

Year 6 pupils went on a residential visit to an activities centre in Somerset this year. Here are some accounts of their stay.

Picture: Keziah Kilpatrick, enjoying water sports

I am very excited to be going far away from Brighton to Somerset to go to an Activity Centre by the name of Mill on the Brue. Right now, I am sitting in the coach full of screaming, excited and happy girls (except Mr May who is a man). Staring down at my mum who's blowing kisses at me and miming the words "I love you!" and "Have fun!". I mime them back at her whilst giving funny faces. It took quite a long time to reach a stop where we could get sweets and use the toilets, plus nibble at a few snacks, which our parents had packed for us.

Finally, we reached Mill on the Brue. It is a lovely place, I can assure you. Trees, fields, animals and many other things a healthy, non-polluted world should have. We did many things. First, we had lunch and we were allowed to call our parents. Then we had cookies and a drink. Afterwards we did an activity such as grass tobogganing, which is like a board with wheels under it

(to make it slide). What you do is lie on the board, with your legs crossed and upwards and then the instructors (their names were Rachel, Mina, Dave and Hannah) would push you down a hill. The grass was wet so we got very muddy. Mr May also had a go and went down screaming "woohoo!". We also did low ropes where we had to climb and balance on apparatus. Last but not least, we did the Great Wall, which was all about teamwork because two people had to stay on the bottom of the wall and boost the people up on the wall.

Sally Takhayori Year 6

I woke up at 7am to get to School at 8.15am. We left at 8.30am and were on our way to Mill on the Brue. On the way, we stopped off at a big petrol station where we had a snack and went to the toilet. Then we got back on the coach and went straight to Mill on the Brue. The journey took about four hours. When we arrived, we had lunch and called our parents to let them know we were there.



The Mill on the Brue

After lunch, Ruby, Maddie, Victoria, Keziah, Abigail, Chiara and Hatty unpacked and then were shown round. The first activity was the obstacle course, which was fun. It had a part called 'The Giant's Toilet' which was a giant tyre with mud in the middle into which we had to jump. Abigail was the muddiest! After that we had a go at archery and I was quite good at the start but got worse. I was pleased when it was bedtime because I was tired and the hot chocolate at 9pm was lovely.

After a lovely breakfast the next morning, we all went canoeing which I loved. I shared a canoe with Annabel. We had to do challenges and stand up in the canoe and even jump. We got wet. Before lunch were the high ropes. The pole was about 50 metres high and on the top was a very small platform. Keziah got to the top first then I went up.

I clenched onto Keziah hard. I was very proud of myself. After lunch, we were put into two groups and had to build a raft out of four

barrels and two poles of wood, held together with rope. That was fun, although it broke and I fell in the river twice. My glasses fell off too, but I caught them. Once we had dried ourselves we played 'Cat and Mouse' on the low ropes course. It was like an obstacle course but you cannot touch the ground and everything is low down. I was a cat and I managed to catch the mouse. Before tea and bed, we all had a go on the zip wire, which was brilliant, and then had some indoor activities. Breakfast was lovely. We then went to 'The Great Wall' and had to help our team over this large, smooth wall. Our first time was 7 minutes but we finally managed to get the whole team over in 4 minutes. Next was tobogganing on the grass down a long hill, which was a lovely way to end our trip. I was so tired on the coach home and very pleased to get into my own bed, even though I had the best time ever.

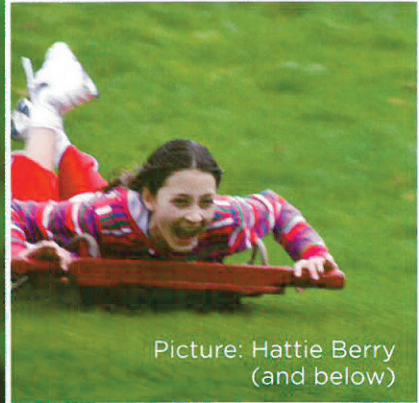
Kimberley Style, Year 6

Mill on the Brue, snapshots

Year 6 girls proving the school motto and showing no fear by taking part in grass tobogganing, kayaking, racing the obstacle course and raft building. At St Mary's Hall we really are educating for confidence.



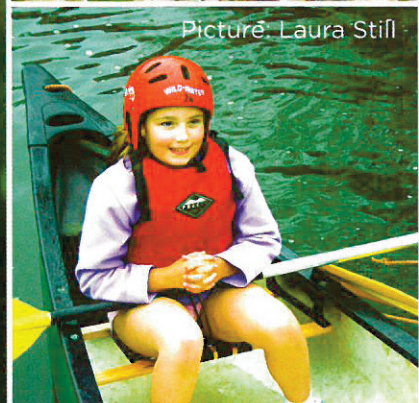
Picture: Lara Alexander



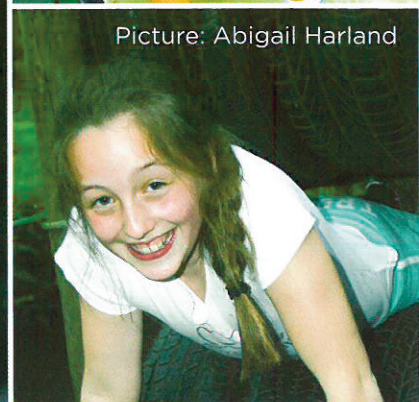
Picture: Hattie Berry
(and below)



Picture: Laura Still



Picture: Abigail Harland



Becky Davies is one of our Senior School pupils. Recently she visited the BBC studios in London to take part in the Blue Peter TV show. Here is her story.



An extraordinary day

I was invited to the Blue Peter studio in London as a reward for collecting the full set of Blue Peter badges. At last the wonderful day came, Wednesday 9th April 2008!

Mum and I travelled to London on the 6.00am coach and met my brother at Victoria coach station. We travelled by underground train to the BBC Television Centre in Wood Lane. We were given special security badges and were taken past offices and studios to reach the one and only Blue Peter Studio! We were allowed to stand on the studio floor and watch the presenters do a rehearsal. Sadly, Gethin was not there as he was cleaning the windows of the tallest building in Britain but there was Zoë's and Andy's special guest, the fashion designer, Gary Harvey. After the rehearsal, there was a short break and I had the opportunity to meet the Blue Peter pets. I stroked Cookie and Socks, the cats, and Lucy and Mabel, the dogs, and had photos taken with them. My favourite pet was Cookie because he was so cute. Before the show was recorded, both Zoë

and Andy came to say hi and were very friendly. The show was mostly about Zoë creating her own dress, made from recycled clothes, with the help of Gary Harvey. We had to keep very quiet during the recording but we were allowed to cheer and applaud Zoë when she walked down the catwalk in her, "Cinderella", dress. It was funny when Cookie jumped off Andy's lap and went for a walk around the studio and when Lucy walked off when she was meant to be sitting next to Mabel. When the show was finished, I was invited to sit on the Blue Peter sofa and I talked to Andy and Zoë about all my badges.

We had our photographs taken together. Then they wrote messages in my Blue Peter annual. I was given an envelope containing pictures of the presenters and pets. Before we left the BBC Centre, we went to see the Blue Peter garden, which was very pretty.

I had an extraordinary day that I will always remember.