

## Eastborough JIN School January 2018



## Suzanne's Report of her visit to the school

I attended Eastborough JIN School on Monday and Tuesday of last week where I worked with Miss Kelly's Year 6 class. There were 29 children in the class, 16 boys and 13 girls. The first thing that I noticed on arriving at this wonderful old Victorian building was the large gold memorial plaque in the entrance hall, which list 70 names of old boys from the school who lost their lives in WW1.

It was a pleasure working with the children and their teacher. I was made very welcome and enjoyed my time at the school. The children were very interested to learn about the causes of WV1 and about life in the trenches. They were fascinated to read the soldier profiles and couldn't believe that the five soldiers we looked at had all gone to their school and had very likely been taught in the classroom we were in. I was very pleased to see how interested they were in the profiles and I explained how the volunteers have researched each soldier. It was a good opportunity to discuss how baptism and marriage certificates can be used in research and we also talked about the census, which they had not heard about before

Each child then chose one of the soldiers to base their creative writing on. They added to the factual information about their soldier by imagining other things about him, such as his personality, favourite hobbies, favourite food etc and what he liked and disliked about being a soldier in the war.

They then used the profile of their soldier to select someone for him to write his postcard to (parents/wife etc) and used his home address as the address to write on the postcard. After some planning time, they took on the role of their soldier and wrote a postcard home from the trenches. They also wrote some diary entries as that soldier.

The pupils admitted that they have been walking past the memorial plaque in the school entrance hall for the last six years without taking much notice of it. The overall consensus seemed to be that from now on they would see the plaque very differently as they now had a new found respect and appreciation for the sacrifices that had been made by those listed. They also said that Remembrance Sunday and the wearing of poppies will have a lot more significance for them now.

## Extract from the School's letter of satisfaction

The Children had the chance to be immersed into the topic and got the opportunity to make fantastic learning booklets, write postcards and diary entries, in character. The work they produced was very impressive and they would be keen to see it exhibited if this were an option.

Overall, the two days were thoroughly enjoyed by all and gave children lots of interest and knowledge in something they would never have had access to otherwise. Some children have even been asking their relatives about any personal connections and digging out boxes from their lofts to bring in and show us! It's great to see.

I would definitely recommend this workshop to my colleagues and look forward to working with Suzanne again in the future.

Miss C Kelly

Year 6 Teacher & Acting English Coordinator











