

Beechwood visit to Ghana

My journey began at Manchester airport where myself and two other teachers from Leeds flew to Accra, the capital city of Ghana with a stop in Lisbon, Portugal.

As I stepped off the aeroplane at 9pm, I could feel the 25°C heat and humidity. I was driven to a hotel in busy Accra where I stayed the night ready for my adventure to begin the following day starting with my journey to Sefwi Wiaswo.



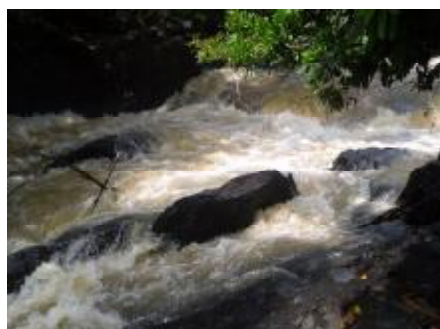
During my 6 days in Ghana I visited all of the 9 schools within in our Connecting Classrooms project and felt very welcome at each one. We were welcomed by celebrations of dancing and singing by the children as they told us proudly about their school, cooked traditional food for us to taste and allowed us to watch and engage in their lessons.



The most memorable visit was to our link school Nana Biney Primary school. The children and teachers met us in the local town and we sang and danced as we walked to the school. They performed a traditional tale when we arrived and were very happy to accept our book of Spirit Alive photographs and work surrounding our last years focus of 'health'.



We were also able to visit some different places during my visit. I visited Kakum national park, an undisturbed rainforest with 200 species of birds, 400 species butterflies and 40 species of mammals. I walked along a rope bridge above the trees up to 65m in height. I also visited the many villages surrounding Sefwi Wiaswo where I could talk to the local children and find out more about what it was like to live in Ghana. We explored a cocoa farm and learnt about the process of growing and shipping cocoa to use in chocolate.



I was lucky enough to be able to purchase some artefacts for our children at Beechwood and in particular Year 4 for their topic work. I brought a sample of Kente cloth which used to be the cloth of kings but now worn for special occasions. I also brought some Ghanaian jewellery, a painting and was given a smock dress from Nana Biney school.

I thoroughly enjoyed my visit to Ghana and found it very beneficial to strengthen our link and support our children's learning about the wider world. During meetings we discussed and planned how we will keep our link with Nana Biney school strong for the next three years and beyond through exchange and effective communication.

