

## Spring 2024 Newsletter from Mellis CE Primary

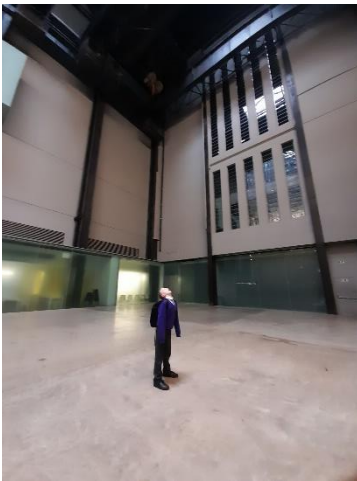
**'Inspiring an enriched curriculum experience!'**

### 1) Parliament Visit!

### 2) A visitor from Antarctica!

### A visit to the Mother of Parliaments!

Mellis School endeavours to provide multiple opportunities to enrich of the wider curriculum experience for the children of the School. This can take many forms, not least of which is the School's commitment to ambitious educational visits.



Our Year 6s were fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament early in January. A visit some four months in the planning, they spent two hours in literal corridors of power, walking along the same corridors, rooms and chambers where kings, queens, prime ministers had gone before – and in so doing learned about the importance of the British values of democracy and debate that we are so fortunate to have in our country. To see the House of Lords, the House of Commons, to see where history happened and how we choose to run our affairs was a true privilege!

But it didn't stop there. A day in one of the greatest, if not the greatest city on the planet yields so much potential in the way of cultural capital, to entirely new experiences and to literally seeing things from a different perspective! The 'Sixes' travelled by train and Tube (a new experience for many); walked the 'skyscrapered' streets of the City; found bubblegum art on the Millenium Bridge; dined out overlooking the Thames; visited the Turbine Hall of the Tate Modern to view huge artworks by an avant garde Nigerian artist;





went mudlarking on the banks of the Thames; marvelled at some extreme skateboarding and saw London from upon high from the roof-top gardens at 120 Fenchurch Street. They did so to many compliments about their attention and behaviour from passer-bys and education leaders at Parliament; one pupil was heard to remark that she 'had conquered' her anxieties about going to London – it was worth it for that comment alone!

However, that was not the end of it. With careful planning on behalf of the Year 6 teacher Mrs Wyncoll, the Year 6s were able to fully capitalise on their experience in terms of enhancing their learning across many areas of the curriculum. They

- Wrote detailed information leaflets about the Houses of Parliament
- Produced effective artworks of Westminster Palace based on Monet's works
  - Drew scaled architectural elevations of the Houses of Parliament
- Researched and wrote about the role of Parliament in how decisions are reached in the government of Britain
- Collaborated with one another to produce a joint ICT supported presentation on the trip with a packed audience of parents and governors, with each and every child taking part in public speaking with great effect

The visit itself therefore was effectively fully exploited to extend not only beyond the memories and experiences of the day itself – worthy in their own right – to enhancing the delivery of the wider curriculum through that elusive element – inspiration!



### A Visitor from Antarctica!



Our Year 1/2s have been learning about explorers, and our Year 5/6s have been studying Antarctica in geography this term. How perfect then that an Old Mellisian from the Class of 2009 was able to come in to school to give a brilliant presentation on her recent six week voyage to Antarctica itself on the maiden voyage of the Science Research Ship the RRS Sir David Attenborough!



Miss Mollie Allerton (MSc) is currently completing her PhD in Oceanography, and was working as a climate research scientist during this voyage. She was able to bring a huge amount of enrichment to the children's learning, talking about the ship, the work and her varied experiences on the frozen continent from fending off seals to watching pods of Orcas, to life on board ship and to the endless vistas of this remote world!

