

Camden

Monday 29th April 2024

Claire Clinton **visited West Hampstead Primary** to watch an act of collective worship – linked to the school application for a renewal of their determination.

Claire met with Sam Drake – HT before and after the act of collective worship.

- Children came purposely into the hall for their Monday KS2 assembly. Good ratio of pupils and staff present.
- Children sang a Maypole song at the start and at the end of the assembly – as this week culturally sees the start of May. They have obviously been practicing the song – KS2 were a great choir!
- Sam led an excellent assembly involving the pupils, brilliant behaviour management and engagement throughout
- Children recalled the schools' values and their recent series on Together we celebrate. Sam explained that today a new series was starting called together we aspire. Sam has got several parents and local people connected to Camden or the school (25) who have volunteered to talk to the children about what they do and where their inspiration came from. Sam kicked off today looking at Kingsley Ben-Adir – a Camden pupil at Rhyl primary and WES (Sam was a teacher at Rhyl's before coming to West Hampstead)
- Rewards were given to children who contributed to the assembly as well as were behaving well.
- Children thought in pairs to talk about what 'Aspiration means' and fed back to Sam who linked this into looking at who Kingsley Ben-Adir is
- Throughout the children were very much involved and loved learning about Kingsley – they came up with some questions they would like to ask him – best question was from a year 5/6 pupil who asked – did you get inspired by someone else to become an actor?
- Sam knows the name of every child in his school and talked to every pupil by name.
- Children were given thinking time – this was cut shorter than Sam had planned for as the music teacher started the Maypole song too soon. But children were asked to consider the question having learnt about Kingsley – what does this inspire in you?
- Children then sang the Maypole song and then left the hall in a very orderly fashion.

Claire and Sam then chatted about what they do in the school. The following points were made.

1. Sam inherited a determination when he became HT at the school. It works well, very imbedded practice within the school.
2. Sam would welcome some training from Camden on collective worship – he can't remember there ever being anything on offer.
3. He would like to develop their thinking time – to teach pupils and staff how to be reflective.
4. Parents, governors and staff all supportive of how they organise assemblies continues with the freedom to represent their very diverse population.
5. Lovely school visit – school doing the best for their pupils.