

Dear Mrs Deans,

Friday 12th February 2016: Governor Visit to Foundation Stage

Melissa Mulgrew and I recently attended Whitecourt School to visit our Foundation year to witness 1st hand what the life of our newest intake is actually like.

Mrs Skinner leads the foundation year. It provides a segway into school life for our young people. When arriving at Mrs Skinner's classroom, you can see the most fantastic array of work displayed around a colourful classroom. You will also see a variety of activities that enrich young people. Some of these activities include the choice to read, create or play. When the weather allows, there is access to outside activities, to have fun and to interact with others. Although this is play, when you look around the play area there is learning all around. It is clear that this class is all about 'inclusion'. Mrs Skinner speaks with passion and pride at the environment she has sculpted. The Foundation class environment is both a credit to her and indeed, the school.

Our visit then allowed us to meet a few of the pupils in Foundation stage. We tried to explain to these young people who we are and the role of a Governor. The interest in this was minimal as the pupils were more enthused with showing us their early reading skills. We read a few books with the pupils. How impressive. We also spent some time with a group who were 'making stuff'. This gave a glimpse of how the pupils support each other. Often we would see collaboration – so wonderful to see.

Melissa and I were literally proud to witness the amazing work that goes into the Foundation stage. The multitude of structured activities and solid lesson preparation which clearly includes the full integration of the Teaching Assistants benefits our young people and stands them in great stead for the learning journey that lies ahead into Year 1.

Thanks again to all that made the visit so enjoyable.

Martin Blagrove