

The King of Sparta Visits Ford Class

Last week at Hipsburn we had a very important visitor! The King of Sparta, Leonidas, came from Greece to England for some new recruits for his powerful army. As we came into school that morning, the King was sitting on a throne with shields and weapons. He was wearing lots of protective armour all over his body.



He told us about his army and how amazing it was. We were a bit nervous that if we weren't good enough, he did have lots of swords and spears and so we tried our very best. We passed around some weapons and armour.

First was the skin of a wolf! We were all allowed to put it on and wear it as a coat. We held it up by his arms and had his unfortunate head as a hood...



We held a massive spear and it was surprisingly light which would have been useful if you were going to throw it in battles or wars. We also passed around some leather armour which was heavy when we thought it would be really light. The King's assistant helped us to put it on and you couldn't run in it and it wasn't very comfortable. We wouldn't have been able to wear it in a war against the enemy.

We also passed around lots of Greek inventions and objects. One of the inventions was what they used to wipe their bottoms with!



We then made necklaces with black beads that looked like the necklaces that the Ancient Greeks might have had.



After that, we had training and games!



First we threw javelins and tried to hit a target. If we hit the target successfully then we yelled, 'Zeus!' or, 'Poseidon!' depending on which team we were competing for.



We had a relay race to see which team was the quickest. Each team had a baton and you had to run around a cone and come back as fast as you could. At first the winner was clear after someone tripped over but they redeemed themselves and their team ended up winning the game!

There was also a long jump event. In the Ancient Greek Olympics you didn't just run and jump as far as you could. You had to hold heavy weights in each hand and before you jumped, you would swing them around in a circle and jump when they were in front of you which would help you jump a lot further. We had three jumps each with the weights and we faced one person on the other team at the same time. You would see who would jump the furthest altogether in the three jumps you had and whoever jumped longest out of the two would win that round. Everyone got a turn jumping with the weights and it was a very fun game to play.



We had a more modern day discus throw too. Using discs which are quite similar to ancient discuses, four people at a time would throw and see who could throw it furthest. Two people from each team went up against each other so your team had two goes at winning the round. Some throws were worse or better than others but in most rounds there weren't any obvious winners.



After the games, we practised going into war with the King. We all had mini-shields and swords. We walked forward, banging on the shields with our swords like the Spartans might have a long time ago. We made a protective line with our shields and learned Greek battle cries. At the end the adults threw balls at us and we had to protect ourselves and we tried not to get hit.



We had great time learning about Ancient Greece with the King of Sparta and maybe he will accept us into his army one day! But perhaps we should wait until we're a bit older before we go off to war.

By Sadie, Ford Class