Governor Observation


# Great Fire of London - Pudding Lane Re-enactment

Arley Primary School

Monday 3rd April 2017 Ks1 - Classes Butterﬂy, Ladybird, Squirel Attending Governor - Emma Hunt

The purpose of my visit was to view teaching in an outdoor environment, see the effect it has on pupils learning, and as part of the Governing body to be approachable for pupils’ comments.

We started the lesson in the assembly hall, with some instructions from the Fire Ofﬁcers about health and safety.The children sat quietly and were eager to join in with questions and gave some very sensible responses.

The Fire team and teaching staff engaged the children’s attention with enthusiasm and recapped on the “Fire of London“ project they have covered this term.

We then moved to the outside area where the children lined up Pudding lane on the grass and the ﬁre team set alight to the ﬁrst model building. There was a lot of excited talk between the children about how quickly the ﬁre would spread the change in wind speed and direction could alter the speed of the ﬂames.

Once the last building had burnt down, the ﬁre hose was used to extinguish the ﬂames and we went back to the hall to watch the video recording of the lesson and recap on the experience.

All in all it was a privilege to witness an innovative and unusual way of teaching history. All of the children were completely engaged and chatted amongst themselves about the buildings burning and how Londoners living at the time must have felt. They showed empathy and an understanding about cause and effect.

I was fortunate to get some feedback from a selection of Pupils and have listed some of their comments below:

# Pupil Feedback

Q. What will happen when the hose sprays the ﬁre?

A. The ﬁre will stop burning when the water sprays it ( yr 1, male)

A. They only had buckets in 1666 and not hoses which is why the ﬁre spread (yr 2, male)

Q. Why have the ﬂames started spreading more quickly?

A. Because it’s hot (yr 1,female)

A. Because the wind is blowing faster and it’s making the ﬂames and smoke spread in the other direction( yr 2, male)

# Comments from Pupils

Yr 2 male *“ that was awesome history learning” Yr 1 male “ I would be sad if that was Arley”*

*Yr 1/2 female “ the people in London lost everything even their food”*

# My Personal Observations

I was really impressed with the behaviour and listening skills of the pupils, and the way the staff were enthusiastic and eager to engage them. As a parent and co-opted governor, it showed me the positive inﬂuence that engagement and targeted learning can have on children.

It was also nice the hear the health, safety and ﬁre safety reminders. This was a good way to end the spring term project.

Teachers were aware of the change in smoke direction at all times and made sure that all children were in full view of the demonstration whilst remaining at a safe distance.

Staff were also aware of speciﬁc children with chest complaints or Asthma, and asked the children how they were feeling without making them feel “different”.

A designated member of staff held inhalers and medicines etc.. at all times in clearly marked bags, these were accessible at all times and not left unattended.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the teaching staff and children for letting me share their lesson.