

## Governor Learning Walk — 22 October 2015

***A group of governors visited the school to look at various aspects: children's liturgy, outside improvements and curriculum. In addition, another governor visited EYFS and Year 1 as link governor.***

### What did we do?

At the start of the day, we celebrated our Harvest Mass. Then Mr O'Brien showed us (on iPad) a liturgy developed by year 5 on the theme of Autumn. The children had worked outside and had planned the liturgy in groups. They had approached the liturgy in different ways: using signs of Autumn as a focal point, collecting items to use in the liturgy, sharing the sign of peace, reflecting on the theme, reading, gathering around one person. We also looked at the recent 'buddy' liturgy on the website. This had been written by year 6 for their buddies in reception.

We went out side at break time to look at the recent improvements to top yard and bottom yard. Children were playing football on top yard and using the play equipment and those on bottom yard were playing games. We saw the new routines for lining up and going in after break. We then visited each class.

**Nursery:** the children and staff were outside. We saw the most recent additions to their learning and play space.

**Reception:** the children were praying around a focal point of a candle (battery) and cloth in autumnal colours. The teacher was asking questions about God and love, and the children were answering.

**Year 1:** the children were taking part in a liturgy. They had written words to add to a large prayer-board. After this, they were having singing with provider from the LA Music Service.

**Year 2:** the children were being led in an art activity by the HLTA. They were using water soluble pencils to create pictures of Aliens which linked in with their reading theme.

**Year 3:** the class was preparing for a liturgy on the theme of family. They were going to use cards (gather, the Word, respond, go forth) to help them. The teacher also had a 'prayer hand' picture that could be used to help the children write bidding prayers.

**Year 4:** the children were working on the use of 'an' and 'a' before words. Music (Mozart) was being played in the background.

**Year 5:** the children were having a trumpet lesson and the tutor (outside provider) was deciding who had made the best progress that week.

**Year 6:** the children were making cards and had been working on a History timeline.

### What did we learn?

We learnt that the children are now more confident in planning and developing their liturgies. We saw a range of approaches in RE and liturgy. We saw evidence that the new Talk for Writing scheme is being used eg display work on 'boxing up' and on 'magpie words'. We learnt that there is a new routine for coming in after break. This is as a result of a leadership project. The new developments on both yards give more focus at break time. We also learnt that our children and families are very generous and care about those who are needy as there was a wonderful display of food and goods brought in for the Harvest Mass. These gifts would be passed on to the Sisters of Mercy and the Missionaries of Charity, who would then give them to families in the area.

### Positive comments?

The mass was well-attended by families, governors and a visitor from the Cathedral parish. The children led the readings and prayers.

The art work was excellent, showing a variety of drawing styles.

There was a range of activities and approaches in the classes we visited.

Behaviour in class – in Mass and outside – was excellent.

The recent improvements to the outside space have further developed space for learning and focussed play and exercise.

It was pleasing to see evidence of effective child-led liturgy.

### What did we ask about ?

We asked how the Year 5 liturgy had been organised.

We asked the children about their work and learning in some classes. They were able to talk about what they were doing and why.

In Year 2 we asked about the art theme and the materials.

In Year 6 the TA explained about the timeline.

### What might we do in future visits?

See more child-led liturgy

Look at 'Talk for Writing' In action.

Monitor how the school is implementing aspects of the new curriculum.

### Other comments?

The visitor from the cathedral spoke highly of her visit to school. She had enjoyed the Mass and felt she had been made very welcome. The Mass was well attended by families and governors.

### Links to School Improvement Plan

**Key issues:** 5 external and internal developments; 6 further development of children's liturgy; 10 continued development of new national curriculum; 15 improving behaviour and behaviour management (NPQSL project); 19 GB development