



Letchmore Infants' and Nursery School

Governors' Focused Monitoring Visit Day: Summary Report

Wednesday 19th March, 2025

Members of the school's Governing Board visited for the day on Wednesday 19th March to provide oversight and monitor progress on Priority 2 from the School Improvement Plan: *Curriculum (Quality of Education)*, with a focus on provision of mathematics.

Governors met with members of the senior leadership team, the office team, teaching staff, as well as the School Council.

Curriculum (Quality of Education) – key observations and learnings:

- Pupils demonstrated school values throughout the day, showing enthusiasm, teamwork, engagement with learning and resilience. Staff and children were genuinely happy and keen to interact with the Governors.
- In Year 1 we observed a Maths Mastery class and a maths lesson on length and height. In Maths Mastery we saw a high degree of engagement from the pupils in a game to identify odd and even numbers, with joyful jumping and buzzing as the numbers appeared, while in the maths lesson the teacher used technology to demonstrate measuring and effective use of questioning to aid in understanding of the measurements being taken.
- Governors saw maths incorporated into Child Initiated Learning in Year 2 and nursery groups in both indoor and outdoor settings. Year 2 children engaged in a wide range of activities using weighing scales and weights, coloured water and measuring containers, and building blocks to bring their classroom learning to life. There was great excitement as children brought different objects to determine their weight or mix different quantities of blue and red water to make different strengths of purple. Indoors the children could choose from board games to painting to computer-based puzzles. We saw high levels of enthusiasm and cooperation as children interacted together at the different stations, and discussed how Targeted Language Group sessions are used to support progression of mathematical language and understanding in children, particularly those children for whom English is not their main language.
- The Nursery children were excited to meet the Governors and readily engaged giving tours of the nursery and explained their learning and play. We saw how the children interacted with adults and each other across different activities indoors, such as crown making, and outdoors at the new mud kitchen. Governors could see good examples of maths integration in indoor activities through spots and numbers on ducks in the water play section, and pattern moulds in the malleable play area however noted scope to increase opportunities for number recognition through play-based activities in the outdoor space.
- Governors observed a maths lesson within the Reception year, where the children were working on numbers to 10. The children were engaged through technology and practical group activities including tens frame problem solving and number bond challenges. Children were well supported by adults in the setting to encourage ongoing engagement and enthusiasm. Observation skills were encouraged through inclusion of deliberate mistakes and the children challenged to justify answers with mathematical reasoning to help build understanding.
- We were delighted to meet a selection of children for a book look and discussion of their experiences in learning about mass, capacity and measurement. It was clear from the knowledge and language of the children that they were very proud of their achievements, and they were confident in explaining their learning. It was noted that the children enjoyed the challenges of multiplication and learning their times tables.

- We enjoyed a good discussion with Lisa Neville, the Maths subject leaders who provided an overview of maths provision across the school, which takes a multi-faceted approach. The school is renewing its focus on using daily Maths Mastery lessons consistently throughout the school journey to develop the language of maths, particularly for the 'building blocks' of numbers up to 10 and up to 20. White Rose is used as a teaching scheme and assists in the planning of lessons, with the school adapting the structure to meet the needs of the children in each year group and using the resource for challenges to sustain engagement across all ability groups. It was discussed how staff discuss the needs to the different children in class and adapt the year group planning to encourage engagement in all groups of children. It was noted that this level of provision needs to be supported by the availability of necessary resources to each class for access to all. The school has put resources into the subject to provide the relevant equipment (such as metre sticks and clocks) in adequate numbers; this level of provision will need to be maintained over time.
- Governors had an opportunity to meet the current School Council and learned that the children had joined through a desire to take position of leadership in the school, put forward their ideas, or follow in the footsteps of their friends who had enjoyed their time on the Council. Governors were impressed by the exceptional pride the Council had in the successful book swap event that they planned, led and managed, and note there is a strong desire to repeat the event. The Council was particularly proud that all children obtained a new book. We also discussed their ideas for the future, with outdoor resources such as monkey bars being popular. Other ideas were put forward such as a rideable toy unicorn and additional availability of ice-cream at lunch. The Council understood that all proposals would require discussion with the headteachers.
- At the end of the visit day Governors met with the senior leadership team to discuss their approach to safeguarding of children, including how the incident logging system is used effectively by the school to ensure a high level of safeguarding of children. Governors were satisfied that the system and process is robust and there is a very high focus and attention on safeguarding. Further we discussed information and reporting available to enable robust and appropriate support of the school in this area by governors.

Recommendations and Next Steps:

- Look to increase opportunities for number recognition through play-based activities in the outdoor space within the Nursery.
- Maintain the current high degree of focus and attention on safeguarding.
- Encourage the Student Council to further develop their ideas and initiatives for the school.
- Sustain investment into maths resources within the school to support the use of Maths Mastery and maths tuition throughout the school.
- Continue to support active participation in class through the use of technology and varied activities that enable practical application of taught concepts.