

SCHOOL GOVERNOR VISIT REPORT

Name: Jodie Reed
Date & time of visit: 17 Nov 2017, morning

Activities undertaken: **Year 4 history – Ancient Greeks Workshop**

Outcomes/findings/ Observations

This was a one-day whole-class workshop led by an external provider ‘...’ in the upstairs hall. The facilitator was supported by the teacher Angela, a TA and three volunteer parents. Angela arranged for the activity to happen (with support from FOG) in place of a school trip because there were limited opportunities for interactive learning on the Ancient Greeks in London.

The purpose of the day was to enable the children to really understand what it must have been like to live in Ancient Greece and to partake in various craft activities.

All adults and children were fully adorned in Ancient Greek style clothing and had Ancient Greek character names which immediately set a ‘fun’ tone and made it feel very different to a normal school day.

The children alternated between a carousel of craft activities (e.g. mosaic making, preparing herbal remedies at the ‘doctor’s’ table, working with hot wax) and whole group sessions with the lead facilitator. Sessions with the lead facilitator were interactive and informative and included a slave market (where chosen children were slaves and had to ‘sell’ themselves to highest bidding parents although the money went to their former owners rather than them) and elections (where it turned out only two people were allowed to vote as others were too young, foreign, female, etc).

The children all seemed extremely engaged throughout – the dynamic format, hands on activities and concepts of justice/injustice they were learning about appeared to make this a session that worked well for all types of learners. I suspect most of them will remember the day in years to come.

Occasionally some children got a bit over-excited and slightly boisterous but I was impressed by the way in which they responded to Angela and other adults instantly in any requests to quieten down, etc.

The facilitator was a recently retired deputy head teacher. He commented to me that he visits four schools a week and was really struck by how excellent Gillespie was – from the space and the displays to the children who listened and spoke very well.

Questions arising (if any)

Should this kind of event be more regularly used as an alternative to school trips? – far fewer logistics and safety concerns for the teacher to manage.