

The impact of 'Ava's Destiny' at Ashmole Primary School

Intent of the trip

Ashmole Primary School is a one form entry school near the Oval Cricket Ground, a short walk from the River Thames. 37% of pupils at Ashmole are eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant. The proportion of children from Minority Ethnic groups is 79% and the proportion of children with English as an Additional Language is 48%. The impact of this trip on our school community has been huge, both academically and in terms of personal development and building cultural capital beyond the classroom. Perhaps the most exciting thing to be inspired and developed from this trip is a Mud Kitchen area in our KS1 and KS2 playground.

Ashmole celebrates World Book Day through a two week lead up, called 'Book Fortnight'. This year, we wanted a whole school focus on one book that would extend their cultural capital. As a school located in central London, children have access to a range of experiences, however often lack experience of nature. The intent of the 'Ava's Destiny' project at London Wetland Centre aligned perfectly with what we wanted to achieve, and the impact of this trip has gone far beyond the two weeks of Book Fortnight.

London Wetland Centre made the project easily accessible from central London. The trip was organised with ease and subsidised coach travel made the experience possible for our whole school community.

Impact of the initial trip

All teachers introduced the story to their classes at the start of the week in English lessons, before trips later that week. Pupils enjoyed the initial trip to the London Wetland Centre, with children from Years 1 to 6 fully engaged with the story of Ava.

"My favourite part was when we saw Ava in the nest." Year 1 pupil

"I loved playing in the mud!! My favourite part was building homes for the animals." Year 3 pupil

"It was exciting to do something different to our usual schoolwork." Year 6 pupil



Impact on children's writing

After the trip, teachers used the experience to inspire writing. Due to a lot of pupils learning English as an additional language (EAL) at Ashmole, we have a huge focus on vocabulary acquisition. Teachers used their English lessons to explore words associated with the wetlands, as well as ospreys. As a result, pupils were fully immersed in the story of Ava, and produced a variety of fictional texts inspired by their experience.

Many children went on to follow Ava's journey independently at home and completed online activities. Several children became Guardians of the Wild. The development of the mud kitchen (see below) means children are completing nature activities daily, going beyond those on the website!

11: To write a story - Friday 3rd March 2023

Avd's Destiny

And the others were ready to catch the eggs that she had been inside for the last five weeks. She searched and her legs started to tremble and she fell. She was out. With her two young brothers around. And it wasn't long before their beautiful daughter with long eyes "Will you be quiet? And how could you quarrel the lovely little mother."

"What noise a little steamer and here were dancing will go south for a good 11 months of our beautiful and the mother's answer "Told their father "I'm not going to mention the fact your great grandfather was shot by a woman. He called her his brother shared nothing, Am. I was a woman and thoughtful."

As a second note, the gradually nothing was, for there were other the water when they got into a boat shape and repeating a full before slipping down into the water with a splash. And good birds jumping down to join them in the end water SPLASH! She reached into the water and gaped at how cold the water was against her person towards father.

The next day, Am and her family went out to look for good fishing spots along the river. "I'm going further by the way!" called Am to her mother. "What? No one said you could be further." So she, she went back to her mother's house.

Success Criteria:

SC1: I can use show not tell (5 senses)	Pupil check	Teacher check
SC2: I can use short sentences for effect	✓	✓

11: To write a story - Friday 3rd March 2023

Avd's Destiny

When the Osby was ready to both end of her will and then the still left. When she saw her father get the first time. She happily looked into her father's eyes and she felt some a storm in their eyes. She then gave her the truly wanted to go to the point but her mother, father and dad she overruled. They would not let her go because this was because she got her father said "you should not go this because this she knows and herself she says 'no' but (she says this)."

Then, she went to the point but she didn't look get H or it was she decided to look around the she saw baby Osby sitting down and some trees, grass, bushes, that was big. Then she got truly tired and decided to take a long, long walk. But then when she was at SOMEWHERE VERY STRANGE HAPPENED!!! what could it be?

After she woke up, she had transformed into her 17 year old, and she had truly a massive size, which kept on growing, on her. But because she was alone she was not too much. The little child was now HALF BROWN HALF GREEN. EX THE Osby sitting would not be the same again!

Then, she saw her baby Osby and 2 other Osby sitting in a tree and then, was a human child but (it truly big HUMAN). The human was following her but she still went for some the animal. If she would the animal she saw a bird so she had to drive up a rocky hill there. Then she looked, small, green and grey. She felt that was right next to her. But then she saw a small bird and because she was hungry she ate it. By then she was able to leave the human.

SC1: I can use show not tell (5 senses)	Pupil check	Teacher check
SC2: I can use short sentences for effect	✓	✓



Avn was ready to feel the wind to meet her father and gather. So early she began pecking at her egg that had been her home for a year weeks. Then came a little gust of wind and Avn yelped but got back up and was free to go with her parents. The parents who had looked after her egg. In her right eye she saw very loud bellows (she had been born, but weeks earlier. Caustically, Avn gazed over the edge of the nest and a beautiful sight greeted her eyes.

