

Isle of Wight 2016

Monday

The day started with a hall full of excited children, tearful parents and busy staff – all getting ready for the 2016 Year 6 Isle of Wight trip! Once everyone had arrived, we piled onto the coach for the long journey – or so it turned out – around the M25. Despite lots of slow moving traffic, the children were great. They played many games and sang along with a range of CDs until we arrived safely at Fleet for a comfort stop.



It was a short and uneventful journey from there to Portsmouth where we almost immediately boarded the ferry. The children had hardly sat down before their packed lunches were out and unwrapped. The crossing was very smooth and, despite warnings of some children being seasick, everyone was fine. We had a comment from a fellow passenger about how well behaved and polite the Bengoe children were!



The coach driver set us down in Shanklin and we all walked to Shanklin Chine's top entrance. The weather was sunny and warm – perfect for stretching our legs and blowing out the cobwebs from sitting on the coach.

There were cries of amazement as we walked through the gate and saw the first waterfall. Everyone enjoyed the interesting vegetation and beautiful scenery as we walked through the Chine. There



were the usual bench hoppers who needed to sit on every bench we passed, but most were happy to meander along the paths, finding more to look at around each corner. Many had a go in the stocks!



The final climb led to an amazing view of sea, made even more breath-taking by the blue sky and calm water and, once

out of the gate, we walked along the sea front, envying the people paddling and digging in the sand.





After a short walk we arrived at the hotel. Our driver for the week, Andy, had kindly emptied the coach and all the cases were lined up neatly, ready for us. The children waited excitedly to be taken to their rooms, then got their cases and settled in – some more tidily than others! Then it was time to walk down to the beach!



At the beach, a stream of excited children made a bee-line for the sea!

The paddling turned into a very wet affair as the wave jumping caused a lot of damp clothes, including Mrs Pettifer's! Other activities on the beach were digging



holes and ball games, led by Mr Hetherington. Once the sand had been rinsed off, we came back to the hotel to dry off and have dinner.



Dinner was a choice of Cottage Pie, Spaghetti Carbonara, vegetarian Carbonara or a salad. Everyone ate well, having built up an appetite with all the fresh air and exercise from the afternoon! Ice-cream or a doughnut finished off dinner nicely and, reinvigorated by their food, most children opted to return to the beach for the evening, this time to play games – not get wet!

The evening was lovely - the sea was calm - but some of the cricket bowling left a bit to be desired! A tug of war ended in hilarity when the rope broke and everyone fell to the ground.



Back at the hotel, after getting pyjamas on and having a drink, a biscuit and playing some games, all the children went to try out their beds for the week. Although some rooms chatted for a while, all were eventually sound asleep, looking forward to all the amazing activities awaiting them on Tuesday!