

## Providing cultural capital through our School Curriculum.

### Introduction to the Project

As lead of Art and Design and Music in Sunnybrow Primary School I want the children to be engaged and excited to learn through the Arts. This year I have started our journey on the Arts Mark award. During the application process the staff got together to discuss what our focus needed to be and how we could do this. One of the areas we needed to improve on was making sure our children could access a richer variety of experiences and opportunities through our local area. Once we established this one opportunity through The Forge arose and we started a partnership with Bowes Museum.



### Development

We were really pleased when we partnered with Bowes Museum as this gave us lots of opportunities for cultural capital through our school curriculum. On the first meeting we discussed what we were wanting/could offer to each other as a partnership. It was a really exciting opportunity and we could link the museum to our school arts curriculum as well as our school history curriculum. We then planned out our time throughout the year so that every year in school would get the visit the museum to look around the grounds, learn about the important people who built it as well as learning about our curriculum topics that were showcased at the museum. We also booked in sessions where Bowes Museum would work with our classes in school bringing artefacts in to look at.



Our reception class has visited Bowes for their topic on Homes as this year Bowes museum had an exhibition on of different types of homes. Our mixed year 1 and 2 class will have visited the Museum twice to link with our topics

Toys and Kings and Queens. They have also had Bowes Museum into school to work with them on making their own peg dolls. Year 3 and 4 have been to the museum twice and had an afternoon in school with the museum looking at their topics of the Stone age and the Romans. By the end of the academic school year class 4 will have had a trip to Bowes museum and an in-school activity focusing on their topics of Ancient Egypt and Historians.

### Challenges

Our main challenge for this project was the timings. Some class topics were able to fit into Bowes Museum's exhibitions well and were getting a lot of visits in to the museum for learning, however some of our class topics weren't at the same time as the exhibition was shown in the museum. This was a challenge but we were able to make sure that each class was able to get one visit to the Museum as well as having an in-school activity that was carried out by the museum.



### Impact

Working with Bowes Museum this year has been valuable. It has met our focus of getting the children back into the local area and had given them the rich experiences of what is in our world as well as improved their curriculum learning by making it more interesting and engaging. Staff have also commented on how engaged the children were during the visits and how they have used the knowledge they have required from the visits back at school in their learning.

### Reflections

The staff at Sunnyborw Primary along with myself believe this partnership this year has been a valuable part of our curriculum and whole school approach to what experiences and knowledge we want our children to leave our school with and develop in the next stage of their lives. Moving forward we would like to keep connected with Bowes Museum and create more links with other organisations.