



Our trip to Portugal

March 20th – 27th 2022



Arrival

Sunday 20th March 2022

On Sunday, we woke up very early to get the bus to Birmingham Airport. We boarded the RyanAir plane to Porto, Portugal. We were all very excited! When we arrived at Porto Airport, Alexandra (one of the Portuguese teachers) met us and came with us to Vinhais, where we were staying. We stayed in a lovely log cabin, in a biological park where there were lots of animals. There was also a swimming pool outside our cabin – but the water was far too cold for us to go in!

It had been a very long day, so we had an early night, ready for our first full day.



This is the cabin
we stayed in!

Day 1

Monday 21st March 2022



We woke up early ready for our first full day in Vinhais. A coach picked us up and took us to the culture centre, where we would spend the mornings with our partner schools, participating in lots of activities. We met the Headteacher and were the first group to present their school. We made a video showing different areas around our school and spoke about them. We got a big clap, and the other children really liked the playground and swimming pool! We listened to the other children present their school, then listened to some Portuguese students sing and play some songs on the recorder. After that, we learnt some Portuguese phrases, and taught the other students some British Signs.

After we had lunch at the school, we went to the Pork museum where we saw some decorated pigs, and even made pigs fly! We then went to the City Hall where we met the mayor and director of education, who gave us some gifts including binoculars, torches, compass, hats and notepads. In the evening, we all had a lovely meal together, of soup, fish, vegetables and a chocolate cookie cake!



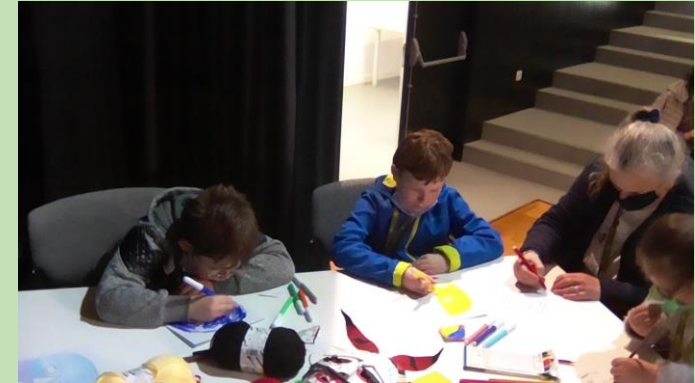


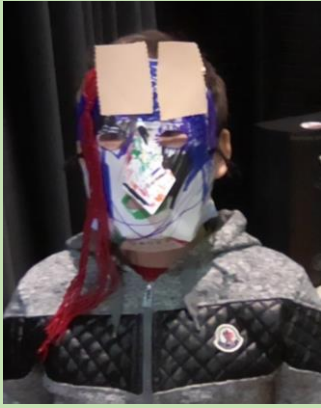
Day 2

Tuesday 22nd March 2022

Once we arrived at the culture centre, we were welcomed by some Portuguese students dressed in a special costume and wearing special masks. We found out that they were related to a special festival that happens in Vinhais at the end of February each year and is one of Portugal's oldest traditions. After this, we decorated our own paper masks to show in the exhibition on Friday. We also tried to carve a traditional wooden mask using a hammer and chisel – we soon realised that it takes a long time to just make 1 mask!

In the afternoon, we were back on the coach on our way to a geological park, where we touched lots of different rocks which are used to make lots of different everyday items, such as talcum powder, tablets and toilet paper!! After that, we visited a man-made lake (Azibo), which had a lovely sandy beach. We also enjoyed eating lots of pancakes with chocolate sauce, before going back on the coach to our cabin.





Day 3

Wednesday 23rd March 2022

On day 3, we had a very musical day! We were back at the culture centre, where we enjoyed a performance of traditional bagpipes, and were soon invited to join in dancing around them with the other students and teachers! We then had a dance lesson, using a paper plate as a friend to dance with, to encourage us to move our bodies even more. We also used our bodies as percussion instruments to make music.

After lunch, we went to the Biological park (where we were staying) and tried the tree top walk! There was also a 'net-box' which was hard to walk/run on! Sam made it all the way to the end of the tree top walk, and everyone called him Spiderman! The children were so brave – much braver than the adults! We then put on our explorer hats and binoculars and looked around the park for the animals. We saw peacocks, geese, donkeys, horses, sheep and the dog that kept barking at night, keeping Allison awake!

