



Preston Candover CE Primary School

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Stubbington Residential Newsletter: 13th October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we mentioned in our last newsletter the Stubbington residential was a wonderful, transformative experience for the children. They have had a great time and will remember it for years to come.

I also want to say thank you to all the parents who took the time to say some kind words to the staff for looking after the children during the residential. It means a lot. As you will read below it was a very fulfilling week and their own reviews of the trip, on the last page, are testimony to their amazing experiences.

Mrs Simrit Otway
Headteacher

Monday

The bus ride to Stubbington was filled with excitement and laughter. The children spoke avidly about the adventures that awaited them. When we arrived, the children were given lots of information about routines and expectations for the week. We met the leader of the center, who placed the children into houses: Kestrels, Owls, Foxes and Badgers. Following a tour of the grounds and seeing where they would be learning during their stay, the children were given time to unpack and settle into their rooms.

We went to the beach during our afternoon activity where Kingfishers collected shells and animals to create their own rock pools. Then the children worked in teams to use other interesting stones and



shells in the sandcastle competition. Every day at 4pm the children were given 'free time' in which they enjoyed playing tennis and football or climbing in the adventure playground.

After their free time on Monday the children were taken to different meeting places, where they completed team building games with the other children in their houses. They also began to practice their performance for the 'S Factor' competition which was to take place

on Thursday. We then congregated in 'The Great Chamber' where a stubby staff member hosted a wildlife show, using pictures from around the grounds. They then had the opportunity to experience their first 'Stubby Biscuit' at supper. It's safe to say the children earned a good night's sleep.



Love Hope Justice



Tuesday

The children had their first breakfast in the 'Snuffle Hole' and then rushed back to their rooms to prepare them for their first inspection from the Stubbington staff. Their first activity of the day was den building. The children used sticks and branches tied together with rope to create the structure. They used tarpaulin to ensure that their den was waterproof.



Next, the children embarked on an activity called 'Amazon Adventures' where they had to work as teams to make their way around obstacle courses. They were blindfolded at times! We were really impressed by their clear communication and how they showed proactiveness, whilst beginning with the end in mind. In the afternoon session, the children took part in the 'Eggstreme Challenge'. Again as teams, they completed practical puzzles and conundrums to gain 'money' to spend in the Stubby 'supply shop.' Once the children had their spending money, they were given an egg they had to protect using the supplies. The children used materials like bubble wrap and newspaper to wrap around their egg. Each egg was then flung out of a catapult and we all watched in anticipation as the Stubby staff unraveled the eggs to see if they had withstood the launch...all of which were successful! In the evening the children watched a presentation from the wildlife photographer, Dennis Bright.

Wednesday

On Wednesday, the children were introduced to the five ponds at Stubbington. In pairs, the children used long nets and buckets at 'Sunny Pond' and 'Shady Pond' to dip to explore and see what wildlife they could find from below the depths. So many interesting creatures were found!



The creatures included small fish and insects.



We then transported their findings to our Stubby classroom where the children used non-fiction documents to analyse in their pairs. In the afternoon the children took part in an activity called 'Migration' which had them exploring the migration patterns of different birds and refine their map-reading knowledge. The children were given various birds to find around the grounds and then had to work in pairs to find the birds and bring back the information. This

was made even more fun by having to progress along a games board with every piece of information they found. Following free time and time spent with their houses to practice for the 'S Factor', the children had the opportunity to go to 'The Hide'. This is a cabin situated close to the woodland area where they could view nocturnal wildlife coming out to have their breakfast. We saw lots of badgers and lots of foxes. The children found this to be an amazing experience, and came away so bewildered!

Thursday

During their last full day at Stubbington, the children took part in the much-anticipated activity, 'Earthquake'. In teams, the children had to transport important equipment around an obstacle course. There were rules that the children had to follow whilst carrying out this activity and after each obstacle they evaluated how well they had worked as a team.



We heard discussions about plans to succeed on the next obstacle and how they could make everything fair. In addition, we heard the children living our school values throughout the course. We heard kindness and encouragement as they were supporting each other through some tricky obstacles. In the afternoon, the children took part in an orienteering activity. The children learnt how to use a compass which they found challenging, but showed true resilience. The children had to synergise in groups to find flags and letters around the Stubbington grounds whilst building upon their map work from the previous day. In the evening, the children came together in The Great Chamber for the well-awaited 'S Factor'. Each house performed their song they had

been practicing that week. The children found this really fun and was such a great way to celebrate their last night at Stubbington.



Friday

The last day at Stubbington was the last chance the children got to socialise with the children from other schools. It was lovely to see how well Preston Candover mingled with other children. We were proud to witness their friendliness and compassion shine throughout this trip. The last activity of the trip was one that the children had been asking about all week....'Stubby Fox'. In pairs, acting as 'foxes', the children had to complete a scavenger hunt around the conservation area. However, this was made tricky by the teachers who were walking around as the 'farmers.' The foxes had to work together to complete the scavenger hunt whilst avoiding the farmers. The children then went back to the rooms to pack ready for home time. They finished their time at Stubbington with one final lunch time sat in their houses. We all waved goodbye to the Stubbington staff and set off for the journey home, eager to be reunited with our families.

A note from Mrs Meier – I am so proud to be the Kingfisher class teacher. The pupils showed leadership, independence, care and kindness. It was lovely to see them have so much fun!

Thoughts from the Children....

'An epic wildlife adventure' - Sholto

'Having lots of fun with all my friends together' - Clemmie

'So much fun, I want to go back!' – Apryl

'Mind blown!' – Freddie W

'5 days of awesomeness' – Joe V

A life-changing and memorable moment that will impact my life forever' – Maddie CN

'It was Stubbytastic!' – Kirah P

'Took the lava leap to adventure. Best time EVER!' - Freddy F

'Once in a lifetime opportunity' – Charlotte C

An experience I will never forget – Leila P

The beds were dreamy, I slept like a log in the stubby woods! – George A

So excited to see so many foxes and badgers at the hide – Rupert R

An independence boost! – Fergus R

Loved being outdoors with nature all day – Annie R

It helped me improve my independence – Daisy G

I had the best time pond dipping. I was so lucky to catch so many fish, which is a favourite hobby of mine – Cenk H

I improved at becoming a leader – Sabrina B

Many memories that changed my life for the better – Ivy G

My teamwork /synergy was improving by the second – Jonty A

Made me more confident when away from family – conquered many fears! – Joe G

The food was extremely delicious – I loved the spaghetti hoops! – Olivia W