St Paulinus Catholic Primary School June 2019

St Paulinus Catholic Primary School 17th and 19th June 2019

Year 6 pupils at St Paulinus Catholic Primary School have had the opportunity to take part in a special history project, to learn about local men who lost their lives in WW1. The workshops were organised by Dewsbury Sacrifices, who are funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The team organised for the pupils to take part in WW1 creative writing sessions, led by local writer and teacher, Suzanne Hudson.

Volunteers from Dewsbury Sacrifices have researched the stories behind the 1053 names listed on the Dewsbury Cenotaph in Crow Nest Park. Suzanne was able to share the profiles of some local men with the pupils. They were surprised to learn that some of the soldiers had lived on nearby roads and had attended the local church.

"The pupils were interested to learn about how the volunteers from Dewsbury Sacrifices have conducted their research," Suzanne said. "They were fascinated to hear about such details as the job the soldier did before the war, his family, how he lost his life, and which medals he won."

The profiles of the soldiers also include cuttings from the Dewsbury Reporter, which regularly reported on local men who were missing or had lost their lives.

"The children chose one the soldiers to base their creative writing on," explained Suzanne. "They then wrote a postcard home from the trenches, as if it was from him."

The school has close links with their local church, Our Lady and St Paulinus. The pupils said that the WW1 memorial board there will mean a lot more to them now.

Mike Keddie, Year 6 teacher, was delighted with the mature way the students responded to the project and thoughtful questions that they asked.

"The pupil really benefitted from the workshops," he said. "It certainly had an impact on the children and many of them went home and talked to their parents about it. Some brought in photographs and stories about family members who were involved in WW1."

Suzanne Hudson