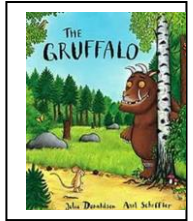




## School Trip to Colin Glen Forest Park



When the school bell rang on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, everyone at Dromara Primary went inside to begin their school day - apart from the very excited Year 1 pupils and 4 adults who began boarding Danny's bus for their visit to Colin Glen. The journey to Belfast flew by with lots of chat, singing and the usual chant "Are we nearly there yet?".

On arrival, we were given a warm welcome by Paul, our guide for the day. We went inside to our designated 'Gruffalo Room' and ate our break in record time before being treated to a storytelling session of 'The Gruffalo' by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler. Paul asked the Year 1 boys and girls many questions connected to the story and told us lots of wildlife facts - did you know there is an orange spotted butterfly in the Gruffalo book? We just had time to give a gigantic Gruffalo a quick hug before donning our coats and hats to begin our special walking tour of Colin Glen.

We had to keep looking and listening on our walk as Paul asked many on-the-spot questions. We really enjoyed finding each of the characters from the story and had a photo call with a table group at each stop. We met the mouse, the fox, the owl, the squirrel, the snake and the Gruffalo! Year 1 pupils carefully checked the Gruffalo over, making sure he had terrible tusks, terrible claws, terrible teeth and terrible jaws. Then we further examined the Gruffalo for knobby knees, turned-out toes and a poisonous wart at the end of his nose. Mrs Price and Lou-ann also searched for orange eyes and a black tongue and finally our whole party of pupils and adults looked for purple prickles all over the Gruffalo's back. Great fun was had by all!

Following this, we then started to make our way across the bridge towards 'fairyland' to look for the little doors hidden on tree trunks. Unfortunately, due to the wet weather the previous day, the ground became too muddy and we had to abandon the fairy adventure and return to the Colin Glen Centre.

Next it was time to wash our hands and eat a well-deserved lunch. Our last activity of the day comprised of art and crafts and everyone had great fun making Gruffalo headbands, face masks and colouring in a variety of pictures. Mrs Price brought all these back to school to finish off as we had so much still to do!

Finally it was time to go back to Dromara. The journey back was filled with stories about our special day and no one, not even the adults, fell asleep on the bus!

Many thanks to Lou-ann, Diane and Zara for all their help and patience throughout the day. We all had a marvellous educational trip and we all had lots of fun!!