

Report on visit to Little Kingshill

Aims: The sharing of knowledge and experience through observing the English education system (also teaching SEN students); evaluating our own practices; visiting local libraries; planning activities and forming professional relationships which will develop into lifelong friendships.

During the 18 October to 22 October the ‘Art of Reading - Power of Creativity’ Comenius Project teams visited Little Kingshill Combined School in Little Kingshill, Great Britain.



Mynd 1: Alltaf gefst tækifæri til hátíðar þegar gestir koma í heimsókn.

We visited Little Kingshill to learn about the English education system. When arriving at the school we were greeted by all the children dancing traditional dances in the playground. We then were taken on a tour of the school visiting classrooms, meeting pupils, and were able to see children's work as well as ask questions, compare their building, classroom furniture and layout and admire the numerous displays. The teachers were extremely hospitable and the children were very friendly. We were all made to feel very welcome.

The school is located on two sites in the heart of the village. They have a big outside play area and a multipurpose hall (used as a gym hall, canteen and assembly hall), but they also have use of the local civic centre which is next to the school's premises. The school has an ICT suite, library, art room, music room and support rooms.

The school offers places from the age of 3, although compulsory education begins at the age of 5. Children continue at primary until the age of 11. A significant majority of the children are from the local community. Classes are typically in age groups of 2 years, eg. year 9-10. The average class size was approximately 28. The school day begins at 8.45am and continues through to 12.30pm. School restarts after lunch at 1pm until 3.20pm.

After the school tour we watched a fantastic welcoming festival where every class sang songs and performed plays. Everyone was extremely impressed by the confidence and ability of the children. We also had an opportunity to share gifts and work created by the children in each country.

We visited the community library at Great Missenden, where had a presentation on British system of supporting literacy within young readers, and could see, how this compared to other countries. Then we went to Roald Dahl Museum and Story Centre, where had opportunity to take part in prepared by the museum activities and listen to really informative and friendly guides.

In the evening the project teams shared their presentations on, based on literature, activities with SEN students within their schools.



Mynd 2: Roald Dahl rithöfundur skrifaði sögurnar sínar í þessum stól.

On Thursday we had opportunity to visit Sir Henry Floyd Grammar School, where we visited classes guided by the students and we admired students music and dance impressive performance.

In the afternoon we were in Oxford where we had Behind the Scenes tour of Christchurch College, a walk around Oxford locations and we visited bookshops.



On Friday we visited London, where in the National Gallery we took part in One Picture Tour guided, in a really interesting way, by Little Hingshill School' s teachers.

We had opportunity to see all major sites of British capital from a double decker bus and a boat on the river Thames. In the evening we walked to the Big Ben Tower, Houses of Parliament, Westminster Abbey and, via St James' Park to the Buckingham Palace. We were all overwhelmed by the beauty, variety and richness of the Great Britain capital city.

The experience of visiting the school, talking to teachers from other countries, listening to the children and finding out about their culture was informative, enjoyable and will never be forgotten.



Mynd 3: Júlía sýndi okkur hvernig hún kennir nemendum í safnkennslu