# **Placement Day 1**

As arriving at the school on day 1 – Monday the 30th of October I arranged to meet my partner Bethany. We walked in together and were greeted by a teacher. She told us to take a seat. When the principal teacher arrived, she told me just to go along to my classroom where my classroom teacher was already preparing work. I offered to do jobs such as laminating and cutting. When the class arrived, the teacher set up the first language lesson which was spelling out common words and this week’s sound was on the whiteboard. The second task was too read their book. And finally, put the pictures of the book pages in the correct order, stick them in and write the sentences underneath. Some children found this harder than others. The teacher asked me to sit at the back with a boy who came from another school and is a bit behind. I coached him through his sound words and made sure he read the book correctly.

After playtime, there was a spooky science show taking place in hall. The children all loved it and desperately wanted to get involved. We then went back to the class and started a math lesson on angles. For the first 5 minutes, as a starter, the children made a right-angle template and had to find as many things in the classroom as possible with right angles the teacher then did some board work explaining the difference between all the angles and then have out the textbooks to let the children do some independent study. I sat up the back of the class with 3 boys who are a bit more advanced so wanted to do the harder work with support.

After lunchtime, the children were given an extra 15 mins to go over the answers then they swapped jotters and the teacher read out the answers for peer assessments. They then moved on to topic work, it was the last day of the Roman topic so we had a class discussion on everything they had learned and then made individual mind maps of their own recall. Some children in the class still had to finish their Christmas cards from the previous week so were given the opportunity to do that. The final lesson of the day was all about hygiene and the children loved it. The teacher picked two volunteers and she placed a pile of blue glitter on each of their hands and told everyone to continually shake hands for 3 minutes. At the end the teacher explained the importance of handwashing for if only two people don’t wash their hands after the toilet it will spread lots of bacteria all around the room. This was therefore a visual example of the importance of keeping good personal hygiene as germs can spread very quickly and easily; making everyone sick. The class was then given a quick tidy and everyone got ready to go home.

# **Placement Day 2**

In the morning, I arrived at the school at half past 8. I did some photocopying for the maths lesson. The first task of the day was to help the teacher organise the common words which she turned into a game (word bingo). After this it was the language lesson. It was grammar work from the textbook focusing on verbs from the present tense. The activities included changing the formative into present tense and underling the verbs. Then the class sat on the carpet and read a chapter from the book – “The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark”. Then after the chapter they carried out a character summary which involved describing ‘Plop’ and finding evidence from the book to back it up. After playtime, the work from previous lesson was then completed and the teacher went around the room marking jotters. For the maths lesson the teacher organised 4 stations around the classroom. Number 1 was and interactive game on smartboard; Number 2 was going around the room finding right angles; Number 3 was a worksheet picking what angles are which and number 4 was a game putting the shapes on the column for correct number of angles. After lunch, we carried out lots of different activities. First of all, the teacher reminded the class of All Saints Day which was tomorrow and its importance. All Saints day is the celebration and remembrance of all the Saints who are now in heaven whether named or un-named. The class then completed their work on the Romans from previous day. After this, the class copied the science experiment results from the board. The teacher then carried out another science experiment- making slime. The class stood around the table and watched while the teacher made the slime. Finally, it was home time, everyone packed up to go home.

# **Placement Day 3**

Firstly, the teacher described the morning task which was making a lava lamp. The teacher gave each partner a plastic water bottle, half-filled with oil and rest of the way with water. Next, we added 10 drops of blue food colouring to make the water change colour. After that we added Alka-Seltzer (fizzy tablets). Lastly, we put the lid on really tight and watched the ‘lava’, The children loved this activity and were all super excited with the results. There was a loud thump on the door and the Primary 6 teacher shouted about the CSI Investigation as ‘Cuddles’ had been kidnapped. The class lined up and walked round to the crime scene. This was set up by 4 teachers the previous night as part of science week. The children were all very excited and talking about the evidence. Then we went back to class and got ready for playtime. After playtime, the class went straight to mass. After mass, we did the write up for the instructions on how to make a lava lamp in the Taught Writing jotters. This work was then assessed in a variety of different ways. The teacher split the class into 3 groups either self, peer and teacher as methods of assessment. After lunch it was the monthly committee meeting. This is when the class teacher each runs their own committee with 2 pupils from each stage. The committees included: Green Hands Together, Pupil Council, Health and Wellbeing, Digital Leaders, Active Kids, STEM and Enterprise. The group do a variety of different tasks. The Enterprise Group researched different ideas for the Christmas Fair in either catalogue or online. The class then showed teachers ideas and as a class discussed them. Finally, it was home time.

