

Class visit to Wolves 7 May 2025 – focus Dimensions “What on Earth”

When I arrived, the children were sitting down singing along to a Barefoot Books Singalong version of the “Whole World in his hands”. Miss Dunning was using an inflatable globe that she threw to individual children. This was a visual demonstration of the world but also a good way of teaching hand eye coordination. It is also a way of maintaining focus as the children put their hands up to answer and the ball was thrown to them for them to do so. Questions were asked such as what planet is this, what country do we live in, what continent do we live in and what other countries can you name? This was an interactive session, and the children were knowledgeable and could answer. They were enthusiastic to share what they knew.

Next Miss Dunning showed the children a powerpoint called Wolves’ Holiday which had pictures of the children in different attire. They talked about where they might be visiting when they were somewhere wearing warm clothes and where they might be visiting if they were wearing summer clothes. The children volunteered their answers without needing much prompting.

Miss Dunning then moved on to the procedures for going on holiday by airplane. She showed a video of an airport. She spoke with the children about why they needed a passport, what luggage they might bring, who handles the luggage, who directs the planes and who helps passengers when they are on the plane. Miss Dunning explained that the children were going on a trip the next day flying on the smiley bus airplane, and they needed their passport to go!

The children were split into groups (some working on the white board, some having outdoor play and some in the sensory room) and the children who stayed in the classroom created their own passport. Some children created a passport using a glued in photo of themselves, their name and a squiggly signature. Others did this but also added in information such as their age, sex, country and description such as colour of eyes and hair and if they wear glasses. This led to discussion about how they describe themselves and where they are from and grammar points such as use of capital letters. If they were unsure about spelling words Miss Dunning sounded them out and helped them work out the spelling with lots of positive encouragement, high fives and “You got this!”. When they completed their passports, they swapped activity, and other children came in to make their passports. Each child got a lot of individual support to make their passports as they did this in groups of two or three only.

Miss Dunning showed me some of the workbooks explaining what they had been learning about the world. The topic had been running for four weeks, and the children had been learning about living things and what they need to survive. They had also had the opportunity to pet real tortoises.

The session today was very interactive. There were a lot of visual prompts and creating their own passport really helped them engage in the subject. It was also a good tool for teaching life skills as travel is something most of the children will experience and preparing them for travel by recreating passport control and flying to the beach (on the smiley bus) with their bags and cabin crew is a helpful representation of what they will experience if they go to an actual airport.

It was wonderful to see the photos on Facebook of their trip to the beach next day. I imagine they must have had a lot of fun roleplaying the airport and airplane!