstrated by the children in their joy for their teachers was fabulous. The teachers were so surprised to have been chosen and even more surprised that a secret had been kept from them! Golden Stars assembly is something that the children look forward to every week and it was wonderful to be a part of it this week. The teachers and TA's truly deserve the praise they received, they are all amazing!
- One of my highlights was playing dodge-ball with Willow class. It was great to see how well the Major Oak coaches lead the children in their P.E. class and the team working they encourage.

- Lunch time was another opportunity to see the Banks Road Brilliant Expectations in action. The children were well behaved and polite, using their manners and waiting patiently when necessary. The mid-day supervisors deserve a special mention for encouraging and praising this positive behaviour.
- Seeing the children in foundation stage making cakes, with minimal (none) adult intervention was stunning. The children were helping and supporting each other, sharing their learning and their understanding.
- Other highlights included seeing the detail in the Y2 paintings of flowers, the lively discussion on healthily eating at lunchtime and being taught to play "Duck, duck, goose" in the playground.

One of the excellent features of the school that was repeated in every class was the way the teachers and the TAs personalised the teaching to the children. They started with a common curriculum for all pupils in the class, then tailor it to suit individual needs – pushing and stretching the more able bodied, giving extra support to groups or individuals that needed it. It was almost as though there was several slightly different lessons going on at the same time in each class.

The other highlight that came across very clearly was the nurturing and supportive learning environment and atmosphere that is created in every class. The teachers and TAs really do know the individual children, their strengths and weaknesses, very well.

We took the opportunity whilst being in school to consult with parents about any issues or concerns they may have. We used flip chart stands outside in the playground to capture parents views at the beginning and end of the day. A separate report on these comments and our responses will be published soon.

Thank you to all the children and staff for welcoming us into school so warmly.

Elaine, Kaye, Mary, Sarah and Andy