

MEADOWPARK – NEWSLETTER – WEEK 24 – 25.01.19

Gustav Holst's The Planets Suite was utterly delightful last Sunday at Dynamic Earth <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Isic2Z2e2xs> and being able to switch off from the outside world in warmth and comfort was just what was needed to conclude the end of a weekend and mental preparation for the week ahead. Sometimes we need to re-configure our routines and approach new experiences with an open mind and an open heart.

I have aimed to provide learning opportunities for staff over the last few months by inviting speakers, trainers and members of the extended school staff to our monthly meeting and on Tuesday Gordon Craig and Jennifer Jones were in to teach us a little bit about the My World of Work website, and we all participated in the Animal Me quiz <http://animalme.myworldofwork.co.uk/> . If we are to fully utilise the MWOW website to the advantage of all our young people then we need to become familiar with all it has to offer and what better way than to find out what your personality trait is? We had Koalas, Clownfish, a Seal a Dolphin, Seahorse and Teddy Bears. As one person put it 'So do we really work in a zoo?' Have a go for yourself – it's fun, free and doesn't commit you to anything. This version is generally used in the primary schools to encourage children to start to think about possible career paths and certainly to get to know themselves a little better. I remember at age 10 being asked what I wanted to do when I grew up and my immediate reply was a Nurse or a Teacher. Often we know what our destiny will be without being overly conscious about it – as with Ballard who located the wreck of the Titanic (see newsletter 18.01.19) but with MWOW we have the tools to be able to explore the steps required to achieve goals and this will support learning, teaching, and progression for everyone at Meadowpark. We will be giving all our young people an opportunity to explore their personality traits in preparation for more in-depth work on MWOW and I am excited to see just where this journey will take us.

Yesterday we had the benefit of a teacher who also works closely with the Emotion Works team to offer remaining time to our teachers. Lisa arrived with her 'mobile classroom', a huge smile on her face and an incredible surge of energy. Her theme for all pupils was Burns and everyone went home enriched with facts, history and a lavender filled heart. We look forward to having Lisa in with us again on 1<sup>st</sup> February when 2 staff members will participate in Emotion Works training for children with Severe and Complex needs.

Returning to the theme of planets, we have been blessed with clear night skies and bright early mornings this week, the stars have shone brighter and the sunrises have been breath-taking and despite the cold, pupils are beginning to want to explore our outside spaces again, so we will continue to focus on all opportunities to be out and about.

I will be making time over the weekend to read the Ten traits of Resilience by James Hilton and going on my own planetary journey to watch The Dark Side of the Moon at Dynamic Earth.

Have a peaceful weekend

C. Prime 25.01.19