



Clutton School Challenge Readers - Bookbarn Visit

Who knew that the Darwin antiquarian book room in Bookbarn International was named in memory of the great, great, grandfather (Charles Darwin, author of 'On the Origin of Species') of the owner, William Pryor. This was just one of the many things we learned on our recent visit there.

Clutton Primary School has 'Able Reader' groups in Key Stage 2. At present we have 20 pupils who read from a 'Challenge Reading' selection of books bought in for this purpose. Not only do they read these books but they also complete a challenge sheet after each finished book. They have been so enthusiastic throughout the year that we wanted to reward them in some way. A trip to Bookbarn International was arranged and Emma the manager there, warmly welcomed us.

We were treated to a tour around the interior, viewing the books from above and seeing row upon row and crate upon crate of books of every size and design under the sun! We saw the team cataloguing and distributing the incoming titles, the wall of items that had been left in books as bookmarks (cats were a prominent theme) and the Darwin Room.

The children were fascinated to locate the most expensive book (£999) and the oldest (1645) a huge braille book and pouring over faded photographs and illustrations. We followed this with a drink and a super cupcake from their 'Full Stop Cafe' and finally got to choose a book each to take away.

We finished our morning with a bus ride back and although the bus was late, most of our children were by this time sitting in the bus stop reading their new books, followed by a pleasant summer stroll back to school.

I would like to thank Mrs Sebright and the mums who came with us to help and to Emma and the Bookbarn for making our trip so memorable. We all enjoyed every moment of our visit. What a fabulous way to encourage a lifelong love of books in our Key Stage 2 pupils.
Mrs Morgan - Learning Support