

Year 3 Carlton Marshes School Trip

On Tuesday 6th June, Year 3 pupils went on a trip to Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve. The objectives of the trip were to explore and identify a range of plants and develop children's understanding of plant life cycles and growth.

The children arrived at the nature reserve filled with excitement after the coach ride and eager to start exploring. We were welcomed to the site by our designated Engagement Officer who spent the day with us leading a variety of fun and interactive activities.



To begin our day, children played a seed game in which they pretended to be seeds, searching for the things they required to grow into plants. They had to collect cards representing air, water, soil, light and warmth without getting caught by hungry birds trying to eat them!

Our Engagement Officer explained pollination and the important role that flowers play in a plant's life cycle. Children then used their scientific enquiry skills to explore a range of local flowers growing at the marshes. They made careful observations to identify the shape, number of petals and colour of the different flowers and recorded their data in a table. At first glance, there didn't appear to be many flowers in the field; however, after some searching, the children were shocked at just how many different flowers they spotted! Afterwards, the children became reporters by selecting and interviewing a plant to find out more about its characteristics. They particularly enjoyed measuring the height of their chosen plant and many even had a go at converting millimetres to centimetres.



Next, everyone went on a nature walk around the marshes with binoculars and bird spotter sheets to see if any wildlife could be spotted. Pupils identified a variety of birds, including swifts, swans and mallards. While waiting patiently in The Lookout, children were even lucky enough to see a marsh harrier and a deer!

Finally, after lunch, the children explored the trees in the woodland area and they were tasked with matching branches to the trees they belonged to. Using their observational skills, they identified Willow, Alder, Hawthorn and Elder trees. The children enjoyed spending the remainder of their time at Carlton Marshes being artistic, by making leaf and bark rubbings. They loved the beautiful patterns they discovered in the nature around them. One of the children's favourite parts of the day was discovering a tawny owl perched high up in a tree while they were enjoying their colouring.



When it came time to leave, the children were disappointed and, on the coach ride back to school, many were already discussing making return trips to the reserve to enjoy it with their families. Year 3 would like to thank the Parish Council for subsidising this fantastic school trip.