



Dartmoor
Multi Academy
Trust

Lydford Primary School is part of the
Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust family.



Moorland Hub update

It has been an absolute pleasure to be part of our fantastic enrichment offer in the Hub and Trust. A week in Normandy for Year 6, three days in Bristol for Year 5, surfing and camping for Years 3&4 and Tuesday's London trip have all been wonderful experiences for our children.

Firstly, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the staff team for making these possible. Staff volunteer their time and receive no additional pay or time in lieu – spending time away from their families to care for our school children, often with little sleep! It is also important to note, some of those staff have attended Bristol, Normandy, the beach camp and London back-to-back. The time spent planning, organising and risk assessing these events is also significant, I am sure you can appreciate taking 113 children into the sea comes with quite a risk assessment! Thank you, staff, – you are amazing.

Normandy – *The Year 6 children were part of a group of 108 from 15 schools children travelling to Northern France for the week. Visits to World War Two sights were made all the more pertinent by the fact D-Day's 80th Anniversary had been celebrated just the week before. I was lucky enough to be there for that with Trip One and whilst the atmosphere was amazing, planes, tanks, flags, the King(!), trip two was certainly more relaxed! Watching the children take in the culture of the French street cafes, the History of the Bayeux Tapestry and making new friends was inspirational. My favourite memory is the children playing on the Chateau lawns together with children from other schools – one of our key aims. I know this will serve them well going into secondary school.*

Bristol – *Having planned and booked the trip it was odd not to attend. I had complete faith in Mr Lumby and the staff team to deliver a wonderful trip for the Year 5s and that is exactly what happened. The graffiti workshop, helpfully found by Mrs Dickinson, was a favourite with children and adults, linking wonderfully with the city culture experience and Banksy/Art focus of the trip. Again, seeing the children interact with peers from other schools and making friends was surely the highlight.*

Beach camp – *This trip was possibly the one most causing me concern, had I really agreed to supervise 113 Year 3&4 children on the beach and then to camp*

Lydford
Okehampton
Devon EX20 4AU

Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust
Holsworthy Training and Business Centre
Western Road, Holsworthy, Devon, EX22 6DH

01822 820264
www.lydford-primary.co.uk

01409 259 613
dartmoormat.org.uk



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overnight?! But, in reality, the trip ran perfectly. The weather was beautiful, the surf perfect for beginners, the behaviour impeccable and the adult support unfaltering. The children were intentionally placed into mixed school ability groups and some of the best parts of the day were watching children building sandcastles or digging holes in teams with new friends. Even the most reluctant of swimmers entered the water and everyone 'caught a wave' during the day.

The camp out, too, went perfectly with the children sharing tents and the school grounds. I maybe would have liked some more sleep... but you can't have everything! Again, the highlight was calling the children together at the end of Friday and watching children choosing to sit with new friends from other schools.

London – *This week's trip to London was a great experience for our children. It was a shame that the Houses of Parliament cancelled our booking due to the election, but we are grateful that they honoured their commitment to supporting the travel costs so we were able to visit the science museum. The children loved the experience of the train, tube, Uber Thames boat and city atmosphere. The museum itself was also a huge success. Thank you to Mr Lumby, who planned and led this trip.*

We now come to July which is filled with sports days, end of term performances and leaver's plays. I am aiming to attend as many as possible and hope to see many of you. There may be times when I can't because of a diary clash, and I apologise in advance – I wish I could be in multiple places at once!

Finally, thank you for your support and commitment to our schools – it makes them the special places they are.

Mr Hill

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