

Mr Phaka's visit to St Joseph's - June 2013

In June, the staff and pupils enjoyed hosting Mr Phaka, the link co-ordinator at Chipili Primary School near Lilongwe in Malawi. Thanks to a British Council Connecting Classrooms grant, he was able to stay with us for 10 days. During this time, governors, staff and pupils at St Joseph's were able to benefit from his insight into UK life from a Malawian perspective.



Here is a list of some of Mr Phaka's activities while with us:

1. Observed and participated in lessons with each year group and in specialist lessons such as Forest School and D&T. Saw various school clubs in action.
2. Delivered a whole-school assembly about Chipili School.
3. Taught lessons about biodiversity and the environment to Years 3-6. Many pupils enjoyed his story about a hare and a tortoise - very different from our own version!
4. Attended a 'Great Teaching, Great Learning' Cherwell partnership INSET.
5. Visited a variety of different English homes - many thanks to all those who hosted him.
6. Brought a wide variety of toys and handicrafts made by the pupils of Chipili school and explained how they were made. Our pupils were particularly interested to see the cars made out of wire with actual moving parts. Y3 & 4 pupils will be using these for further study during the coming year.

He also:

1. Took photographs and videos to share with staff and pupils at Chipili on his return.
2. Met with school governors and parents. Many were able to meet Mr Phaka at the St Joseph's international evening.
3. Visited places of interest in and around Oxford, including several churches, an Oxford college and a farm to inform our joint Food and Farming topic. Travelled to London to see the Trooping of the Colour.
4. Exchanged gifts - Chipili staff gave St Joseph's some lovely wood carvings. We were able to give Chipili various books and stationery, along with a camera so that we can continue to share photographs.
5. Mr Phaka and Mrs Lea spent time discussing plans for future shared topics and joint curriculum work. The next joint topic will be based on the theme of Peace and Conflict resolution.

