**Governor Visit Report**

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| **Name** | **Neil Swanston** |
| **Date of visit** | **Monday 1st April – Friday 5th April 2019** |
| **Which area of the SEF/RAP is it linked to** | **All areas** |
| **Focus of visit** |  |
| **Classes / staff visited** | **Year 3** |
| **Summary of activities e.g. observing classes, talking to staff and pupils, looking at resources etc.**  **I spent the whole week in class 3 shadowing and supporting Mr Thompson, getting to know the pupils, familiarising myself with the curriculum and teaching methods applied in KS2.**  **This visit enabled me to see how the school operates through the week, presented me with numerous opportunities to talk to staff, pupils and parents and build a positive relationship with each of them.**  **This week was themed as ‘Around the World’, and each class have chosen a different country to focus on.**  **Class 3 had selected Spain as their country, so much of the learning activities were built around that theme.**  **Throughout the week I observed and participated in all lessons, literacy, maths, art, science, music and PE.**  **Mill Lane use numerous different activities throughout the school week, and one of the highlights for the class was the cooking on the Wednesday afternoon. Every pupil took turns to make Paella, some preparing the ingredients, some cooking. I was surprised that children so young were allowed to use knives and cook on hot stoves, but every part of the process was carefully managed and observed by a dedicated teaching assistant. She explained that there is an element of risk, but the children respond positively to being given more ‘grown-up’ responsibilities.**  **Other activities that the children worked on during the week,**   * **Making city guide leaflets for Spain** * **Learning to draw like Pablo Picasso** * **Creating their own storyboard (based on ‘The Journey’ by Aaron Becker)** * **Writing descriptive words and sentences to help describe a scene** * **Learning Spanish songs** * **Learning Spanish words and phrases** * **Bollywood dancing (courtesy of a visiting dance workshop)** | |
| **What have I learned as a result of my visit**  **The methods of teaching and behaviour management in the class are clearly very different from those which I had experienced.**  **The school applies a teaching methodology which incorporates multiple aspects of the curriculum into the lessons, using different techniques to help pupils progress and develop.**  **Class 3 work closely with Class 4 and have a shared learning space. The first lesson on most days sees the two classes combine and split into 10 groups of mixed ability. Each group has a specific task focussed on reading comprehension. The groups are encouraged to work with the other members of their group, but to work independently from the teachers. The two class teachers and teaching assistants will often sit with groups who need a little more support and encouragement, but also make themselves available to all the pupils if guidance is required. The pupils are familiar with the arrangements and are quick to self-organise.**  **The class know what to expect from the day, and although they often need reminding, behaviour isn’t an issue. Mr Thompson has put in place a range of different rewards and strategies to maintain discipline, and each appears to work well. For example, when the pupils hear Mr Thompson’s rain stick, they know it means that they should stop what they are doing and listen to what he is about to say.**  **Some activities are re-visited throughout the course of the week to stop pupils from becoming fatigued by being asked to do the same thing for several hours. This allows the class time to sit together and talk about what they have done and learned so far.** | |
| **Positive comments about the focus**  **I was welcomed into the class, and really made to feel at ease by the whole school. The pupils and staff are incredibly warm and friendly**  **Class 3 seem to be a very happy and positive year group. Each pupil comes into school with a smile on their face.**  **The children are extremely polite – they each enjoy taking turns to hold doors open for adults and their classmates and are very keen to report back how many people say ‘thank you’ to them.**  **Despite this being the final week of the term, the pupils were enthusiastic and energised throughout the week. I was thoroughly impressed by the amount of effort that every child put in.** | |
| **Aspects I would like clarified / questions I have** | |
| **Ideas for future visits** | |
| **Any other comments** | |

**Signed Governor: Neil Swanston**

**Signed headteacher:**