



'Plantimals'

A project about The Natural World and Sir David Attenborough by Years 5 and 6

Overview

This term in Upper Key Stage 2 the children undertook a Literacy, Science, Art and Geography based project. A classic, English autumnal nature table was set up from the beginning, to captivate and 'hook' the children in to being curious and inquisitive- it did the trick and was a focal point in the classroom.

As part of their literacy, they learnt how to identify their audience and agree the purpose of their research. Divided in to teams, they used the internet to carry out research, before producing non-fiction reports on their branch of the animal or plant kingdom they had chosen. Vocabulary choices were selected to evoke settings and convey characteristics. They organised and presented their work independently, incorporating numeracy (data handling) and geography (map work). Science work allowed them to investigate habitats, classify plants and animals, learn about the five kingdoms, in particular protists and further extend their understanding of yeast-bread making was a must.

The life and work of Sir David Attenborough was applauded through illustrated biographies and appraising several of his BBC nature programmes. A photographic competition was held to celebrate the natural world in our neighbourhood, with each child taking a digital image that was exhibited for the school community to admire and appraise. Clay models, wire sculptures, watercolours, pen and pastel studies captured nature in all its glory.

The children formed a company called 'Plantimals' and received a commission to update Attenborough's Ark for 2016. They researched once more which animal or plant was most endangered in their classification. A class book was made to celebrate the rich diversity of life that they wished to 'preserve', a world map outlined where each species lived and models of all habitats were made using various materials, which were assembled to form Plantimals Ark. A personal letter, with accompanying photographs of their research, was sent to Sir David Attenborough- we are waiting for a reply.

Facilitator Reflection

This project has simply been amazing. The children have been deeply involved and engaged from the start. They have been on a super journey. Both their initial research and the commission have been undertaken with a curiosity that has been wonderful to witness. Our classroom display celebrates the wide diversity of work this project has enabled.

Pupil Reflections

'I've loved learning about protists because they are interesting and awesome.'

'I learnt where different endangered species live in the world.'

'I learnt a lot reading about Sir David Attenborough and writing a biography of his life's work and achievements- what a man!'

'I now know the scientific names of people who work in different areas of science.'

'I really enjoyed this project, in particular the commission, as it let me focus on one endangered species. I liked finding out facts and presenting them for our class book.'

'My favourite part was making the habitat environment in a shoebox for our ark, as I like being creative.'