

# Home Farm Primary School

## Home Farm Primary School Governor Visit Report

**Name:** Wayne Setford

**Date of Visit:** 08.07.15

**Focus of Visit (linked to SDP):** Eco Council

**Classes / staff visited:** Mrs T Cooper

### **Summary of activities e.g. observing classes, talking to staff and pupils, looking at resources, had lunch, etc.:**

The purpose of the visit was to observe a forum of the Eco council, the student led forum set up to oversee and promote school Green initiatives and policy. The meeting was in preparation for a visit from an outside body, with a view to being awarded a further Eco certificate. We discussed various initiatives already taking place within the school: electricity savings through effective management of resources (charging times etc.) The installation of solar panels and their effect on energy usage. How their introduction has affected the way we now use resources (i.e. a switch from charging overnight to charging during peak production hours)

We discussed food, recycling through composting and sourcing of local food. We then took a trip to the garden and poly tunnel where the students saw crops that would be included in their school dinners growing. We discussed the 'embedded' energy in bought in food and how we can offset that energy through growing our own crops.

### **What I have learned as result of my visit .**

We have a good green policy that the students understand, they are ambassadors for these issues and take the knowledge learned back to their forms. Their ideas are listened to and responded to, they are clear thinkers (i.e. we should encourage those eating school dinners to always ensure they eat the non-compostable parts of their meal first, a rather inspired idea I felt)

They clearly understand saving energy and how the cost savings can impact on the school, Once I introduced the idea of embedded energy within products (food) they grasped the concept and explained it back to me, giving relevant examples, incredibly heart-warming for students of this age as I know many adults who cannot conceptualise this.

### **Comments about the focus:**

It was a short visit, I was there as an advisor as well as a governor and so did contribute to the session, more so than I would do during a regular observational visit. The meeting as chaired by Mrs Cooper, was clear, concise and it was clear these students "get" the issues.

### **Ideas for future visits:**

There is certainly further scope for a broader approach to Ecological issues and more that can be done, though we should be extremely proud of the significant investments made by the school in promoting green issues (the solar panel project being the most visible and extensive)

### **Any other comments:**

N/A

Signed:  ...W.G Setford..... (Governor)

Signed  ..... (Headteacher / Subject Leader)