

Governors' Numeracy Visit, 2 May 2014

A group of governors visited the school to find out about Numeracy

What did we do?

The numeracy co-ordinator gave us a brief outline of the topic for all classes, linked to Maths Makes Sense: reasoning. We visited each class, Nursery through to Year 5, and were given introduction to lesson by Miss Hodgson who was very willing and able to answer any questions we had. We saw a wide range of activities in every class with many resources being used to teach the topic. We were able to talk with some pupils about what they were doing. A typical response was "I like it all!" when asked what aspect he liked the best.

What did we learn?

We learned that maths can be fun!

We also learned that children are set according to their ability from the spring term in year 2.

The Head teacher was teaching a small group of pupils alongside a larger group; this was to ensure they were suitably challenged in order to achieve their mathematical potential.

Positive comments?

Obvious enjoyment of pupils

Sharing of resources by pupils and pair work/small group work observed

Learning took place both inside and outside

All pupils were actively involved in tasks

Positive industrious atmosphere observed throughout school

Many lessons were led by TAs and students (good for cpd), supported by class teacher

Wide range of resources used

What did we ask about?

Any questions we asked were answered by the numeracy co-ordinator.

Questions included:

How do children feel being taught in mixed years for maths, regarding issues with confidence (*ie* year 5 taught with high achieving year 3 pupils)? It was noted that this was preferable to continuing to struggle within their own peer set. No issues with confidence observed.

Are children able to concentrate when other teaching sessions are taking place at the same time in the same class? The answer was that they listen attentively and are not distracted.

What might we do in further visits?

We felt it would be beneficial for governors to spend longer observing a numeracy lesson, ideally in the classes they are linked to.

Other comments?

We found the teaching of maths to be exciting and challenging with an impressive amount of resources and teaching styles being employed; thus meeting the needs of every child.