

Greatwood – 2024



On Monday 13th May, Year 4 travelled to Greatwood Residential Centre in the Quantocks for a 2 night stay.



Monday

We arrived at Greatwood in the pouring rain and settled in to our cabins which were nestled in the beautiful Quantock hills surrounded by tall pine trees. After our packed lunch, we went to the river for some duck-racing and dam-building. Arthur Parsons won the final – leaving Mr Armitage feeling robbed as he came in a close second. Already very wet from the incessant rain, we didn't mind getting even wetter with the dam building contest. Sophie and Edward won the award for carrying the heaviest rocks. Also, Frederick made an impressive human dam! Good job we all remembered to wear our waterproof trousers!





Warming up with some delicious cake and many trips to the drying room, we had some time to settle into our cabins before more delicious food. Dinner was chicken and rice or jacket potato with a selection of toppings! A welcome meal after a very busy and wet afternoon.



With no break from the rain and with very wet coats our evening activity changed to an exciting game of Bingo! Mrs Weaver winning the first prize closely followed by Abdul, Edward and Bella!

After a story from Mrs Larkins, we all settled into our cosy cabins and fell (fairly) quickly into a deep slumber ready for the full day of activities.

Tuesday

With some very early risers, Tuesday started early. We breakfasted on cereal, toast and a hot selection of food before a walk in the woods led by Patrick. We learnt about pine trees, ants and wood sorrel – even trying some before a craggy descent back into the camp – our arms filled with logs in readiness for the campfire that evening.



We then split into groups to complete team-building, archery and swimming. Poor Mr Armitage lost a game of rock, paper, scissors and was pushed into the pool as a forfeit. With the weather improving we had lots of time to play

on the field in between our activities. After another hearty slice of cake, we had some time to perfect our talent show entries before another delicious meal of pasta, meatballs and jacket potatoes followed by a chocolate brownie with cream.



As the sun set around Greatwood, we had a brilliant time around the campfire singing songs and watching some amazing talent – singing, dancing, cheerleading and some drama! Michael's dancing stole the show! Feeling really exhausted, after some hot chocolate we went straight to our cabins and the teachers came to read us stories about Greatwood. The camp was soon silent apart from a few snores from the teachers' rooms.



Wednesday

We awoke to a bright morning up at Greatwood and quickly set to work packing our things before another big breakfast and some time at the shop. We were then set the challenge of making and designing rockets which had to carry an egg-pilot safely on its flight over Greatwood. Some poor egg-pilots didn't make it: Amelia Egghart flying off-course head-first into a window was a sad moment. However, there were some impressive rockets.



We ended our time at Greatwood with a sandwich lunch and some special awards. We were very pleased with Eden and Bella for receiving the Super Star Award selected by the Greatwood instructors. Another special mention must go to Cabin 3 (Mackenzie, Devon, Frederick, Huw and Arthur Perkins) who tirelessly kept their cabin spotless for their entire stay. Also, Arthur Perkins and Angel received the special award selected by the Knights Templar staff for their kindness, positivity and for keeping a smile on their faces for the duration of the residential.



We would like to give a special mention to:

Mrs Mees - for keeping us all safe and healthy for the trip and for hanging up the washing!

Mr Armitage – for playing football with us and bringing his guitar for a song around the campfire

Mrs Larkins – for nagging us to keep our rooms tidy and for reading us a bedtime story

Mrs Weaver and Mrs Cody - for coming to keep us safe overnight

Mrs Rawle, Mrs Puttick and Mrs Wooldridge – for looking after us during the day



And finally, a special mention to our parents, without whom, this trip would not have been possible.