**Reception Class Visit Friday 18th March 2022**

I arranged a meeting with Miss Hannah Lemmings after school to establish a relationship and familiarise myself with the class setting.

Miss Lemmings has been the Reception Class Teacher since January 2021. There are 30 children in the class, 15 girls and 15 boys. Miss Melissa Begbie is the full-time Teaching Assistant. There are no children who require one-to-one support.

Miss Lemmings began by explaining that the curriculum is based on the statutory EYFS framework. Children are assessed against 7 areas of learning;

Physical development

Personal, social and emotional development (PSED)

Communication and language

Maths

Literacy

Understanding the world (science, geography and history)

Expressive art and design

On entry to Reception Class the children are assessed internally to establish a baseline assessment. Miss Lemmings has designed checkpoints, using the ‘Development Matters’ guidance, against which to assess children each term. Miss Lemmings is free to develop the curriculum by providing activities and experiences that deliver those areas of learning.

Phonics and maths are practised every day. Each child has a literacy book and a ‘My Learning Journey’ file (WoW! work and topic work) examples of which I was able to look through.

I was very impressed with how well organised everything was. Workstations have been created in the classroom to facilitate learning. There is a book corner and maths, funky fingers, construction and water stations to name a few. There is also a creative area and a garden centre for role play set up.

There is a floor book which is a class record of activities and events that have taken place. Including celebrations of other religions and countries (which more often than not seem to involve food tasting!) One recent activity was to simulate being on a flight. Miss Lemmings and Miss Begbie had set out the classroom with 2 rows of 3 seats either side of an aisle, and the children watched a film of the pre-flight safety briefing on the overhead screen in front of them. What a fantastic idea!

Reception class has access to their own toilets, 2 outdoor play areas and an intervention room. Miss Lemmings uses every opportunity to encourage an understanding of routine and responsibility. Small badge-sized photos have been created of all the children and they have to check in and out with them in the morning and at the end of the day. Only 10 children are allowed in the outdoor area at a time and the children are similarly required to sign in and out (or out and in!) with their photos. Storage boxes are numbered and matched to a numbered shelf to encourage familiarity with numbers.

Newsletters are sent home with the children every week. They detail what the children have been up to that week, what’s happening next week, dates to remember and the ‘Stars of the Week’.

I am very grateful to Miss Lemmings for inviting me into school and hope to visit again on May 2nd 2022, when there will be a ‘Mini Beasts’ presentation and an opportunity to meet the children. I look forward to it.

Tessa Fryer – Reception Link Governor