

## **Governor Visit Report**

### **IT Visit – 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016,**

**Purpose of Visit:** To see the new I-pads in action and how the investments sits in the school's five Year IT plan.

**Introduction:** The visit was arranged for the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov, for myself (Manjula) as IT / Computing Subject Governor & Rachael Parkin. The visit was organised around seeing the pupils of Year 1 & Year 2, using the I-pads in English & Computing under the able guidance of Laura Pittam & Laura Crowhurst, along with teaching assistant support, in a classroom setting.

#### **Detail of visit:**

##### **In Year 1: Ms Laura Pittam**

The I-pads were used by the pupils as part of their **English** curriculum. The task given to them was to write a postcard, from the story character Walt to his parents. The children were familiar and confident with the process and function of starting the iPads & holding them safely before starting to work. Logging into Purple mash with their assigned ID's and signing in & signing out from the software.

Post the session, the assigned leaders collected the I-pads safely and returned them to the respective charging box.

##### **In Year 2: Ms Laura Crowhurst**

The year 2 pupils were seen using the I-pads for the **Computing** lesson using specific free software- Bee Bots. The children shared and took turns to write commands and feed the commands to the system, with the intended learning experience of simple coding.

On asking if the limited number of 'levels' in the present Bee Bots software, was sufficient to allow pupils to developed the necessary skills, Miss Crowhurst explained there was other free software available for use in the market. No further investment in software is currently needed.

#### **Observations:**

The children are benefitting the usage of the I-Pad's in the school and it does look like a right decision taken by the Board & the school. The children are being exposed to such gadgets at home and the familiarity & excitement to use the same within the school environment for learning will yield positive results in curriculum based studies.

This exposure and skills of using I-Pad's in their lessons will ensure a smooth transition for the Year 2 pupils to the middle school (Loughton Middle or any other school) where I-Pad's are being used for curriculum based studies (discussed before), and ensure a comfortable approach to take the new challenges lying ahead.

The children did the assigned task with interests and took turns in doing the assignments in a well behaved way. The ratio of I-Pads to children was 1:2, which promotes the team playing & sharing principle in the most effective way.

However, the benefits they offer to pupils with SEN are yet to be seen.

**Next Steps:**

I would like to request to arrange two more visits to review the following

- 1) See the I-pads in action with SEN pupils.
- 2) Net books being used for Foundation Stage kids

Also it would be helpful to have a review of the average battery life the iPads work before their next charge, to check the power consumption and the power bill it adds to the school. Additionally, to calculate if the IPADS will last intended five years or would need lifeline support within the calculated five years.

I would like to thank Ms Pittman and Ms Crowhurst for their valuable time.

**Manjula Menon**

November 2016