



Headfield Junior School December 2018



DEWSBURY SACRIFICES

Suzanne's Report of her visit to the school

I attended Headfield Junior School on the 4th and 5th December. I was given a warm welcome by the Year 6 staff and pupils. My visit was part of a two-day launch for their next topic called 'A child's war'. The year group was split into four groups, so I had each group for two and a half hours. The pupils rotated around various activities, which included talks on WW2 by a visiting company called 'Up and at 'em history'.

The children made a project booklet and we looked at life in the trenches, but as we were on a shorter time scale than usual, we couldn't spend as long on as normal. I shared the details of the BBC school's history website that I use and the teachers said that they would give the children some additional time to explore this further and to finish their booklets. We looked at four local soldiers; Samuel Middleton Hawskwell, Emmanuel Butler, Arthur Lightfoot and Walter Victor Fligg. Each group looked at a different soldier in detail.

The pupils were surprised to learn that Samuel Middleton Hawskwell was born in the USA, came to England as a young child and then returned to America later on. He came back to Britain in October 1915 specifically to enlist. When we looked at the story of Walter Victor Fligg the children were interested to learn that he is listed on the Thornhill Lees Holy Innocents Memorial. This church is very close to Headfield Junior School and the spire could be clearly seen from the classroom that we were in. We discussed the fact that Walter was gassed and then died of heart failure. When we looked at the profile of Emmanuel Butler the pupils were interested to learn that he had also worshipped at Thornhill Lees Parish Church and was a member of the church football team. The final soldier that we looked at was Arthur Lightfoot. The children were surprised to discover that he was one of eleven siblings. The pupils knew the street that he lived on, although we found out that the house is no longer there.

The children were fascinated to read the press cuttings that are included in the profiles and to hear the compliments that were paid to the soldiers in the letters that the families received. They produced some outstanding postcards and some wonderful work and it was a pleasure working with them.

Extract from the School's letter of satisfaction

Suzanne was able to share with the children what it was like to be a soldier during World War 1 and the impact this has on family and friends. This has influenced the children's understanding of our current topic 'Child at War' and helped develop their writing.

We would like to thank Suzanne for her time and hope to work with her again in the future.

Donna Johnson

Year 6 Assistant Headteacher

