

Autumn 2017

## What if Henry had been Henrietta?

Phase 3 stepped back in time this term, and explored the story of Henry VIII and three of his wives - Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour - and the effect that they had on our island history. Our classrooms were turned into wood-panelled dining halls, complete with pennants, shields and quill writing tables. Coal fires burned and we played a lot of chess and lute music! One of the first things we explored was Cotehele House, a fabulous example of a Tudor house with some of the oldest tapestries in the UK, which was a long journey from Penzance (although much quicker than in Tudor times!). There, we dressed up in Tudor clothes and explored the house and sketched in the gardens. This resulted in a burst of creative activity, as all the children became really excited about writing a story set in Tudor times with Cotehele as the inspiration. We moved swiftly onto the story of Anne Boleyn and the Reformation. Wow! All of us were completely caught up in this story of a queen's dramatic fall from power! Everyone in the Phase was able to write the most amazing diary entry for Anne Boleyn on the eve of her execution! Some of us were brave enough to write our final drafts by candlelight with ink and quills.

Emerald and Indigo classes designed and created their own tapestries and Turquoise class made intricate board games as we explored Tudor courtly life and listened to stories set in the time.

Finally, we invited our friends and families to our Tudor Christmas Celebration! We sung 'Greensleeves' and 'God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen', along with a special edition of 'Deck the Halls with Wives of Henry'! We demonstrated our dancing skill with a stately Pavane and then a good old knees up with 'Strip the Willow'. We shared the food we had cooked together — pottage, herb bread and carrot and apple cakes, washed down with mulled 'wine'. Guests enjoyed taking part in all the activities — reading the stories and diary entries, playing the board games, making Christmas decorations from dried fruit and spices and writing messages with quills. The children acted as brilliant guides and talked about their work on display and everyone thoroughly enjoyed a lovely finale to our project.









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