

## Talk For Learning Action Research Project – Year 6 St Mary’s CE School Woodbridge.

### Using the ‘Walking Chocolate Bar’ activity as a lesson starter when learning about evacuation in World War Two.

The children had already learnt about evacuation from a variety of different activities.

- Friend or Foe by Michael Morpurgo had been read as a whole class novel.
- They had listened to a short presentation and seen artefacts relating to evacuation on their trip to Debach Airfield Museum.
- They had seen a range of propaganda posters including some relating to evacuation.
- Each child had read a letter written by evacuees and then interviewed one another in role as the writer of the letter to find out about different experiences.

I wanted the children to write a balanced argument addressing the question ‘Was evacuation a good thing?’ and used this activity to activate prior knowledge which could be used by the children when writing their introduction.

After folding a piece of A4 paper into eight sections, the children were asked to discuss and agree on two facts about evacuation with a partner. They then circulated around the room with their paper in order to find 6 people who could give them 6 more facts.

This was a really quick and efficient way of the children sharing information without teacher input being needed. Everyone was involved and the children were actively engaged in verifying facts and building on, or challenging and refining one another’s ideas as they circulated.

The children then went on to select which facts could be useful and relevant to use in the introduction to their extended writing task which they all found easy to write with their agreed facts to hand.



26.11.2019.

10. To recall things I know about ~~an~~ evacuation: walking chocolate bar.

They had cards around their neck with all their information on it, e.g. names, date of birth.

They went with their teachers when they were going to their new families.

You didn't always get evacuated with their siblings.

During World War 2, evacuation numbers changed.

The children only carried a small suitcase with a spare pair of clothes and a change of underwear.

The government only put pictures of smiling children in newspapers so that mothers wouldn't be worried. They also used propaganda posters to persuade mothers.

1,500,000 children were evacuated in 1939 at the start of the war because of the fear of mustard bombs.

All children had a different experience.

X5 defeating defeating defeating defeating defeating

erA1

Excellent - good cohesion<sup>REM</sup>

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

Please reread and sort out <sup>REM</sup> one error in paragraph 3. Done

Was evacuation a good thing?

The evacuation of children from major cities - such as Birmingham - to smaller villages - such as Eyke - began as soon as war broke out in September 1939. Over the time of the war, the numbers of evacuees varied a lot. At the start of the war, as many as 1,500,000 children were sent away because the fear of the Germans dropping mustard gas bombs were very high. Although a lot of effort was put into persuading mothers (with things such as propaganda posters), they were still reluctant to part with their children. After time, the mothers knew that the best thing to do was to send their children away because they would have a better chance to live and have more experiences. However, not everyone would argue that evacuation was a positive thing.