

# Erasmus Project



No. 4

December 2019

## 'Outdoor Learning: Happy Children make Happy Learners!'

Mrs Howells

Crwys Primary School – Wales



### Our topic: 'Collecting Natural Resources'

As part of our Erasmus project this term, we have focussed on the topic 'Collecting natural resources', and shared our activities with our partner schools. During our woodland sessions, pupils have investigated different ways natural materials could be used, and all classes discovering different ways to do so! This topic certainly allowed for imagination, creativity and problem-solving skills.

Activities included;

- Designing Autumn Wreaths.
- Creating 'Nature's paintbrushes' for younger classes to experiment with.
- Den building for woodland creatures.
- Raft making and testing designs.



Year 3/4 creating and testing their Egyptian rafts.



Year 1/2 creating Autumn Wreaths.

### Visiting our International Partners Italy – Istituto Comprensivo Giovanni XXIII

In November, Erasmus partners met in Sicily, Italy, to develop knowledge of their country and culture, and to share best practice in how outdoor learning is used within a different environment.

We were very impressed with our warm welcome received from the school, which included traditional dancing, music, flags and greetings from a few of the children. A tour of the school enabled us to visit different classes, where children were very keen to introduce themselves in English.



Our welcome parade from the children in Sicily.

## Activities:

A workshop was set up whereby visitors were able to contribute to an art project using natural materials, in line with our joint theme for outdoor learning tasks this term.



*Art project using natural materials.*

Although outdoor learning was not present on the school grounds during our time at the school, they make use of local environments and rely on day trips and external educators to deliver outdoor learning sessions. For example, on the Tuesday we made a Historical visit to ancient Greek ruins at the 'Valle dei Templi' in Agrigento, where children also participated in an art workshop using natural materials (beans, seeds, etc).



*Learning about beans and seeds, and using these to create images of the temples.*

A visit to the local Nature Reserve 'Capo Rama' with the WWF showed the environmental protection status of the floral and fauna in Sicily. As delegates, we were given the opportunity to support the WWF in the planting oak trees, which was now under protection, with only 15 left in Sicily. This linked with one of our key Erasmus topics 'Environmental protection'.



*Planting oak trees in the nearby nature reserve.*

A presentation in the town hall allowed us to meet with the Counsellor of Education, who recognised the value and importance of international project work and collaboration.

Overall, we enjoyed a fantastic opportunity to gain an insight into a different educational system, whilst also appreciating how they approach teaching and learning within outdoor education. It was very evident how proud they were of their rich culture and beautiful surroundings, and how they wanted to share the history of Sicily with us.

## A VIDEO SHOWCASING ACTIVITIES IN ITALY:

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE:



OR VISIT:

[HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?LIST=PL6ED2FTJQW0MY9W8B5NVFC-WVQ1RJ6BSW&V=7EMB7AHREOY&APP=DESKTOP](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PL6ED2FTJQW0MY9W8B5NVFC-WVQ1RJ6BSW&v=7EMB7AHREOY&app=desktop)

