

Primary fun
with themed curriculum
and interactive workshops

Coastal surprises

CASE STUDY:

SEASHORE ADVENTURES WITH THE GARDEN CLASSROOM

School: Gayhurst Primary,
Gerrards Cross

Subject: Cross curricular

Number of pupils: 30



Photo credit: Isabella Rose

- Gayhurst Primary School visited the coast in Walmer, Kent.

When you live in Hackney in North London, the countryside is a bit of a foreign land. You've heard of it but can't really imagine it. So, the first surprise for many Year 5 pupils from Gayhurst Primary was the train journey. Boarding at Stratford International it wasn't long before they left the urban sprawl and were hurtling through green fields and woods on their way to Walmer in Kent and The Garden Classroom's (TGC) pilot Seashore Adventures camp.

Meeting TGC's team at the station they bundled their gear into the van and started their hour-long hike along the

seashore to their home for the next four days, TGC's campsite at Kingsdown. And what a site it is. Perched on top of a cliff with steps leading down to the best rockpooling beach in the area, the peace and freshness of the air immediately struck them. So, it wasn't long before they were down on the beach, just getting to know it, before returning for their first camp fire supper, songs and stories and perhaps just a few hours sleep under canvas.

Every day started with a hearty breakfast and then there were all sorts of activities to do. Although the Garden Classroom team had an outline plan they wanted

Back in the classroom

Every evening when the kids were in their tents there was a teacher/TGC team debrief round the fire to brainstorm ideas for taking the trip back into the classroom.

Ideas whilst on the trip involved writing daily diary of events which could be used back at school, letters or postcards to parents/carers describing the trip.

Back in the classroom children could create adventure stories using the seashore setting they explored, write a historical story based on WWII action on the Kent coast, prepare a presentation about the adventures for an assembly and research into plastic pollution in sea and discuss what can be done about it.