In the evening, we went to the Guest House to see where some of the other children were staying – one room had 14 beds! We had a hog roast for dinner which we all thoroughly enjoyed.





Day 4

Thursday 24th March 2022

Wow, day 4! In the morning, we performed The Gruffalo in front of everybody! Even though we were a bit nervous, we were AMAZING! Once we were finished, all the other students and teachers gave us a big round of applause and we were the only performance to have a standing ovation! We were very proud.

After our performance, we walked along a sensory path, where we had to wear a blindfold and try to guess what we were standing on and what we could feel. We then used our sense of smell to try to identify different herbs and use our sense of taste to identify different foods/liquids - we all could identify the chocolate (we had to taste an extra piece just to make sure!)

After lunch, we went to the town of Braganca, where we visited a castle with the outside walls shaped as a heart. We found this visit interesting, especially as our Topic after the Easter holidays is castles! We climbed to the very top of the turrets, up some very steep steps and enjoyed the views. We then went for a walk along the river to find the otters that live there – but they were hiding on this day. In the evening, we went to a Brazilian restaurant and tried some different meats (chicken, pork and beef) with rice and beans.





Day 5

Friday 25th March

Day 5 was spent celebrating each other, the week, and Sam's birthday! At the culture centre, we played a game of Kahoot with all the other students. On Monday, we wrote 2 true sentences about ourselves, and 1 lie. The other children had to guess which one was the lie and it was lots of fun! Afterwards, the music teacher and Headteacher gave a workshop about the ukulele and played us some songs.

Suddenly, the activities stopped, and Irene (one of the Portuguese teachers and project coordinator for Portugal) came into the room with a Marvel themed birthday cake for Sam! Everyone sang Happy Birthday in English, and then in Portuguese and gave Sam some birthday presents. We ate some cake-pops, then headed for lunch.



We spent the afternoon looking at the new school that is being built for the students – it was not finished yet but seemed very big!

In the evening, we had a party to celebrate the week. We went out for dinner, then had some entertainment – a band, and we all did some dancing. We had a presentation from the Headteacher and the Portuguese teachers who gave us all a certificate, a dove and a heart that another student coloured in earlier in the week, to take a piece of the project home with us. We then had a party, where we said goodbye to some of the students as they were flying home that evening.

Day 6

Saturday 26th March

As we had a late night the evening before, we were able to have a well needed lie in! We spent the morning walking around the Biological Park looking at all the different animals.

In the afternoon, we went on a long coach journey to visit 2 towns that boarder Portugal and Spain. We visited the shops, churches and walked along a stone wall, overlooking the mountains of Spain. We watched a performance of some local people dancing to some traditional music in the town centre. In the evening, we watched a lady making cinnamon and sugar-coated almonds by hand. It takes 8 days to make these! We were able to taste some – the cinnamon coated almonds were our favourite. Some of us brought some back for our families to try.

After a long journey back to Vinhais, we had dinner back at our cabin and began to pack our suitcases ready for our last day in Portugal.





Day 7

Sunday 27th March

Here we are, our last day! We were up early to finish packing, and to head to Porto to spend the day there. On our way, we stopped off at the Guest House where some of the other students were staying to say goodbye. We felt a bit sad saying goodbye, as we had made some good friends and they were very kind and helpful all week but were excited to head back home to see our families!

We arrived in Porto late morning, and our first stop was Livraria Lello, a bookshop which was the inspiration for the library in Hogwarts, Harry Potter! It had a Harry Potter section which we were very excited about as some of us had been learning about Harry Potter in our Topic, Potions and Spells! We stopped off for an ice cream afterwards and enjoyed eating it in the sunshine. We had a walk along the river, where we saw different boats, cable cars and commented on the houses and how different they are to houses in England, then had some lunch.

We then headed to the airport to board the plane home.



Throughout the week, a particular song was playing which got us all dancing and singing along. The song is called **Cantiga da Burra by Sebastiao Antunes and Quadrilha ft. Galandum Galundaina.**

