



TRAINEE BLOG

By Rebecca Woods
Primary cohort 2022/2023

It's been just over six weeks since I began my journey as a trainee teacher with SCITT and it's hard to believe that half-term is just around the corner. It's been a whirlwind. Nothing can really prepare you for the fast-paced days, weekly lessons and workshops, but I wouldn't change a second of it. Being so emerged in this environment has increased my love for teaching and strengthened my decision to take the leap of faith into this profession even more.

My cohort have been warmly welcomed by the staff at SCITT as well as our placement schools over the course of this time. We have got to know one another through our regular training sessions, and it has been comforting to know that we are all embarking on this new path together.

I was eased into my first placement by North West SCITT. I had time to get to know the students, teachers and other school personnel before I began teaching. I think that this grace period helped me gain confidence and quashed any worries or apprehensions I might have had, especially those daunting feelings about starting in year 6. Looking back now, I could never have predicted the amount of progress I have made since my first week of placement. I have gone from observing the classroom teacher to leading small intervention groups and now I find myself planning and delivering my own lessons. I'm

about to finish my third week teaching and I've already had feedback and support from my mentor and link tutor which has been incredibly helpful and reassuring.

Weekly expectations and tasks are clearly outlined and signposted in our training schedule and are expanded upon via email. Thanks to this I am able to monitor my progress and manage my workload by breaking it up into bite-sized chunks. This brings me a great amount of self-satisfaction as there is nothing more rewarding than crossing off an item on my to-do list! Furthering this, my mentor also provides extra resources and materials which he thinks may be beneficial for my own teaching practice and will frequently spend time clarifying any extra information or questions I may have. More importantly, I have accepted that there is no such thing as a perfect lesson. I will make mistakes, reflect and ponder over how I could have taught a topic differently and more effectively. Nevertheless, I am aware that this is a necessary component of the training process and one which should be embraced and not thought of in a negative light. This gives me the ability to set goals relating to my own teaching and targets for what to improve on for the future. Being a perfectionist, I believed that if my lesson didn't go as smoothly as I had anticipated or if the plan itself wasn't as interesting and enjoyable as I had hoped, I would struggle. However, as I have been teaching, I have become increasingly aware of the needs of my pupils and have begun to identify what works and what doesn't. When routines



have been disturbed and things haven't always gone as planned, I've grown more flexible and challenged myself in ways of which I haven't done before. I think the main lesson that I have learned this term is to stop putting so much pressure on myself and to celebrate my achievements instead of striving for perfection. I hope to maintain this newfound mentality throughout my teacher training and professional career moving forward. In a few hours I will be commencing my half-term break; which in my opinion has been well-earned! I am proud of where I am and I am so grateful that I began this new chapter with North West SCITT. I am happy, exhausted and ready to turn off my alarm but excited for what the new term brings.

Happy Half Term!