

Gran Canaria 10th-13th October 2016

Monday 10th October.

Partners travelled to Gran Canaria before meeting for a meal in the evening.

Tuesday 11th. October.

Partners met at the host school and were given a brief explanation of the work of the school before a tour of the facilities.

Visit botanical gardens, Viera y Claviyo.

We were welcomed by the staff who explained their work re DNA and seed preservation.

Partners were escorted on a tour of the gardens.

Presentations

Las Palmas, Gran Canaria

1. Garden Project: This is a long term project to take place over the school year of focusing on 'Communication; Personal autonomy; social integration, and; physical expression'.
Software 'aarasac.org' 'pictoselector' used to create flashcards etc.
2. Video of the experience with animals. A book has been made by one of the parents of a pupil, 'Mary and me' ('Maria y yo').
3. A selection of pictures of scarecrows in a range of settings with children singing a song about the scarecrow protecting the garden. The lyrics are presented in a book form using pictures to support.
4. Detail of making the garden scarecrow.

Catalonia, Lleida

1. Report on the scarecrow project re 'sight and taste'. A scarecrow was made adding lollies.
2. Shared an example of the didactic unit created for scarecrow.
3. Shared an example of a didactic unit created for 'animals in the garden'. Partners were shown cards made to set tasks for children to find animals etc who sing, walk, fly, sting etc
4. We were shown Lleida's winter garden project.
5. Greenhouse: Was difficult but a small greenhouse has been created with plastic.
6. Animal therapy:
Horse riding: 5 Children are taken once per week for horse riding to support social skills; emotional skills; communication, and; physical development.
Dogs: brought to school on a Friday morning.
We were shown 2 video recordings of children with dogs in school. www.polquintacat
7. Introduction to a storybook which is being created with which the children can interact and contribute to the story.

Cologne, Germany

1. Animal therapy: 2 dogs in classrooms where children have jobs to do to care for the dogs. Children need to be calm. Other 2 dogs as a reward for good behaviour with Head Teacher and withdrawal room.
Horse: Children do horse gymnastics away from school.
Insects etc are studied in class.
2. What has been done in the garden: Work cards created to be used as in a pictorial timetable which would help to develop the understanding of the sequence of growing, harvesting and, cooking. Tried to create a work planner but children couldn't make the decisions necessary to complete the tasks. Photographs are used to show the children working at the different stages.
Children had to do work to record the growth and development of plants using a system of 'velcroed' pictures and words.
Pears have failed to grow because of a fungal disease.

Lots of tomatoes, pumpkins, salad and, kohlrabi.
Herbs were also grown successfully.

3. A garden cookbook has been begun with the intention of having a very easy recipe for independent use for example, peppermint tea. The recipe took the form of pictures to represent each stage of the process secured in a flip-book form. Another for Apple cake which has a page for equipment, another for ingredients and others for the process.

Scarecrow

1. The theme for Germany was 'smell'. We were shown pictures of the making of the scarecrow using various herbs and spices.

Next steps

1. To create a garden of senses with the help of parents adding to what they have already done.

Wednesday 12th. October

Newcastle, United Kingdom

1. The session began with a chance to experience 'peer massage'. This emphasised the value of 'positive touch'. Staff at The Dales School are trained in massage. It was explained how massage is linked to curriculum areas.
2. The sensory scarecrow:Touch. We were shown the process of creation of the scarecrow.
3. Cold frame / greenhouse. A slide show told the story of how we grow and tend for plants.
4. Animals: Children go horse riding once per week to a specialist riding centre. Lizards are used in lessons and as pets. Farm visits are a regular activity. The school had rabbits but one died and the other was rehoused. The garden is used to look at insect and bird life. Every year the school has a butterfly growing and release activity. The school is involved in a 'snowdon project'. See: [stoswaldsuk.org/great-snow dogs.aspx](http://stoswaldsuk.org/great-snow-dogs.aspx)

5. Presented a lesson on Insects and senses. Partners were all given worms to hold and given a series of questions about the worm and using it as a resource for language, mathematics and science. The group were read a section from Roald Dahl.

Photographs

1. Partners shared their photographs of the project so far.
2. Photographs to be uploaded to Etwinning by Germany.

Discussion about the project so far and what next. Partners considered writing chapters for a book based on the scarecrow and the senses.

To do before we meet in Germany in December 2016

1. Each partner to create a chapter of a book, in English, about THE MAGIC SCARECROW and their particular sense. Lleida will send the template to all partners.
2. Each partner to create a story which will involve the children interacting in the garden, with resources which make sound, feel different, smell differently, look different and, taste differently. Partners to bring enough copies, to Germany, to give each a copy to take home.
3. Each partner to send recipes to Lleida who will make a recipe in pictorial form for all the recipes. Each partner will send a maximum of 5 recipes using produce from the garden. The finished recipe book will be given to partners at the final meeting in Lleida.
4. U.k. to send photographs of progress during the project to Germany.

In the afternoon partners visited the coast and the old town of Las Palmas where they learned of the history of the city and the region.

Thursday 13 October.

Partners travelled home.

Thank you all our Gran Canarian partners for a very enjoyable and worthwhile meeting.