

Governors' Literacy and Phonics Visit, 18 October 2012**Years 1–6 were visited in class and Read, Writing and Inc was seen across the groups****What did we do?**

We observed phonics and literacy.

We talked to the head and literacy co-ordinator about how students are assessed.

Mrs Pickering, the Literacy Co-ordinator, explained about the literacy focus for the whole school.

We looked at resources.

What did we learn?

Phonics groups are based on ability not age.

Children are taught in small groups.

Read, Write, Inc used up to year 4 and Fresh Start in years 5 and 6.

Children were confident to ask questions about anything they did not understand.

Positive comments?

Activities were enjoyable, exciting and age-appropriate.

Children were very enthusiastic and participated well.

It was very interesting to see the lessons.

It was useful to see how groups are organised.

It was interesting to see paired work and the use of mini white boards by children.

Behaviour was very good.

What did we ask about?

What are the attainment levels that each year group should achieve?

How is the soft toy, Fred, used in Year 1 to teach sounds?

What might we do in further visits?

We might visit a lesson about grammatical terms and specialist language and see a different year group to the one we each observed on this visit.

Other comments?

Guided reading is used to improve comprehension.

There were lots of different activities for children.

There was a lot of encouragement for the children.

It's a very skilled job teaching children to read.

There is a very good range of resources used for literacy.

Excellent progress can be seen as children get older.

The investment in Read, Write, Inc has been successful as it has helped to improve literacy skills.

In addition, the link governor for Literacy, Ms Stubbs has visited school a few times to look at literacy lessons and to discuss the subject with Mrs Pickering, the Literacy Co-ordinator.