



The Parkgate International

June 2023

No. 6



Hello!

Welcome back to the Parkgate International or rather welcome back to school for our pupils who got the chance to go on a fantastic visit to Spain. In this issue of The Parkgate International the pupils who visited Spain and the school in Catalonia that we are partnered with for the International projects have put together a recount of their amazing journey all the way to Barcelona and back again.

Sit comfortably and enjoy reading their recount of each day of their journey. Thank you to the pupils who went on the trip for returning and sharing all of the amazing memories you made and lessons you learned along the way.

Monday

We had an early start to our first day. At 3:00 am we travelled to school with our parents. At 3:30 we got on our way to Heathrow airport.



OUTSIDE THE BOX - The visitors from The UK and Sweden.

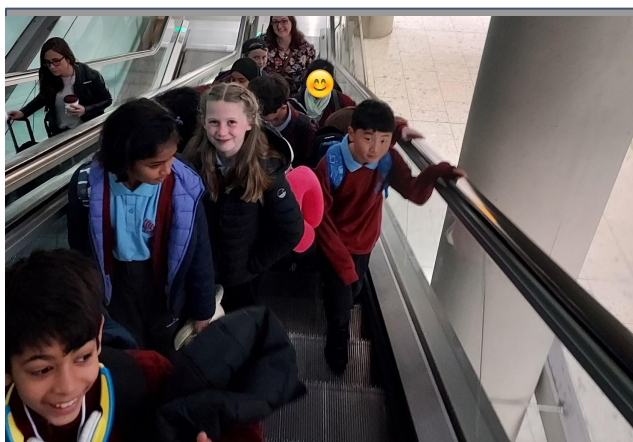
When the coach arrived at the airport we got dropped off and wheeled our suitcases and bags in the airport terminal. When we got to the suitcase drop off we found out that we had to get our tickets there so we scanned our passports and queued up. Later we got moved to a line that was less busy and soon got to security. Security took a long time. We had to take out a lot of stuff for them to check. Once we were through security we boarded the plane and flew to Spain.

When we got there we drove straight to the mountain in the rural area surrounding Barcelona, Montserrat. Near the top of the mountain we had lunch and took in the breathtaking views. In the afternoon we took the coach to the school and watched a talent show in their gym building. We took part and sang the Parkgate song for them. It was great to see them perform too.

After the talent show we tried Catalan bowling and had dinner. Catalan bowling is a game where you have to throw a small heavy skittle made of wood at some larger skittles to try and knock all but one of them down. After our dinner of traditional Catalan sausage hot dogs we made our way to the place where we were staying. It was a lovely place to stay and the rooms were excellent. Before bed we were given our diaries to start filling out with all our adventures so far and very quickly went to sleep in preparation for another busy day in the morning.



The view from Montserrat



The international pupils leaving for Spain



The house the pupils stayed in near Artes

Tuesday

On Tuesday, we woke up at 7:15 am. That morning we went straight to the school and had a sports day. During sports day we did six different activities including football, handball, hockey, badminton, a dodgeball game that they call 'killing rabbits'. and basketball. We were put into six groups at the school before heading to where we had our sports day. It was a very hot day so we needed to keep filling up our water bottles. All the activities were great fun.

During the rest of the school day we went to do activities in grades 3, 4, 5 and 6. We did two classroom activities which were making bookmarks and games that had been created by the students of Vedruna Artes school. We also did some tie dye with some t-shirts that we brought from a shop. Some people brought their own from home too. Afterwards, there was a giant storm and there was a huge flood. The water went up all the way above our ankles inside the school and there were hailstones that were more like ice cubes than hail. We waited in the canteen of the school where they usually eat lunch to wait until the rain was a little lighter but it just carried on raining heavily.

Eventually we had to leave so made a quick dash for the coach parked around the corner from the school. By the time we got on the coach we were soaked!

We then went to a cathedral in Manresa and we were all wet and soggy but the storm had seemed to settle down. The cathedral was huge and there were giant arches. There were lots of statues in the building and there were giant lights hanging from the ceiling.

