

Curriculum Enrichment: EYFS Visit to the Natural History Museum, Tring

On 19th June, our EYFS class enjoyed a full-day visit to the Natural History Museum at Tring, taking part in a rich, hands-on learning experience focused on exploring the natural world and the variety of life on Earth. The visit was closely linked to the EYFS curriculum, supporting learning through first-hand experiences and meaningful exploration.

Curriculum Intent (EYFS)

The intent of this visit was to develop children's curiosity, understanding and respect for the natural world, in line with the EYFS area of Understanding the World. By encountering real animals and specimens, children were supported to:

- Notice similarities and differences between living things
- Begin to understand that there is a wide variety of life on Earth
- Talk about what they observe using simple scientific language
- Develop a sense of awe and wonder about the world around them



The visit also supported children's cultural capital, giving them access to a national museum and broadening their experiences beyond the classroom.

Curriculum Implementation

Throughout the day, the children took part in practical, hands-on activities designed specifically for young learners. They explored museum displays, observed real specimens and were encouraged to talk about what they could see, notice and wonder about.

Staff supported children to:

- Ask questions such as "What is it?", "Where does it live?" and "Why does it look like that?"
- Use new vocabulary related to animals, habitats and features
- Make connections to previous learning about animals and the natural world



The visit strongly supported Communication and Language, as children were encouraged to describe, explain and share ideas, and PSED, as they worked together, took turns and followed routines in a new environment.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The visit provided excellent opportunities for children to demonstrate the Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- Playing and Exploring – investigating exhibits and engaging with real-life objects
- Active Learning – staying focused, showing curiosity and enthusiasm
- Creating and Thinking Critically – making links, asking questions and sharing ideas



Children were motivated, engaged and eager to explore, showing sustained interest throughout the day.

Impact on Learning

The impact of the visit was clear in the children's high levels of engagement, discussion and recall. Children confidently talked about animals they had seen, compared features and shared their ideas back in school, demonstrating that learning had been meaningful and memorable.

This experience helped children to:

- Build early scientific understanding
- Develop confidence in unfamiliar settings
- Strengthen language and social skills
- Develop positive attitudes towards learning and exploration



Pupil Voice (EYFS)

"I saw lots of animals. My favourite was the big tortoise. I liked looking really closely."

"We learned about animals and where they live. I asked questions and told my teacher what I noticed."

Enrichment With Purpose

This EYFS visit exemplifies how enrichment at Aston Rowant is intentional, curriculum-driven and developmentally appropriate. By placing real-world experiences at the heart of learning, we ensure children build strong foundations for future understanding while nurturing curiosity and a love of learning. The visit to Tring's Natural History Museum was a valuable and inspiring experience that will continue to support children's learning across the EYFS curriculum.