

Isle of Wight 2016 Wednesday

Having such a busy day took its toll on the children as, once we were back from the theatre, all the rooms were silent within half an hour of going to bed! This morning was much quieter than Tuesday, too, with only eight going to the beach for the early activities. Despite there being so few, everyone had a great time and, by the time they were back for breakfast, the sleepy heads were up and ready for another busy day.



Our first stop was Blackgang Chine and we were waiting at the door for them to open at 10 o'clock, ready for all the exciting activities inside. The weather was a bit more overcast than Tuesday, but still warm and it brightened up as the day progressed.



We started by walking around the animatronic dinosaurs. Many children were struck by the spitting venom from the Dilophosaurus but luckily

Mr Betts speedily administered an antidote and they all survived (only joking – about the venom, not the surviving!). They were all fascinated by how lifelike they all were, especially the Tyrannosaurus Rex which moved its head and roared so loudly it made the platform shake. Surprisingly, no-one was interested in the vacant position of T-Rex keeper!

Once we had admired all the amazing creatures, we came out by the Crooked House – always a favourite! Even Mr Hetherington had to have a look round, his curiosity awoken by the comments the children made as they escaped.



We realised that our time for the water slides was approaching so we moved to the other side of the park where nearly everyone made the most of their three free goes – some children overcoming their fear of heights, enclosed spaces or moving downhill at speed. Some children proudly showed off how dry they were when they disembarked out of the boats, but others were drenched!



The Cliffhanger, a rollercoaster, was our next stop. Those who wanted to went on the train - up the steep hills, round the corners and down the steep drops. There was a lot of screaming of which the majority was excitement. Some children had their eyes closed, although this didn't detract from the fun, but added to it.



Not everyone wanted to go on it so several children went to the maze or the Hall of Mirrors. The maze was a bit confusing and easy to get lost in but luckily there is a platform that people can stand on and direct you from. The hall of mirrors gave those who visited it an insight into what they would look like if they were tall, short, slim, fat or in a range of other states.



We then returned to the playground for lunch, followed by mini sugared ring doughnuts, freshly baked in the coffee shop – something we discovered last year and have decided was definitely worth repeating. The children then

ran lunch off on the Pirate Ships and the playground until it was time to start making a move.





After a visit to the shop, the children sat in the sunshine and read their letters from home. They were excited to hear the news and were showing all the photographs of family and pets to their friends and the adults.

We returned to the coach to make the short trip to the fossil hunting, picking up Greg, our guide for the afternoon, then driving back to the beach where we were going to be searching. He gave us some instructions on what to look for then we were let loose. Everyone had great fun hunting for the elusive dinosaur bone, finding many examples of fossilised wood, fool's gold and oyster deathbeds ... when Alice Osborne picked up an interesting ball shaped object and asked what it was, only to find out it was a piece of dinosaur bone!



The find was just in time as we then returned to the centre for an interesting talk on dinosaurs, fossils, etc. We then said goodbye to Greg and returned to the hotel for dinner, followed by letter writing – so watch the post over the next couple of days.



The sun was still warm so most of the children took another trip to the beach, including many beach games and some jumping off the wall. On their return, after a drink and a biscuit, everyone was ready for another good sleep!

