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Hornbilers welcomes VVIP Visitor

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam came to visit the soldiers and family members from the 2nd Battalion, Royal Gurkha Rifles (2RGR) on Tuesday, 14th June. The Hornbilers were especially excited for the occasion! It was fantastic for the children to meet someone so important.



The Tremendous Trip and Great Year 5 Sleepover

By: Rose, Year 5 Otter

On Thursday the 16th of June 2022, Y5 classes Otter and Gecko embarked on a school trip (escorted by Mrs Vambe, Mrs Webb and Mr Bowles). The first part of the trip consisted of a bus ride to Bandar Seri Begawan (which is the capital city of Brunei) and visiting the Royal Regalia Museum, in which we learnt the date that the first Sultan was crowned Sultan (sometime between 1363 – 1402 they were not entirely sure when he was crowned exactly). We also learnt about the dragon dagger, whoever holds it rules Brunei, or Barunei as it was called when it was first discovered. The Crown Prince – who will be the future Sultan has it in his possession currently. The golden chinrest caught the eye of Otter Class teacher Mrs Webb (and the rest of the Y5s) particularly, used for the occasions when His Majesty must wear the traditional crown; it is very heavy (and expensive) as it is made mostly of gold. We also discovered that during Hari Raya (the celebration after the Islamic period of fasting) the Sultan of Brunei invites people into his palace to shake their hand and receive a gift. Sadly, due to Covid 19 this didn't happen in 2022 but should be something to look forward to in the coming year. There will not be a shortage of space as the sultan Hassanal Bolkiah has 1788 rooms in his palace (257 being bathrooms if you need the loo!).



Next, we visited the mangrove swamps, saw proboscis monkeys, the current Sultan's palace, the previous Sultan's tomb, the Crown Prince's palace and one crocodile (it was rather large). This led onto a visit inside one of the water village homes for refreshments. The water village has its own police station, fire station, mosque and a school! Inside the water village homes, Y5 tried crab sticks, curry puffs and cake (traditional including chocolate cake with cheese serving as sprinkles) after this we returned to the bus for a traditional buffet lunch...



After arriving back home for quick shower and a meal, Y5 returned to school at 1830hrs for the Great Year 5 Sleepover in the Sports Hall. Y5 brought their own snack provided by parents to eat in front of the movie they voted for (which was Sonic 2.) Eventually, Y5 changed into Pyjamas, brushed their teeth and settled down for a “good” nights rest.

In the morning, Y5 got changed and had a sleeping bag race. Fuelled with hot chocolate from Mrs Vambe, they were then escorted by RMPs to Medicina Lines for a fried breakfast. Next up, Y5 were given the opportunity to meet the two current tracker dogs. They got sprayed with a fireman’s hose, visited the ‘Movement Control Department’ and went inside a helicopter.

Y5 had to return to school and the trip came to an end, but thank you very much from all of Y5 to Mrs Webb, Mrs Vambe, Mr Bowles, and the parents for supplying the snacks, Y5 have 100% enjoyed themselves!



Jungle Warfare Division (JWD) visits Year 6

By: Year 6 Teacher, Jon Deane

It has been a testing year this year for all of our children at Hornbill, but our Year 6 classes have faced the added challenge of navigating secondary school applications as well as their SATs; all this after having spent so much enforced time out of the classroom this year.

On Wednesday 22nd June, Year 6 were given the opportunity to work with the Jungle Warfare Division, which enabled them to explore a different learning environment, learn some new skills as well as have some fun after a busy year.

The day involved a series of activities in which children could test their abilities in communication, group work and in problem solving; skills paramount for Year 6 children's transition to secondary school. The plan was for jungle survival skills to be taught as well as these activities forming part of our recent 'Our Home' project, celebrating life in Brunei as well as discovering more about JWD and BFB's role here.

