

Furzedown Primary School Governors' Working Day, Wednesday 27th February

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Every term Furzedown School [Governors](#) spend a day in school to meet staff and students and to make sure we know what is going on in school. Today, the focus was on Geography. Ms Sanchez and Mr Naghten gave us an update on what is going on at school. Here is what we found out:

Furzedown is working towards the renewal of Gold Quality Mark for Geography, last awarded in 2016. The previous assessor's report highlighted the impressive level of engagement from pupils, staff and parents and how they'd be proud to have children at Furzedown. We are obviously very proud of this and also keen to build on that achievement. Here is some of the work that is supporting this:

It is currently Fairtrade Fortnight (25th February to 8th March). Children are using Fairtrade products to create and sell their own food to learn about and raise awareness of fair trade. Year 5 pupils are keen to find out more about where the products they use come from as part of this.

The school is looking at some of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals including Zero Hunger and Zero Waste. This involves taking part in the [Fair Share](#) programme in which the school receives surplus food to redistribute. In one week Furzedown redistributed an impressive 120 kg of food that would otherwise have been thrown away.

Local Study - Furzedown staff recently took part in an Inset day on Local Study. This included how to use stories to encourage and support learning about children's own environment and comparing this to other countries. For example, Year 5 have been reading *The Mirror* by Jeannie Baker which compares the lives of children in Morocco and Australia. Year 6 have been reading Linda Sue Park's *A Long Walk to Water*. Bringing the idea of Local Space right to the heart of the school, the new outdoor space has been designed by the children to help improve their own environment.

International Links - Ms Pouvreau has led on the schools links with a school in France and a letter writing project. As well as a longstanding link with Uganda, Furzedown's international links are being developed further this year. Mr Dutton is in Singapore at the moment to support this and bring back new ideas to support the broader curriculum. Links with schools in India and New Zealand are also being built to support the school's Geography work.

As well as learning more about specific areas of the curriculum during the Governor Working Days. We always spend time walking around the school and visiting classes. Today, our highlights included:

- Year 2 were learning about New Delhi, including Indian currency and its religions. As part of Geography Week they'll be cooking Indian food and later in the term reading stories set in India.
- Year 6 children were getting inspiration from Ghanaian clothes to make their own designs.
- In maths, Year 1 children were reviewing their understanding of addition and subtraction. After break and a chance to catch up on the latest global news via Newsround, 2A got stuck into their maths, measuring lengths of different shapes and comparing these with rulers and string.
- 6D were practising counting in French and really getting to grips with pronunciation.
- 4W were learning about chocolate from the cocoa bean all the way to the bar.
- Year 6 explained the story of a Long Walk to Water and how this links to their work with the Fair Share project, mentioned above.
- Displays around the school include maps and artwork linking to different cultures, seasons and climates.

Thanks to all the staff and children for making us so welcome as always and answering all of our questions. Another really interesting and useful day spent at school.