

Earthkeepers 2016

It was straight to business for our enthusiastic new Earth-keepers this week. Pupils from year 5 and 6 were invited to a meeting to find out all about the Earth-keepers group - we discussed various issues and upcoming campaigns.

Our first mission was to promote and launch the mega motion campaign. Harry, Eleanor, Lily and Mia were chosen to attend the launch at Auckland Castle on Thursday 8th October.

We had a wonderful morning at the castle, all the mega motion crew were there alongside the castle tour guide, 'Bishop Beck' (the Bishop who built the castle) and Rio our 'Bike It' friend who often visits our school.

Our first session was fantastic - Bishop Beck's story telling. Mia volunteered to become the Bishop and Lily was King Henry 3rd. They told the story of how the Bishop had acquired enough money to build the castle. He was so fit and strong, and this had enabled him to become an amazing fighter. Logan (a boy from another school) played the Prior who lived in the small original part of the castle. The story told of a man who was so unfit from sitting eating pies all day and not doing any exercise, he was unable to defend his home and the Bishop took it from him. The story was hilarious and Mia and Lily are definitely stars in the making!

Next on the agenda was a tour of the castle. We saw the famous Zurbaran's, the throne room and the chapel. Exclusively for us they brought out the original sword used by Bishop Beck in his battles - which is not normally on show to the public.

Afterwards we played games on the grass and then had a go at archery where Harry showed himself to be a truly natural archer!

We had a fabulous morning and felt very lucky to have taken part however, on our way home it was time to get down to business and prepare for our launch on Monday.

Now in its 4th year, MEGA Motion is a hugely successful campaign to encourage young people and their families to adopt sustainable and active travel habits for their journey to school.

MEGA Motion encourages families to leave the car behind and find an active way to get to school every Friday, helping children to stay healthy and teaching them all about environmentally friendly ways of travel. Families can choose to walk, cycle, scoot, use public transport, car share or even park and stride to earn points and win prizes.

Over 6,000 pupils participated in the project across South Durham in 2014/15 and this year will be bigger and better with prizes and exciting activities for pupils to get involved in. There are 30 MEGA Fridays starting on Friday 9th October 2015 and ending on Friday 24th June 2015.

All we have to do is to leave the car behind (whenever possible) and find an active and sustainable way to travel to school every Friday!