The day started with a briefing with children learning about the importance of different elements of survival and how even a small amount of knowledge of survival skills could be beneficial one day. JWD had meticulously planned three main workshops for us that children would rotate between. One of the workshops taught how we can collect and purify water in the jungle using man made and natural materials. There was a competition between groups to see who could create a structure out of natural materials that would collect rainwater effectively. I was very impressed with the ingenuity and team work on display during this activity, but it seemed like the girls had the edge on the boys in this workshop leaving the boys a little more thirsty.

Children then learnt about camouflage and concealment, focusing on how we notice things, what makes things stand out in certain environments and how this applies to a military context. Children then experimented with camo cream to work out how to conceal themselves, which was great fun – I know a few people had to have a number of showers to ensure they eventually had cleaned all the camo cream off! Apologies to parents for all the mess, we hope it washed out of clothes in the end!



The final workshop emphasised the importance of shelter. Children learnt skills that they can apply in their futures, whether it be on family camping trips, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions at secondary school or even if they join the military. Children were tasked with building their own shelters in groups, they were then asked to get inside their shelters to test whether the shelters were 'weather proof'. There were mixed results to these tests and we did end up with some very wet students!

Children then were able to experience a demonstration from the dog team, where we saw the dog's tracking abilities as well as some of their obedience drills. We had the pleasure of meeting the fantastic Kid and Nike and we are extremely grateful for those who organised and took part in this part of our day, a real highlight for some of the children.

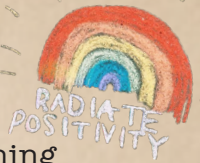


At lunch time we were treated to some of the ration packs that the JWD would use when out in the jungle before then moving onto a fascinating workshop about fire. Children learnt about fire safety, the combustion triangle as well as learning clever ways to create fire using tinder, kindling and main fuels. The day finished with a blow dart competition where Ellen, Bihan and Poppy were crowned the most accurate shots.

All of Year 6 had a fantastic day and we are extremely grateful to JWD as well as the dog trainers for organising such educational and fun activities for us. We hope that this will be the start of a great relationship with the JWD and that we can work with them again into the next academic year, learning further team building and survival skills.



FS2 Fundraiser for the Little Princess Trust



The children of Crab Class and Leopard Class in FS2 have demonstrated their learning powers to create their own music album this year. The album is called 'The Album of the Year' and it contains a collection of songs that the children have created themselves as well as a couple of covers of our favourites.

Each child had the opportunity to visit the 'Recording Studio' and lay down the tracks. Once the album had been finalised, one child insisted that their music was so good that they should "sell it to become famous". A great idea of course, but after a group discussion it was decided that they should opt for a charity route instead. The Little Princess Trust charity was selected which makes wigs for children and young adults who have lost their hair (due to undergoing cancer treatment, for example).

By creating a booklet with a QR code inside, the children started visiting the other classes in school to raise funds. The NAAFI also agreed to help by having some booklets on display and a collection box in the shop. In addition, a Go Fund Me was setup so that other members of the community could also contribute. BFBS Radio became aware of the tunes and invited Mr Kenworthy, Alric, Chysoum and Shannon into the studios to interview them and further raise awareness.

In the first week, over \$650 BND was raised and the figure continued to grow to over \$1000 early on in the second week. The final total raised was BND 2146.81. A meaningful community project led by the 4 and 5 years old children of our school community.



FS Festival Fun!



SPORT UPDATE

Years 4, 5 & 6 Swimming Gala

Our older children have been busy competing and showcasing their fabulous swimming skills in a number of swimming galas. We have had fantastic support from parents and it has been a fitting farewell to so many of our families who will be shortly leaving us. The quality of the swimming was superb and all of the children, as always, were simply amazing!



Football Festival

Our fabulous athletes across Years 1 to 6 treated us to a festival of footballing treats. We held separate events on the school field. The future is very bright, we have a lovely bunch of talented young sportspeople who clearly demonstrated a lovely enthusiasm for sport! It was great to see so many children working together and enjoying themselves through sport. Well done to all of our footballing stars who played so well and may just follow in the footsteps of Lucy Bronze and Harry Kane!

