



Case Study: Exploring the Sundial

Curriculum links



- :👁️ Literacy: myths and legends; writing for purpose; creative writing.
- :👁️ Mathematics: measures and geometry.
- :👁️ Science: light and time.
- :👁️ History: fashion; major events; ancient Greeks.
- :👁️ Art: sculpture; fashion design.

Year Group: 5 & 6

Why the sundial was chosen

The sundial was chosen as the teacher felt that this best suited the topic she was teaching and the children would enjoy linking it to Helen Cresswell's 'The Moondial'.

As a class they had read the book in Literacy lessons previously, and the children were very familiar with its plots and characters. However, their visit to the Sundial didn't focus on the link with this story. Instead they looked at the gardens of Belton House.



What the children did

The children participated in a range of engaging activities, including mathematical scenarios involving measures and geometry.

They were asked to consider what sights and sounds the Sundial had witnessed over the years and researched fashion and major events. The children enjoyed considering the conversations the Sundial had overheard and could understand the secrets the Sundial might share if the characters could talk.

The children were intrigued by the two characters carved into the Sundial and researched Greek myths and legends when they returned to school.

Lots of discussions also took place around the relationship between the characters in the story 'The Moondial' and the underlying theme of bullying became a focus for their collective workshops & PSHE lessons.

What the teacher thought

"The different types of activities and subjects the children participated in were far greater than I had ever imagined. The support from the staff at Belton House enabled me to plan a visit that had structure, yet was flexible enough to allow me to adapt the lessons when we returned to school. The possibilities of how to incorporate this statue into a lesson or scheme of lessons are endless. More importantly, the children were able to participate in practical, 'first-hand experience' learning."

A small exhibition of some of the children's work was displayed in Belton's Discovery Centre over the summer holidays.