

School Improvement Review 2016-2017

Priority 4: To develop recording opportunities in Early Years, so that the depth of learning is evident through the level of challenge.

Summary

As we approach a new school year with a brand new intake into Class 1, It is useful to look back with great pride and fondness to the beginning of the last academic year with the last cohort of children. The whole class entered with confidence and enthusiasm. Although we had some tears, the children were all happy within the class room and were self-assured around school. They even went into a whole school assembly on their very first day!

As the children found their feet, some of them became quite lively and they were certainly a spirited group! Although the children worked very hard during structured, adult focused activities, it took a little longer for some of the children to develop good learning behaviours during child initiated tasks. We developed the use of learning diaries for the children to record their own learning. We further developed the use of learning prompts and used the children's own interests to plan purposeful play that were relevant, appropriate and challenging to our children. By the summer term, there was no stopping them. They loved recording and sharing their independent indoor and outdoor learning. Each child filled at least four diaries within the year, demonstrating maths, reading and writing skills throughout the curriculum. The children were able to articulate their learning to teachers, the Mrs. Procter and visitors. One visitor from the high school asked a small group of boys what they were playing. One boy replied "We are not playing! We are learning"

I would like to congratulate children and parents for their participation in Bug Club at home and at school. It is a fantastic resource. The children became confident in using the large Learn Pad to log in and practise reading on the Bug Club. I think that they were encouraged also as they wanted to beat Class 2 in the reading race! A little bit of healthy competition

worked wonders! It was also a great use of technology in Class 1. This is another area of the curriculum that the children really engaged in. There were several budding photographers. The children were able to record their own successes and recognised others' achievements, even those of the teachers! As I found several photographs of myself, they said "We took them, because you were doing good learning Mrs. Davies!" They also developed a love of the Smartboard, computer and Bee Bots.

All children made progress in all areas of learning throughout Class 1 and we are very proud of each and every one of them. Mrs. Fowler and I always feel rather protective of our little ones moving up into Class 2. However, we observed that all children entered Class 2 with big smiles and were able to complete a 'Big Write' on their first day back. They were engaged in their learning and Ms. Farrand was impressed by their learning behaviours. All the transition activities planned by Class 1 and Class 2 staff have obviously paid off. Class 1 and Class 2 joined together weekly for PSHE which was a new scheme, which included learning about ourselves, friendships, families, communities and cultures. We learned about staying safe and healthy too. This will continue this academic year. We look forward to seeing the children grow and develop further. Well done children and parents and keep up the hard work.

K. Davies

Early Years Leader