

The Festival of Dance 2022

It was a joy to take some of our Squirrel Class pupils to Lord Williams's School on Wednesday evening to perform at the Festival of Dance 2022 with the other local schools in Thame Partnership. This enriching opportunity allowed pupils to showcase their creativity, confidence and teamwork in a professional performance setting.

Creative Process and Collaboration

The children performed a wonderful interpretation of *Carnival of the Animals*, which was choreographed and rehearsed with the expert support of Coach James. We are extremely grateful for the time, skill and enthusiasm he brought to developing such a thoughtful and engaging piece.

A heartfelt thank you also goes to Mrs Harriman, who gave up a considerable amount of her own time to rehearse with the children and support them throughout the evening. Her commitment ensured pupils felt confident, prepared and supported at every stage of the performance.

What made this performance particularly special was the level of pupil ownership involved. The concept, choice of animals and many of the movements were created by the children themselves, demonstrating imagination and independence. Pupils were also involved in producing a number of the animal masks, further deepening their engagement and sense of pride in the final performance.

Performance and Behaviour

The children performed with confidence, creativity and joy, capturing the audience's attention through expressive movement and imaginative interpretation. They were a credit to themselves and the school.

Equally impressive was their exemplary behaviour, both during rehearsals and while waiting between performances which was no small achievement on what was a very hot day. Pupils showed maturity, patience and respect throughout the event, reflecting our school's values in every aspect of the visit.

Impact and Personal Development

The Festival of Dance provided a valuable opportunity for pupils to:

- Develop confidence performing in front of an audience
- Work collaboratively as part of a creative group
- Take responsibility for their ideas and contributions
- Experience the arts in a wider community setting

These experiences strongly support pupils' personal development, cultural capital and creative expression.

A Proud Moment

Once again, we are incredibly proud of our children. Well done, Squirrel Class, for a truly memorable performance that highlighted your creativity, commitment and teamwork. This was a wonderful celebration of dance, music and pupil voice.

