

Houses of Parliament Visit – 2011



www.parliament.uk



As part of our P.S.E curriculum we were extremely fortunate to have been enabled the opportunity to visit the Houses of Parliament. The purpose of this superb visit was to teach our year six pupils about democratic decision making, elections and voting.

Through active learning, pupils gained a clear understanding of the relevance, role, work and history of Parliament. Pupils also learnt about the importance of laws and rules in society and how laws are implemented in Parliament.



Before going on the Houses of Parliament tour, we could not resist the opportunity to explore the Victoria and Albert museum. We were amazed by the seemingly endless array of historical treasures within the museum. We were especially delighted to discover this Celtic cross (left) that reminded us of the Celtic cross kept in our school office.

We stopped for a spot of lunch in front of the London Eye and enjoyed taking in the sights of London. We also enjoyed a bus tour of the 'Big Smoke' and were amazed by the number of tourists queuing up to visit Westminster Abbey after the Royal wedding, which had taken place in the previous week.



As part of our tour of the Houses of Parliament, we visited Westminster Hall (left). It was very busy with workers who were preparing the hall for US President Barack Obama, who was to be speaking in Westminster Hall as part of his State visit in May.



Westminster Hall provided a perfect opportunity for a group shot (above) and a much deserved chance to rest our feet!

As part of our visit to the Houses of Parliament, the pupils undertook a workshop on elections and voting. As part of the workshop, the pupils were assigned to pretend political parties. In their political parties, pupils had to develop and present a competitive campaign.



At the end of the campaigns, the pupils had to fill in a ballot paper for the political party whose proposals they agreed with. However, pupils were not allowed to vote for their own political party! The workshop was fantastic fun and the pupils really seemed to gain a great deal from the experience.