

Visiting Washington Wetlands
St Joseph's RC Primary School, Benwell

Year 1

At Washington Wetlands the children had the opportunity to learn about nature through *Generation Wild*, a programme to help to children connect and learn about nature.

Activities Carried Out

- Story of Ava the osprey
- Building a nest
- Listening to nature
- Map skills
- Identifying different birds
- Comparing female and male ducks
- Listening to an otter and flamingo talk from experts
- Nature activities for home learning

Since visiting Washington Wetland Centre on the 7th March 2024. The children of St Joseph's have been inspired to use both the outdoor and indoor area of the school for different learning opportunities.

The visit prompted lots of discussion and brought about the use of key vocabulary that only a real-life experience could promote. The children are now able to make links and visualise different settings and creatures they would not normally see in their everyday lives.

The children had a fantastic experience and an amazing day at WWT. The staff were so welcoming, friendly and informative. The children gained a lot from this nurturing place and felt confident and safe in this new and exciting learning environment. It really brought alive a lot of experiences and learning opportunities that the children would not have discovered or had first hand in an indoor class setting.

The children particularly enjoyed the story of Ava, this has inspired them to be *Guardians of the Wild* and remember the message of;

- Care for every living thing
- Spend time in nature
- Take action to help protect our planet



Here are some examples of learning that has been inspired from the visit.

Outdoor Learning

- **Prayers**

During the Easter Reflection we thanked God for all the birds, animals and plants God has provided for us.



- **Science**

We looked for signs of spring in our school grounds having seen some at the WWT which was pointed out to the children during the tour.



- **Map Reading and Visiting local area for Geography**

This was a great skill taught and WWT. We tried this when visiting the park in our local area.



- **Maths**

We measured natural objects outdoors, such as plants and sticks, using cubes as the non-standard unit of measures.



Indoors Inspired Activities

- **Talk Boost**

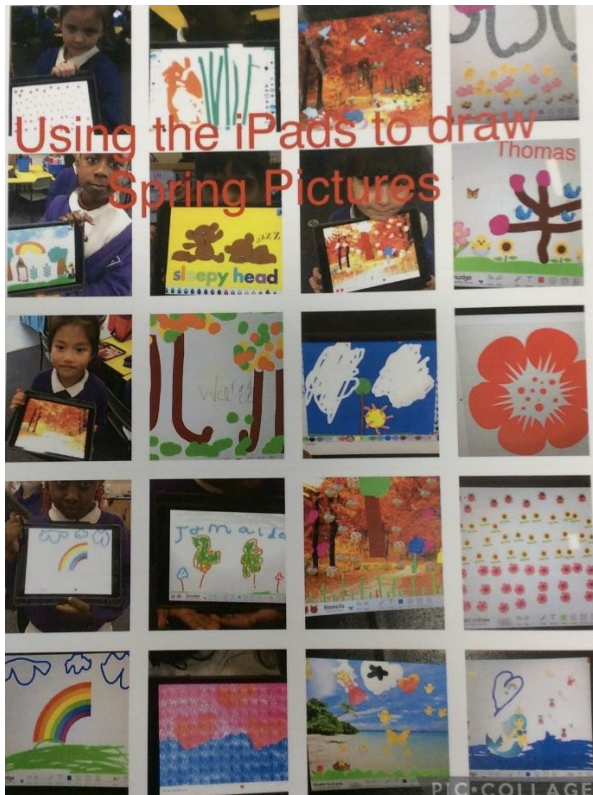
This is a programme aimed at the quieter children. We used the topic of the visit to inspire the children to discuss and talk about their real-life experiences to promote their language skills.

Talk Boost



- Art

There were lots of inspiration of art. The children had never seen a flamingo before so they were keen to draw and paint them among other animals and plants.



Whiteboard Drawings



iPad Art

Using inspiration from the the Washington Wetlands.



- Making and fruit salad in Design and Technology

This came about as we were discussing what nature could provide us with.



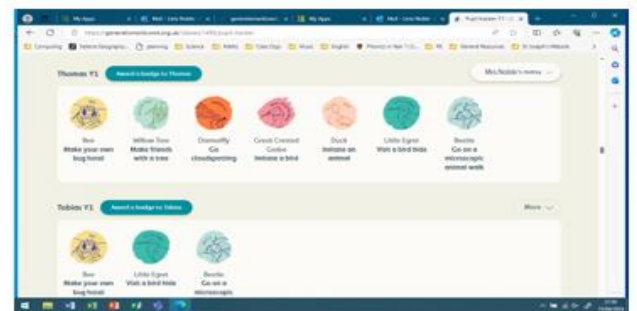
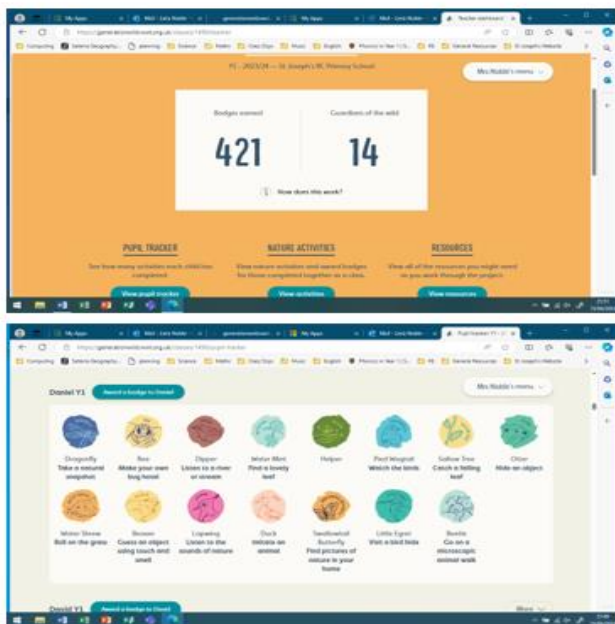
- **Mother's Day Card**

We did observational drawing of a plant.



As well as the activities the children have been continuing to collect their badges.

Year 1 children working hard to earn their badges!



The children had the opportunity to discuss and share what they did during a whole school assembly.