



Crich Junior School
our happy, caring, community school



School Lane
Crich
Matlock
Derbyshire
DE4 5DF
01773 852384

info@crich-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk
Headteacher: Mrs C. Julian

Our Islamic Garden

Our whole school topic this year has been 'Our Heritage' and as part of this we have studied, and are learning to respect different faiths, cultures and traditions. One of the faiths that we have covered is Islam and following our 'Faith Trail' visit to Derby in the spring, we decided that we would like to create our own Islamic Garden.

We are very fortunate to have the skills and support from Kath Foley; a trained horticultural volunteer, who has worked with us every step of the way. Kath has also trained up our pupil gardening experts.

We had to look at existing Islamic Gardens and design our own from what we had learnt.

We planned and measured the space.

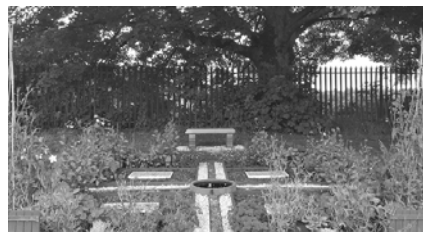
Removed the turf.

Put a wooden border around the edge.

Dug the soil ready for planting.

Designed and made a traditional geometric design ready for planting.

When we had completed our geometric layout and we have planted out our seedlings (we chose plants to represent the Islamic colours: reds, blues, purples and golds). They include: Nasturtiums, cornflowers, sweet peas and marigolds. Every pupil made an Islamic ceramic tile on our creative arts day, which we have used to decorate the garden.



Welcoming back the swifts

You may have noticed we have a new roof at school. Every year the swifts rest on our roof. We have mounted swift boxes to the school and were delighted to see that the swifts were back in the village in May. We had a celebration event to welcome them back.

A Swift Story

One more day, nearly time, crack! I'm out and it's the 14th June. Mmm, I have a fly, my first fly. I am determined to do push-ups but I can't, I have no feather, my eyes are closed and my legs are very weak. I need to fly but Mummy says I am too weak.

One week later... It's very dark in here. Am I still inside my egg? I have opened my eyes and I am in a hole. I am nearly ready to come out of my hole. Mummy says I have to learn to fly, but I think it might be easy. I'm looking out of the hole and I can see children playing. Daddy says it's the school children who have just come back after their break. I think it's some crazy hairy balls that are running around like machines. Push-ups are my favourite things to do.

Eight weeks later... Ready...steady ...hey! Here I go... glide, glide. What! I can't go back to the nest? (sad swift face). I don't know how to fly to Africa. Africa sounds strange and weird. Africa...Africa. It's getting to the start of Autumn so here we go.

There is loads of desert. Wow! No water in sight – these things are on my list:

- Food – check
- Food – check
- Food – check

And most importantly...

- Food – need to find food.

Okay, we need to find food – ready steady go! Fly, breath, another fly, another breath. I could do this forever and ever and forever again!

Next Summer... I am an adult now and I am back from Africa. Af-ri-ca! It still sounds strange to me. Now I'm back at Crich Junior School. It's been a long journey, but I make it back again. Maybe in two years' time I will make a nest of my own and I will have my own chicks.

By Amelie (Year 4)



Swifts

SPRING

Freely frolicking in the cold spring sun watching our new-born gobble of the juicy, squirming worms that we snatch from the ground and drop into their waiting beaks.

The tiny lambs wobble around on their unstable legs, the chicks tweet and flap their tiny wings in excitement.

Back from our holiday, back home, back to the busyness of spring.

SUMMER

Summertime now, the hot sweltering sun shines with pride as our dear young start to fly, clumsily at first but will be graceful with practise.

AUTUMN

It is growing colder. The leaves are beginning to brown the first signs of winter. Quite a way away but growing closer. We will journey far away, to another place away from the cold.

WINTER

Time for the journey – we don't want to get caught in the snow so we will fly to a nice place. We're here now in the sun again like another summer.

By Lily (Year 6)

On our YouTube channel you will hear a piece of music composed by Lydia (year 5) specifically for our 'Welcoming back the swifts' event. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZP2ypY2QxOzMpiKDYhmQ0A>

Crich Fête Bunting

Following a request from Conor (year 4), we decided to incorporate sewing into this year's creative curriculum. This coincided with a request from Joyce Sayles from the Crich Fête Committee to provide them with some new bunting to decorate The Market Place. We have been sewing like mad to try and get it completed and we are really pleased with the results and we hope that you noticed our bunting decorating our market place.



Our American Visitor

In the summer term we had a special guest in school – Elisa Skinner from Michigan in the United States! Elisa has been visiting family in Crich and decided to come and spend some time at our school, so she sat down with Holly (Y6) to discuss how life at Crich Juniors compares with life in America.

Holly: Have you enjoyed your stay?

Elisa: Yes, because I've got to see my family but also meet lots of new friends.

Holly: Have you tried fish and chips yet?

Elisa: No, I don't like fish! But there's lots of British food I do like. I went to Bakewell to see a mill, and I tried the tart and it was delicious. I love roast dinners as well – roast beef with Yorkshire puddings! Oh, and Scotch eggs!

Holly: How have you found the weather?

Elisa: I love the rain because it's usually about 90 degrees in America and you get really bad sunburn.

Holly: What's the biggest difference between your school in America and our school?

Elisa: I think it's the people – the kindness! People are much more sociable, they're not just on computers or playing videogames all the time.

Holly: Do we do anything here that you don't do over there?

Elisa: Dictation! I like that you do things like coding as well, and you do a lot more creative work. I loved playing in your orchestra, it was amazing to do whole pieces of music with all different instruments like guitars and ukuleles with the strings – it was really fun.

Holly: How is our school day different to your normal school day?

Elisa: Things are a lot calmer. We have a lot of lessons in one day but every day we have the same lessons. In my school we sit at separate tables, not all together like here – but I like that way better because you get to be social.

Holly: How did our American Independence Day compare to your 4th July celebrations in America?

Elisa: I think I actually preferred this one because I got to celebrate with lots of people and friends, not just family, and we had hot dogs! The only thing missing was the fireworks.

Holly: Why did you decide to come to a different school while you were on holiday?

Elisa: I came for the experience and because it was a new opportunity – I wanted to see if it was different, and I wanted to see if I could make some new friends which I did – I made a whole group of friends on the first day!

Holly: Was it how you expected it to be?

Elisa: I expected it to be kind of like my school, but it's better!

Holly: If you could visit England at any time, would you?

Elisa: I would visit every single day if I could!

Following our visit from Elisa and our American Activity Day on the 4th July, we will be continuing to study North America in September. This promises to be full of exciting learning opportunities so look out for the blogs on our website www.crich-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk You can also find blogs about our camping trip, and Food for Life.



Gold Food for Life

Finally, we are pleased to announce that we were recently, successfully re-assessed for our Gold Food for Life Award. Harry and Emma collected the award on behalf of the school. We were particularly commended on our wider community involvement.