

8th Fleet Rainbows Annual Report 2019

We began using the new Girlguiding programme, which was launched in Sept 2018. There was a lot to get our heads around, and we had a busy couple of terms making the transition. The programme has six themes - Know Myself; Express Myself; Be Well; Have Adventures; Take Action, and Skills for my Future. Each has badges the girls can do at home (Interest badges) - this is a new thing for Rainbows! Within Rainbow sessions we do 'Unit Meeting Activities' (UMA) and 'Skills Builder' (SB) badges. Skills Builders are in stages for each Girlguiding section - Rainbows do stage 1 or 2. The idea is for girls to 'earn' a Theme Award by doing a combination of UMA minutes, a SB and an Interest badge. A few girls who manage all six theme awards can get the Gold Award.

January - March



We did a Roundabout Seasons badge from the old programme, and (Know Myself) **Reflect** stage 1 SB. We made paper snowflakes; found about clothes for different weather; and made edible sparklers - from breadsticks! For the **Reflect** skills builder we played a game about traditions, and made flower pictures to help the girls understand how we can be the same but different. For Mothers' Day we made cards and did a jigsaw activity to find out about what matters most to each Rainbow. Pauline and I along with 9 Rainbows took part in a very exciting Region event - **Night at the Library**. Although they were too young to stay for the entire overnight event, the Rainbows loved being in the library in their PJs taking part in lots of book themed activities. Our term finished with pretending to be birds making a nest from twigs, and we had an Easter Egg hunt and a visit from our Division Commissioner.



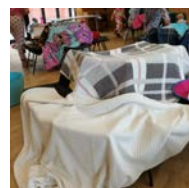
April - July



This term we increased our numbers from 15 to 16 Rainbows and renamed our groups Daffodils, Roses, Shamrocks and Thistles. We had a meeting where we made 'passports' for our teddies and they visited Scotland to build a castle; Ireland to do some dancing; Wales to eat welshcakes and learn a few Welsh words; then back to England to find out etiquette of afternoon tea. Our Skills Builder was (Have Adventures) **Explore** stage 1 and we found out about telling time by the sun and made our own sundial. We had a visit from Sally Kettle - an explorer who holds the Guinness World Record for the first woman to row across the Atlantic. She led a fun interactive session telling the girls about her adventures. As our first meeting of the term was on St George's Day, we also did a challenge badge with fun activities including having a traditional afternoon tea.



Our new Rainbows made their promise, and one of our ex 8th Fleet Rainbows was presented with her **Gold Rainbow Award**! I was fortunate to achieve my Leadership qualification in April. About 9 Rainbows attended the URC parade service on Sunday 5th May and told us about Rainbows in other countries. On 1st June, along with Rainbows and Leaders from 1st Fleet West Rainbows, we took part in a **Circus Day** hosted by neighbouring Farnham Division. Despite being one of the hottest days everyone seemed to love the morning of crafts and games, before some parents arrived to watch a live Circus performance! The girls loved our 'Book Trust Pyjamarama' meeting on 11th June where we wore our PJs, built dens and listened to a bedtime story. Girls were asked to donate £1, and we also made a coaster for Fathers' Day. We did a meeting on road safety using a pretend street with traffic lights and a zebra crossing with girls taking it in turns to be cars or people. The following week we '**explored**' Fleet High Street and were grateful for extra help from parents and one of our Trefoil members.



At our last meeting of the term we said goodbye to girls moving up to Brownies. At the end of July we had a fantastic joint **sleepover** with 1st Fleet West Rainbows at the Division Guide Hall with the theme of Fantasyland.

September - December



The term got off to a good start with two new adult volunteers joining our team - Laura (who the Rainbows named Mole) and Jo (who the Rainbows named Raccoon), and a Brownie Helper (Deer). We did the (BE WELL) **First Aid** stage 1 badge. The girls had fun learning about emotions; what should be in a first aid kit; how to put on a plaster or bandage; and what to do with an insect bite. In October, Girlguiding UK asked all units to take part in a campaign called planet



protectors. We coloured pictures of sea creatures and made a frame from plastic bottle lids, which were then recycled. We visited our local zero waste shop Fleet Scoop and had a talk from the owner, then on our way back to the parents we did a litter pick!



Some Rainbows attended the URC Harvest service on 5th October where we had the new unit flags blessed. Rainbows handed out the welly planters that they'd prepared the week before combining the themes of reducing waste and water. Following an advert with Hart Voluntary Action we found a volunteer to be our Treasurer. On 5th November we did bonfire craft and enjoyed edible sparklers

(again)!



Supported by Pauline (Owl) and Hayley (Kitten), I ran a Christmas themed **sleepover** at the end of November, for which I was being assessed. It was great fun - with a treasure hunt; decorating gingerbread houses; watching The Snowman; and Christmas dinner.

The Rainbows made advent candle window decorations to decorate the church windows, and a few of our Rainbows attended the advent service on December 1st.

Our Division Carol Service took place at Church on the Heath on 10th December where 8FR sang Frosty the Snowman with signs/ actions. We did a craft shop UMA for our last meeting and the girls made a Christmas card, decoration or bracelet. Five girls left at the end of term. *We also said goodbye to Pauline (Owl) from 8th Fleet Rainbows.* Luckily she is on hand to be an occasional helper!!

Wendy Bascal (Squirrel) 24 January 2020