25th November 2024

Dear Parents/Carers,

Governor Day – November 2024

We wanted to write to you following our first Governor Day of this academic year, which was held in school last Friday. It was an incredibly busy day spent with the children and the staff looking at all of the new and exciting developments for 24-25 and some of our statutory responsibilities as well.

We spent some time in EYFS looking at Reading and how well the Bug Club phonics scheme is embedding into school. The children were doing shared reading of a Finding Nemo story which incorporated both high frequency and tricky words. We were able to see the enthusiasm the children have and the skills they have acquired in such a short space of time.

On a Friday school it is filled with music and singing. We were lucky enough to listen to the Nursery and Reception children rehearsing for their Christmas Concerts and we can say that you’re in for a real treat!

Some Governors spent time looking at Metacognition which is currently on the School Development Plan. Staff aim to promote independence and creativity by teaching the children to actively think about how to structure their work by using ‘Thinking Frames’ – you may have noticed these in the children’s books when you came for Learning Review Meetings.

‘Move and Learn’ is a relatively new addition to the curriculum. Having trialed some different strategies last year, we went to observe some of the ones that have been carried forward to use in classrooms. We saw some exciting ideas that the children told us that they really enjoy because it makes learning fun. We are looking forward to seeing how this develops over time.

Other activities included: having lunch with the children; spending time with them in the playground; we looked at books; saw some of our children with additional needs doing a baking activity; we enjoyed listening in to RockSteady sessions and seeing Y6 in their Stone Age outfits taking part in their workshop.

Morley Victoria will welcome a representative from the Education Safeguarding Team into school on Tuesday 26th November to carry out a Safeguarding Audit, something we do every three years.

We spent some time looking at the evidence folder, looking at the Single Central Record and Recruitment Files as well as other key safeguarding evidence including the preventative curriculum.

Finally, and always a firm favourite for us, we spent time chatting with the children and the staff – all of whom told us what a fantastic school Morley Victoria is, how much they enjoy being here and how well looked after they are. The children spoke very enthusiastically about their learning. They were able to tell us what they were learning about, why it is important and how it fits into the big picture of the curriculum. We spoke to a range of representatives from the different working groups in school who spoke about behaviour, anti-bullying, the curriculum, diversity and climate change amongst other things.

The staff reiterated that they feel that leaders support them in any way they can; that their thoughts and ideas are taken on board and that they enjoy coming to work and being with the children each day. They feel that becoming part of the Owlcotes Multi Academy Trust is benefitting them with different opportunities to both learn from others and also share their own good practice.

As you will be aware, it is such a busy but lovely time of year in school with many concerts and events to look forward to. Please do everything you can to support these as they will create such special memories. A lot of hard work, time, effort and planning goes into making this time of year fun and special for the children – we hope they enjoy it.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all the staff for their hard work and commitment to making sure that the children become academically secure and well-rounded individuals. We feel that it is such a privilege to be part of such a fantastic school and that it continues to go from strength to strength.

Thank you for all of your support.

Best wishes from the Morley Victoria Governing Body.