

LEARNING ADVENTURE NEWS

Lights! Camera! Action!



The school's Learning Adventure before the half term was called 'Lights! Camera! Action!', which saw all children across the school become film makers and puppet show performers! The Learning Adventure provided a range of cross curricular learning opportunities, including writing, drama, computing, Design Technology, PSHE and RE.

Rushcombe Film Makers

During the first phase of the Learning Adventure, the children were set the challenge of creating a short film or animation. Here's what went on across the school:

The children in Foundation were asked by the head of Pixar Animations to help them produce their next big blockbuster. As a result, the children created their own animations of 'Little Red Riding Hood' and staged their own film premier.

Year 1 children were visited by 'Felicity Filmmaker' from CBeebies, who asked them to create an exciting episode of 'Deadly 60' about the creatures of the Amazon. After researching a range of animals, the children produced and starred in their own documentary style films.

Year 2 children were asked by Warner Brothers to help them create an updated film version of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. During the process, children created set designs, wrote character descriptions and produced animations of a scene from the chocolate room.

The children in Year 3 were contacted by the BBC to help them make an episode of 'Deadly 60' – their challenge was to design a route across a series of countries, filming a range of interesting animals on their way. After carrying out research of their locations, the children worked in groups to create a documentary style film.

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Year 4 children investigated the case of the disappearance of a film crew in Madagascar. After discovering a range of discarded props and scripts, the children formed their own film company and created their own animations from the clues they had discovered.

The children very much enjoyed the highly creative process of producing their own short films and it was wonderful to see their developing confidence and skill levels when using the software and iPads. There was also a range of very high quality animations made at home by the children - well done to all Rushcombe animators!

The Feathered Serpent

The second phase of the Learning Adventure saw the whole school come together to produce an amazing puppet performance of a Mayan creation story - 'The Feathered Serpent'. The school worked with the puppeteer Tony Gee, who initially led workshops with all classes, creating the puppets that would be used in the final performance. During the workshops, the children were able to develop their Design Technology skills, exploring a range of making, joining and decorating techniques.

The school then had a busy day of rehearsals, before staging a series of shows for parents to enjoy. The shows themselves were a remarkable achievement for the children – they worked wonderfully as a team and demonstrated some super puppeteering skills. The final parade of puppets around the audience was a very special moment, in which the joy and pride of all children was plain to see.

The process of creating the show provided a range of learning opportunities, particularly linked to the areas of RE and PSHE. The retelling of a creation story from an ancient culture, helped to broaden children's awareness of different world views and led to explorations of the Christian creation story. In addition, the story provided opportunities for children to reflect upon the wonders of our world and to celebrate its rich diversity.

We hope you enjoyed the shows as much as we did!



Above: The crabs (played by Rowan class) and the corn children (played by Elm class).