After that, we went to a theatre and we watched a musical play called Catania.

There were many people on stage in the background and they did a lot of singing. Some of the students from the Spanish school that we visited were part of the play. They all spoke in Spanish so we didn't understand what they were singing or saying most of the time but understood a lot from the activating they did. Afterwards, we went to a nice tapas restaurant and had dinner. We had the whole restaurant to ourselves and were served so much traditional tapas we were full very quickly.

We got back to the place we were staying at about a little after 11pm and went to sleep straight away again.



Sports day in Artes



Classroom activities and games



Sports day in Artes



Cathedral in Manresa



Classroom activities and games



Drying off after the rain on our way to the theatre performance in Manresa

Wednesday

On Wednesday, we woke up at 7:15am and had breakfast. When we got to school we had a scavenger hunt with the whole of year 5 in the school in Artes. We did different activities around the town including finding pokemon cards, tug of war and we played a game with the sky, sea and land. We did these activities so that we could find a map to go to the next activities. We also had a look around the town Artes whilst we were doing the fun activities. One of the games was similar to chicken or hero but it was called spider.

Afterwards, we went back to the school and got split into two groups of six and did a presentation about our cross-curricular week. After that we sang some songs like 'The day I went to sea' and some Spanish and Swedish songs. When we finished the songs we ate a traditional Catalonia dinner which was mainly made up of bread with cheese or ham.

Once we got home, we had some free time so went into the pool which was freezing cold because of the rain. Mr Last got in first to clear all the leaves before we got in.

After, we got ready for bed and went to sleep feeling rather exhausted from our adventures that day. When we got out of the pool we had a shower and continued to write in our diaries. To warm us up after the freezing cold dip in the pool we drank some hot chocolate and got changed into some warmer clothes for the evening.



Treasure hunt activity around Artes town



Treasure hunt activity around Artes town

Thursday

On Thursday we woke up at 7:00 and went back to the school and mixed in with the normal lessons the pupils in Artes were doing. The subjects we saw included maths, spanish and English. After lunch, we went on a tour of the local winery where the owner explained how they made wine. After a relaxed lunchtime on our final day in Artes we said our goodbyes to the people in the Vedruna school and headed off to the next place we were staying in Barcelona for our final day. We dropped off our bags and luggage in the hostel and then, after a quick tour by Mr Quintana of the area we were staying in Barcelona, we went to a Catalanian restaurant for dinner. For dinner, we had the best chicken and burgers with plenty of Patatas Bravas to go around. After finishing our food we walked back to the hostel we were staying in, found our new rooms again and went to sleep ready to travel again the next day.



Classroom activity



Classroom activity



Classroom activity



Singing together before saying goodbye to the school in Artes

Friday

On Friday we woke up at 7:00 and we had breakfast. After breakfast we said goodbye to the children from Sweden who had been visiting with us and then were taken on a tour around Barcelona by Mr Quintana. We saw the Barcelona cathedral and government building. After the tour we went to a building that Gaudi had designed called 'La Pedrera' and had a tour around it.

Then after we went to a Catalonian McDonalds like restaurant (called 'Vienna') and ate very good food there. We then left to the centre of Barcelona and went on the bus to the airport. When we arrived at the airport we said goodbye to Mr Quintana and Montse, who was the main international coordinator for the school in Artes, and got through security. We had a short amount of time in the airport to look for last minute souvenirs so did a last little bit of shopping. A short while later we boarded the plane and left for England. When we arrived we got through passport security and collected our luggage. We then got on our coach and headed to school. We were greeted by Mrs Pipe as we returned to school late at night.

We said goodbye to the teachers and left to go home and get into our own comfy beds.



La Pedrera



La Pedrera



La Pedrera



The talent show in Artes' local gym hall



Exchanging gifts between schools



More singing on our last day in Artes



The tour of the Winery



The tour of the Winery



Mr Quintana giving us a tour of Barcelona

Created by the pupils of
Parkgate Junior School