The trees were a strange brown color. There was a crystal clear lake with duckling paddling after their mother. As the days passed by the young dragons got rid of their pluggs and began to grow real feathers. One day after after training to fly Avn asked her dad "dad when will we go on a real adventure like the geese?" "When you're ready young Avn." Avn was his reply. Avn hopped around the nest that night she couldn't get to sleep every time she tried she kept imagining what adventure they would go on. Avn's mother saw the young hot things excitement she knew she had to warn Avn about the strange dangers of the world.

A few days later, Avn's mum called out "it's time!" "Avn looked up from grooming herself reluctantly she found herself going over to her mum. "Dad when I was young," started Avn's mum "My Grandfather was in her nest one day when a huge human hand tracked out into her nest and made off with two of her precious eggs!" "A year is not, that grandfather I'm told is still in the glass case to this day!" Avn's scarily brothers shared with her whilst Avn stood by unshakably by the story.

One afternoon, Avn and her brothers Kukul and Bale were out looking for the best gushing spots when Avn suddenly said "lets go a bit further..." "No!" interrupted Kukul "there are young gulls!" Avn gush yelp "I'll go myself then" and Avn flew off. On her way Avn spotted a lady looking out she decided to look closer. She suddenly felt an enormous eye to yell asleep.

When she woke up she felt squashed she lied a very long time to her sister until there was a human hand! Brown and white wings sprouted from her head and she had granddaddy in size! As she was gushing one day she overheard two birds speaking about her in a hushed tone "Do you think Avn is the hybrid bird you should know that she needs to fly south to Cape Town." Avn didn't hear the rest her mind was whirling about what she just heard when she turned around to see the bird call "I've heard it she knew that she was gone. For the next few days Avn started writing up the strength to fly to Cape Town.

On her first day she stepped off at Beach in Hastings and spotted a little crab but she hardly recognized that it was a crab as it had lost its shell. She went up to him and he utters "please don't eat me!" "I won't!" replied Avn and she looked for a shell. She spotted a perfect shell "I'm return for your kindness I will show you the best place to gush!" Avn thanked the crab and returned home was lucky and went on her way.

The next day she stopped at the very edge of France and met a blue horse name was Dago, and Avn asked politely "Hello do you suggest you know which way it is to Cape town?" "He blew a long breath and didn't understand Avn but he pointed south east so Avn supposed it was the way to Cape town.

Luckily for Avn the rest of the journey was peaceful and she got reunited with her family and found Guardians on the wild.

Ava's Destiny

I'd been flying for hours and was getting tired. The last drink of water I'd drunk had been 5 hours ago maybe more. So I was ~~that~~ I saw it, a little thing burrowing in the sand, I swooped down to ~~see~~ what it was. It was... a meerkat and it was so adorable! As soon as it saw me it started digging a tunnel underground.

"Wait!" I screamed "Why are you hiding from me? Am I that hideous?"

"So so you aren't going to eat me?" It asked looking frightened.

"How could I ever eat something so cute?"

I replied. I was surprised when the meerkat looked just.

I am NOT cute! I'm a battle hardened warrior!"

"Sure." I grinned the only thing it looked like it could fight was a

chip and even that might be challenging for it.

Um I really ~~we~~ got of in the wrong spot.



"What's your name?" I said sheepishly.
"My name's Mical and I'm on sentry duty."

said Mical.
"Oh so there are more of you?" I said, interested.

"Yes and I was just about to warn them about a hungry ~~or~~ osprey. You see my wife (Mara) just had twins (Merina & Maria) and I need to keep them safe."

Mical said clearly happy with the new arrivals. "Also me and Mara already had one son (Moron) so I really need to get back to them if it's all the same to you."

"Oh yes congratulations, in could you just tell me the way out of here I said carefully.

"Why yes just 'follow' the sun and you'll be out" said Mical "Bye."

"Bye!" I said gratefully and gave off from the desert.

I'm now in Sahel about to head of to Gambia and let it be known it makes a nice change ~~from~~ the Sahara Desert. It's just a little break point but I did have an interesting conversation or actually heard one. So I was sipping water when I heard a voice from behind a bush & at first I thought they were talking to me. The conversation went like this

"my head is still ringing (from it)."

"Hey you there, have you heard about it?"

"I heard about it."

"I heard about it."

"You mean the bird-girl?"

"Yes they?" said she was heading here, you seen her?"

"No. Are you one of them hunters?"

"Yeah and she'll be the perfect specimen!"

"What if she's gone already, where will you go?"

"Oh I know where she's headed. Goudaye Sahel helle Gambia."

I know! Who could even think of killing anything? especially me? Well I should head off now and beat whoever it was there. Then I can seek some sort of refuge... I know with the gaudions of the Wild. I'm going now and this time I actually mean it. Byeese.

Impact on children's personal development

The impact of Ava's Destiny was not limited to the classroom and online. After the original Book Fortnight experience, our Premises Manager, Darren Duquemin, noticed a change in children's attitudes during playtimes, which inspired a development to our playground! Please see the below from him.

