

WWW Arctic Extravaganza



On the 24th November 2017, 102 children and their teachers, facilitators from five organisations plus a keynote speaker descended on the UWE Exhibition and Conference Centre, Bristol.

The WWW Arctic Extravaganza event was fantastic, and only possible with the support and funding of £1,175 from the Jo Walters Trust. A huge thank you, therefore, from all at Wicked Weather Watch for your belief in our ability to organise our first ever event of this kind – it paid off and we hope that you enjoy reading all about the day, and the impact that it had on the children and teachers.

The 100+ children came from eight different schools across the Bristol region. They had found out about the event via several different means: Facebook advertising, an email from our partner Sustainable Learning, previous contact between WWW and the school and recommendations from personal contacts about the work of WWW. The schools that took part were very varied, some bringing their best and brightest pupils, others choosing to bring a more challenging cohort to experience and benefit from a less formal education setting outside of the classroom. The schools that took part were:

- Westbury-on-Trym Academy
- Stone with Woodford Primary School
- St Teresa's Catholic Primary School
- May Park Primary school
- Andalusia Academy
- Rangeworthy Primary School
- Combe St Nicholas Primary School
- Begbrook Primary Academy

2 home educators and their sons also attended.



Gill Johnson from WWW welcomes everyone

The overall aim of the day was to use different, creative and interactive mediums to relay key messages about climate change and increase both children and adults' knowledge and understanding of the Arctic region. 4 fun and engaging sessions were on offer, with schools able to do 3 of them:

Sound Matters very cleverly used music to explore the sounds of climate change. They showcased how we can connect to this fundamental, global issue through sound, including the causes and impacts of climate change. The highlight of the session was definitely Mike showing off his didgeridoo playing skills to demonstrate how it can imitate the sounds of nature.

“I loved the sound of the didgeridoo”

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Emma Espley brought along the Arctic Alive kit (a giant interactive map) which helped the children to learn about the geography of the Arctic, map sea ice cover, discuss global warming and consider what the UK is doing to help reduce the impact of climate change.

Kathryn Minchew, a former semi-finalist on MasterChef, and now a professional chef had the children baking a chocolate crispy footprint to represent a carbon footprint, and investigated the source of the required ingredients and their consumption of food and food miles. The children not only got to enjoy a tasty treat but were inspired to think about whether they could buy and eat local food to reduce energy consumption.

Jukebox Collective, an NGO from south Wales, were a huge hit with the children, using hip-hop to explore the Arctic environment, exploring what the impact of climate change might feel like e.g. melting or being a fast flowing river.

“It was the best best day ever!”

During lunch, the children had an opportunity to chat informally with an Arctic explorer, Dave Cushing, who was member of the Polar Ocean Challenge (<http://polarocean.co.uk/>) crew, and Professor Terry V. Callaghan, an Arctic scientist.

“I’ve learnt a lot about climate change”

Prof. Terry then rounded the day off with his presentation bringing all the key climate change messages together. Both pupils and teachers listened intently and were keen to quiz Terry about his work and first-hand experiences of this incredible region.

As important as learning about climate change was the opportunity for many less advantaged children to take part in such a day for free, inspiring children not only to want take care of their future and planet but to give them the confidence and belief they are actually able to do so.

“We have a really high proportion of children from poor backgrounds at May Park, the majority on free school meals and a lot of challenging behaviour. It is fantastic that they can come to a day like this, learn about really important topics but at the same time see the young facilitators from Jukebox [dance session] who have come from nothing and done amazing things for themselves”

Mrs Linden Teale, May Park Primary School



Pupils from St Teresa's discuss their carbon footprint before enjoying the tasty treats they made



Prof. Terry Callaghan captures the children's attention and imaginations.

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Following up

All of the schools that attended the day gave extremely positive feedback about the event, and WWW will follow up and further support them to explore climate change back in their schools. For example, Westbury-on-Trym Academy have requested a speaker for an all-schools assembly to launch their science week when they will be looking at Polar regions and climate change, followed by support with a lesson for their KS2 pupils.

Where in the Arctic is...?
Pupils engaging with the
Arctic Alive giant map.

Stone with Woodford were particularly inspired by the Arctic Alive map, and wish to use it with a larger group of children, and perhaps even with other schools in their local area, supported by WWW.



Thank you!

We are extremely grateful for the grant of £1,175 received from The Jo Walters Trust to support us in this event. By partnering with WWW you have provided vital foundational support to help us really establish this kind of multi-school event as a key part of our schools programme and helped us to inspire the next generation to care about climate change, to learn the skills to act and to encourage children to adopt more sustainable lifestyles and reduce the impact on our fragile world.

Hip-hopping about climate
change with Jukebox

We hope to hold many more of these events, and that the Jo Walters Trust consider partnering with Wicked Weather Watch again.



Wicked Weather Watch (WWW) inspires young people to take an active interest in, and care about, climate change. Uniquely, we bring the issue to life for children and teachers by drawing on the personal experience of explorers, such as our Founder, Sir David Hempleman-Adams, and others who have seen first-hand how climate change is affecting people and wildlife. We focus on the Arctic to highlight the effects of climate change as it is more severe in the Arctic than almost anywhere else globally, warming at twice the rate of the rest of the world. We explore climate change at both local and global levels, helping children understand the links between the Arctic and the UK, developing their knowledge on the issues, inspiring them to take action through more sustainable use of resources at school and at home, and encouraging them to get involved in helping our planet.