#  **Placement Day 4**

In the morning, the teacher was at an appointment so a retired teacher came in to cover the class. The lesson for maths was on Symmetry it was cutting and sticking the pictures- deciding whether they were symmetrical or not. Some were difficult to determine and the activity took some children a long time. There was a fast finishers activity which involved drawing the castle at the other side. The class then cleaned up all the rubbish and lined up for ICT. ICT was a waste of time as too many children couldn’t get access to glow. It became manic so the children were just told to go onto MathsWorkout. After playtime, the children from pupil council asked the questions from their meeting to inform back to pupil council. Then we did the language lesson: first of all the teacher made a Diacritical Grid on the smartboard and asked the children to help fill it in for the sounds ie, i-e, igh, y. The children then copied the table into their language jotters. After this activity, they read the next chapter of their book and made a storyboard out of the main events. This activity took us up to lunchtime. After lunchtime, the first task was to finish the mindmap on the Romans. Next, every class member made a fingerprint. First they drew it much bigger in detail using charcoal. This worked well but was over pretty quickly. The head teacher came in at 2 O’Clock and gave out the invitations for the A Factor which is a party with the head teacher during Golden Time on the last Friday of the month. The teacher nominates 2 pupils per class who get to go. The 2 children who were chosen felt super excited (jumping up and down). At the very end of the day the teacher put on video clips for class yoga as they had missed their PE lesson for the week.

# **Placement Day 5**

In the morning, we went for a cup of tea in the staffroom with a couple of other teachers. After the bell rang the class went straight to assembly which is taken by the head teacher until 10 O’Clock. After the assembly, there wasn’t enough time for ICT as assembly had ran over time. Therefore, games such as buzz and times table champion were played. After playtime, it was a spelling test. Each of the groups were given out their words to practice for 10 minutes before the teacher carried out the test. A spelling test takes place everything Friday morning with the common words and phonic words they have been learning all week and is marked out of 10. The teacher then asked the pupils to come out individually to get it marked and then she wrote up the results in her diary. The children were rewarded with ClassDojo points for whatever score they received. After this, it was the Handwriting lesson and then reading. The work for the middle group was to make a Character Profile Mind-map. For the more advanced group they did Metalinguistic - the teacher picked out words such as “disappointed, (pg 33)”; the pupils had to use dictionaries to find the word meaning and the strategy they used to find the word.

After lunchtime, the teacher carried out another science experiment with the class. First of all, we covered the bottom of a baking tray with full fat milk, next we added 4 different colours of food colouring in each of the corners. Lastly, we added a couple drops of fairy liquid in the centre of all the blotches of food colouring which created a lovely design and the children were amazed. The class then wrote up the instructions of how to carry out this experiment and did an illustration at the end. The quicker they completed the work, the more Golden Time they received. This encouraged the children to work hard. The Golden Time activities included making slime, playing with Play-Doh, playing on the computer, helping the teacher and basically running about daft.

# **Placement Day 6**

I arrived at the school at half past 8, the teacher was already in. We went along to the staffroom for tea and toast. Bethany and I still had to carry out our observations on one another. The first lesson of the day was spelling, the top group made a table with the sounds as their headings and filled in a table of all the words with that sound. The middle group practiced their phoneme words and underlined the relevant sound. The bottom group used their phonic board to spell out common words: little, first and on. Then all of the groups moved onto reading. The top group read a chapter and wrote a summary; the middle group read a book and did Comprehension Questions and the bottom group read their book and did a Character Study. After playtime, it was maths. The topic today was money. The lesson was introduced by doing a mind-map on the whiteboard with the heading “Why do we need money?”. The class put their hands up to answer out and then copied it into their jotters. The teacher then explained whether the ways of spending money were a luxury or a necessary. After maths, for RE the teacher went down the register asking children for names of relatives in heaven. For the RE lesson the children wrote their own prayers for relatives in heaven in their jotters.

After lunch, the teacher explained the activity for the afternoon – making a fruit cocktail. First of all, the teacher explained the eat-well plate which is all the different food groups and how they release energy. We then went to the open area and the teacher organized the equipment to make the fruit cocktails. The teacher did a demonstration of how to cut each of the individual pieces of fruit. The children were put into pairs and given a kiwi, half banana, 6 grapes and 2 strawberries each to cut up. The children were then given a cocktail stick and had to assemble a fruit kebab. After this it was tidy up time which took ages.

# **Placement Day 7**

In the morning, I arrived at half past 8, the car park was already full and I struggled to get a space. We sat in the staffroom for tea and toast again. When the bell rang the class came in and settled in for Grammar Work on verbs. The teacher used the Nelson Grammar Pupil Book 2 for exercise work. At 09.45am I went through to Bethany’s Primary 2/3 class to do our Observation Checklist. Bethany took a small group for reading and she was very good with the children. When I went back to the class I worked with the small, boys group, more or less one of the boys who was off yesterday. We read the book and then did an activity which involved putting the paragraphs in order which they come in the book. Bethany came through to observe me reading with one pupil. However, this didn’t suit the Observation Checklist which states work has to be done with a group. After play time it was a Fire Drill so I kept my jacket on ready to go. I made sure the pupil with wheelchair was able to get out safely as the coats in the cloakroom were a bother. The whole school managed to evacuate the building in 3 minutes which is a bit too long. After the fire alarm, we did the maths stations, The station I worked with was a game similar to Monopoly. There was also a game on the SmartBoard which was using coins to add up to a specific price. The final station was a hard one. The class worked on the iPads checking the 4 main supermarkets websites for specific shopping items making sure to get the cheapest price. It was a time-consuming task but the children enjoyed it.

