

Religion of China

In the religion session, we learnt about Taoism. The children read the creation story and considered the similarities and differences to other creation stories then considered our own views. The children then discussed the symbolism of yin-yang, had a go at drawing the symbol and then wrote an explanation.



Chinese Cultural Day- Sessions House



Today all the children's learning was based around the culture of China. They learnt all about its history, school life, writing, art and religion of the country, as well as experiencing some of the foods that are eaten in China.

Schools and the Chinese Writing system.

The children started by learning all about a day in the life of a student in China – they soon realised how hard (and what long hours) the children are expected to learn. We then looked at how the Shang dynasty developed the pictorial style of writing that is used in China today – they have no alphabet but each word is depicted by a picture/symbol. They were amazed to learn that they would need to learn thousands of symbols to be able to read and write. The children then had a go at the writing itself which they did very successfully.



Quotes:

Drawing my Zodiac sign in a frame was so tricky!

Why don't they have an alphabet?!

The Blossom trees are so beautiful. I enjoyed painting on the wood.

Chinese Zodiac

During this session pupils learnt about the 'Chinese Zodiac' and its links with Chinese New Year. Pupils recapped the Chinese New Year story of how different animals took part in a great race which included crossing a river. The first 12 animals that finished the race had a year named after them – this was the beginning of the Chinese Zodiac. Pupils were able to work out from the year they were born what animal sign they were. They learnt that some people believe the year you were born means that you will have a certain personality type or certain characteristics. We had some fantastic discussions about whether pupils felt this was accurate or not! To finish the session Pupils took part in an activity to make a 'Chinese New Year Zodiac frame' with the symbol for their animal year in the middle.



Chinese Cooking

The day was finished with a traditional Chinese lunch, this consisted of Sweet and Sour Chicken, noodles and prawn crackers. Every staff member and student also were given a fortune cookie. We shall have to wait and see if they come true.



Chinese Art

The children's objective was to use different techniques and materials to create an image.

They looked at Cherry Blossom Trees which originated in China. They used sponges to create a wash effect on the wood. Using different sized brushes, they then created the branches of the tree and to finish they then used their fingers to create the blossom.

