

Governor Name: Mel Oxer

Date of Visit: 14th October 2016

Focus of Visit: West Stow Visit – Anglo-Saxon

Subject Leader: Miss Claire Jarvis

Summary of Visit:

A very excited Willow Class left school after registration to go on the coach to the Anglo-Saxon Village at West Stow, in support of their topic. The children were divided into groups of 5 or 6 children and each group was accompanied by an adult; Mrs Dorsett, Mrs Smith, Miss Jarvis, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Oxer.

As we got nearer to West Stow, and saw the signs, the children started shouting out and directing the coach driver.

On arrival at West Stow one of Heritage Officer's, Joe, met us outside the museum and talked to the children about the activities planned for the day. Barnabas Oley was to visit the Moyse's Hall Museum first. Joe promised the children that if they were good he would show them his favourite object in museum. We went round, the museum, in our groups learning about the history of the Saxon's, looking at various artefacts that have been discovered at West Stow and also solving riddles. My group were very good and keen to solve the riddles.

The museum was interactive and the children were allowed to touch various objects and try on clothes and helmets.



Dressing up as Anglo-Saxons in the museum

Governor Visit Report

Guess who is behind each helmet.....



After we had spent some time in the museum Joe got our school together with another school to talk about the museum and to play some “learning” games. Top Trumps was played against the other school, which created a great competitive atmosphere, whilst also enabling the children to learn more about the different objects. Barnabas Oley won the Top Trumps game.

Joe then reminded the children about showing them his favourite object which was a Lyre. He allowed the children to hold it, discussed how they thought it was played. Joe then played two tunes on the instrument; one strumming the instrument and the other plucking it. The children were totally mesmerised and absorbed in his playing, and were so very silent listening in awe to him play.

I was very proud to be part of the school trip as throughout the visit in the museum the children were attentive and well behaved and showed great respect to Joe and the other people around them.

After the musical interlude it was lunch time – this was taken outside and we were very lucky that the rain stayed away allowing us to enjoy our lunch.

After lunch we went into another building in order to watch a film about the Anglo-Saxon village and how it was constructed within the original location. The film talked about where the Anglo-Saxons had come from and the sunken houses, which enraptured the children’s imagination. At the end of the film, Joe questioned the children about the film to cement their understanding. This was carried out really well.

Joe then gave instructions on how to behave in the village, what to do and look out for, and also gave them a task to investigate “who had left the gate open to allow the sheep to escape”. There clues hidden around the village that the children had to find to work out who did it.

Before entering the village the children all dressed up in cloaks to resemble Anglo-Saxon children. We went round the village in the same groups and visited each house. There were different houses that were identified by the “letter” on the door. Each building had various artefacts within which we talked about and helped to identify the use of the building and who lived there.

Whilst exploring the village we were looking out for clues – this required the children to visit each building several times to go over the clues and try to solve the puzzle. This process also resulted in discussions about the positions of the buildings within the village. My group also visited the sunken house several times and were quite adamant they would not want to live in it!

One house had a fire burning in it which was very smelly and the children complained that it made them feel “chesty” – not my group’s favourite!!



Barnabas Oley Anglo-Saxon children around the fire.



Keeping the fire going

My group's favourite house was the "rich man's house".

After exploring and deciding who had let the sheep out, we joined up with the other school in the Hall. Joe met us in the Hall and collectively asked the schools questions in order to check their understanding and learning.

During this time Joe demonstrated how the Anglo-Saxon door key worked, using children to help demonstrate its use. He also showed them how to create fire with a flint and steel. Every child was amazed at this.

Joe discussed the puzzle and asked us to raise our hands to see whom we thought had let the sheep out. It was interesting to see that the other school all thought it was "Cathrum" and we all thought it was "Odd". The other school were right!

This was the end of the visit to West Stow and we returned to our coach to take us back to school. It was a quiet bus on the way home as I think the children were all tired!

Throughout the whole trip the class were polite and attentive showing great enthusiasm in learning about the village.

Values observed:



From observing the children on the trip they showed great **excitement** throughout the visit with everyone taking part and feeling a sense of **involvement**. They demonstrated **respect** for the team at West Stow, towards the other school children and also the bus driver by thanking him as they left the bus. I would also like to think that that felt **inspiration** from the trip which will be demonstrated in the writing they undertook back at school.

Other Comments:

The trip was very informative and really well organised. It was a great environment to enable the children to support their learning of the Anglo-Saxons. Thank you goes to Miss Jarvis for organising the trip and to Mrs Smith, Mrs Jackson and Mrs Dorsett who supported Miss Jarvis on the trip. Also thank you for inviting me along, I was pleased to attend and as said above was very proud of our children and proud to be part of the trip.