After lunchtime, we went around the class and all of the children came up to present and demonstrate their science experiment which mostly involved either slime or tricks with balloons. After this, the teacher read a story from the Bible and children retold the story in their own words in their jotter. After this they completed the re-writing of their 10 Commandments work and I stuck them up of the Faith Display. Other children completed their ordering of paragraphs or read their book. This activity took until the end of the day when we packed up and gave out homework.\

# **Placement Day 8**

In the morning, it was the teachers McCrone time so the class went straight to PE. I stayed in the class with the teacher as it gave me time to type up this diary. When the class came back they went straight out for break. After playtime, the class went straight out for a talk with the ladies from RBS as it was Financial Education Week. The children enjoyed themselves but one boy in Primary 5 was continually being rude throughout which was very irritating. They were given out goodie bags which distracted them for the rest of the day. The children moved onto Taught Writing of the instructions of ‘how to make a fruit kebab’ from Monday afternoon. I worked with the boy who struggles with writing. He started off working hard but he deteriorated throughout the exercise and eventually gave up.

After lunchtime, the children came straight in and settled down well with the French teacher. The teacher asked the children to sit around the SmartBoard on the carpet and played a game with them about animals. This involved getting the children to say the word together and then decide whether its masculine or feminine. The children then went back to their seats and played with cards with either pictures of animals or the names of animals on them and they played games such as pairs. Then the classroom teacher returned and they finished off their Taught Writing from before lunch. The teacher then asked them to self, peer or teacher access. It was home time.

# **Placement Day 9**

In the morning, I arrived in plenty of time as I got the bus. I finished cutting out the number cards and then went along to the staffroom for tea and toast. It was the Principal Teacher 30th Birthday so we were organizing the present. She was thrilled with a lovely RI bag and Debenhams Gift Voucher. When the class came in we started off with a Symmetry worksheet. This involved finishing the shape and then the teacher and I cut them out. We were meant to go to ICT at 10am but the Maths Lesson ran over so there wasn’t enough time. The teacher and I cut out the rest of Maths Worksheets so class could stick them into their jotters. This task took up until playtime. Playtime was extended by 5 minutes due to the Birthday. It was delightful to finish a cup of tea. When the class came back it was spelling and reading. The bottom group for spelling used their phonics boards to spell Common Words. The top group did Dictated Sentences with the teacher. Bethany came through to do our Observation Checklist. I read the book “The Great Spaghetti Suit” with the boys group, we all read a page each and eventually I finished it off to save time. After reading we did a worksheet of missing words which they used the book to complete. The other group read a chapter and answered 3 knowledge questions about the book. After this we tidied up for lunch.

After lunch, it was time for Art, we were working on Fingerprints again. The children used Sellotape and an InkPad to draw their print with pencil then fine-liners. The class then tidied up and it was home time.

# **Placement Day 10**

In the morning, Nathan dropped me off at work as mum was being a hassle. I arrived at half 8 and the teacher was very quiet. We went along to the staffroom for the last day of tea and toast. The assembly which is normally from 09.10-10.10 was moved to 11.10-12.10 as the Head teacher was at a meeting in the morning. Therefore, we did the spelling test first thing. The children were given their words to practice for 10 minutes. I took the boy who does the separate words into the Quiet Room for his own test he scored 3/10. After the test, the teacher gave out the iPads and the class finished their supermarket shop activity-working out the cheapest prices. I sorted out the number card which took ages so the teacher eventually got the children to help. After playtime, it was time for assembly so the teacher and I had free time to write my report and do next week’s weekly plan. The children returned from assembly at half past 12, 20 minutes later than usual. Therefore, there was no time for any work and the children went straight out for lunch.

After lunch, we tidied up the jotters. We then started to do our science experiment. This was testing the substances left at the ‘Cuddles Kidnapping Crime Scene’. The teacher read out the profiles to tell children the substances which were an option. The children then wrote up their experiments in their jotters with a table the teachers printed out to identify the suspects. When the boy who needs help finished doing his work he joined in on Golden Time. During Golden Time lots of girls in the class made me lovely cards. At the very end of the day the teacher told the class it was my last day and gave me Celebrations and a card. This was thoughtful as I didn’t get her anything. The class all said bye and I was sad to see them go.