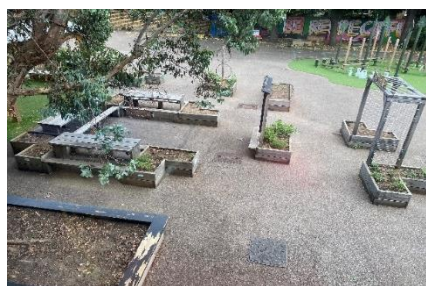
Ashmole Mud Kitchen (now known as Lime Tree Haven)

At Ashmole, we are tucked away from the main roads, in what I like to call a hidden oasis, and we are very lucky to have so many green spaces. I am the Premises Manager and I also supervise the pupils at lunchtime.

All the pupils from classes 1 to 6 visited the Wetland Centre and were introduced to Ava's story. Following this, the children's attitudes to their school surroundings changed. Every single day we saw children engaging with activities they were introduced to at the Wetland Centre. They were twig peeling, building homes for insects, digging stones out of the raised beds, building pretend fires and looking at the different leaves. We have also had a woodlouse zoo and a snail zoo and they had a pretend shop set up where you could buy sticks and pay with stones and vice versa. All these activities were lovely to see, but my thoughts lied with the safety aspects as we have a large amount of foxes and cats that used the raised beds as toilets, which is the only place pupils had available to them that was not the concrete playground.



One of the creations made by children days, weeks and months after their trip to the Wetland Centre.



The raised beds children played in after their trip to the Wetland Centre. The new Mud Kitchen is located in the top right hand corner.

I wanted a safe area for the pupils to use, and decided on a Mud Kitchen. I designed the layout as I wanted it to have enough in it so a whole class could use it at any one time. I also wanted everything to be covered when not in use to keep it clean. I researched a number of mud kitchen websites for ideas of what different activities to have, how things could be built and what soil and sand was safe to use. I took the idea to the Head teacher who was very happy for it to go ahead. The Mud Kitchen responded to children's own imaginative explorations following Ava's challenges – we planned to have an area just for stick peeling and building, a sandpit, a table and seats and of course the kitchen itself.

The pupils have lots of different zoned areas within the playground and there was an area that had previously been earmarked as a relaxing area, but after further thoughts the idea was born that this could become a mud kitchen/sensory area and the wigwams that I had previously built would be better as reading pods for our outside reading chalet. I'm happy to say it was the right move, it's the perfect place for them.



The selected area for the new Mud Kitchen, shown in the centre with the reading wigwams before the Wetland Centre trip.

Now it was time to build the vision, but there was one problem. There was hardly any money for the build. I had to source the materials for free, but luckily I do like a challenge.

I levelled the area the best I could and then laid concrete slabs down on top the soil for where the items were being sited to stop the items rotting so quickly.

The pallets that were used for the 3 mud kitchens (2 for KS1 height and 1 for KS2 height) came from the roofing company that had worked at the school the year before; they are all the same and good quality, so easy to work with. The rest of the timber came from a neighbour who had just replaced all his floorboards and doors, and the screws came from another neighbour who was having work and the builder had left half way through leaving all his material behind. The plastic panelling used to protect the top of the mud kitchen came from the contractor who had refitted a set of our toilets, the log seats came from Lambeth council tree surgeon's department and the large cable reel that is used as a table came from BT. The rest of the bits and pieces I had on site and I also managed to get part of a skip to get rid of all the offcuts and unusable bits.



All the pupils had an assembly on the area and a 10-minute taster session in which a ribbon was cut to officially open the Mud Kitchen! All the classes follow a rota to use the area at lunchtimes. Staff see all children enjoying the area, from the ages of 5 to 11! We are particularly surprised (and thrilled) that the Year 5 and 6 children engage with nature in this area as much as the younger children. The pupils were asked to come up with a name for the area, and have called it 'Lime Tree Haven' due to the tree that shadows it.

I will also be doing a survey with the pupils to see what they like and dislike, if any improvements can be made to what is there or if they want something to be added in. I want the area to evolve with the pupil's imagination and will start a folder up of their ideas to keep the area exciting inspiring and creative for them.

After seeing the impact of the Mud Kitchen on children's mental health and enjoyment of nature, we plan to immerse them in nature even further. We have an unused muddy area with a very old pond around the back of the school which will hopefully be developed in to a forest school area. I



have started work on a bug hotel in this area and we are waiting on some more plans and resources for this, which I look forward to being involved in. The trip to the Wetland Centre started all of this and we can't wait to see where it takes us.



The twig and stick area inspired by the challenges at the Wetland Centre.

"I love getting messy!" Year 3 pupil

"It is fun to have something different to play with at play time." Year 5 pupil

"The best part of the mud kitchen is the sand pit." Year 1 pupil

"I like playing with my friends in the mud kitchen. We cook mud pancakes and mud cookies."
Year 2 pupil

