



13th to 19th November 2017

Many units across the County took part in Parliament Week this year - here are some reports on what the units got up to:

14th Portsmouth Brownies

We marked UK Parliament Week (a little belatedly) tonight. The Sixes each chose a badge theme they wanted to do next term, presented their ideas to the unit (we definitely have some budding MPs!) and then voted for their favourite idea. So, next term, we'll be doing.... a horse themed badge!



Rowlands Castle Brownies and Guides

Both units held a secret ballot at the beginning of term to select which activities they would like to carry out under the Engage, Explore and Empower headings.

At the meetings, the hall was arranged with seating in two rows as per Parliament and we discussed the ballot, spoiled papers, the connection with how adults vote, why the seating was arranged with the gap between them. One of the clauses chosen (I was lucky that both sections opted for the same clauses!) was the one about inviting parents in and we had 5/6 parents from each unit. This gave me opportunity to explain to parents our policy of giving the girls a voice and that they had chosen the clauses which is why they had been invited to join us.

Engage: secret ballot to choose activities, the seating and the quiz: using the downloaded quiz - this proved quite hard, even for the parents. Some parents took the initiative with the Guides to Google unknown answers and learn that way. This very much kept the Guides engaged. The Brownies did seem to find it fun and enjoyed working with the parents.

Explore: Both units opted for food related! They cut out shortbread mixture to make biscuits that looked like Big Ben tower and the houses of parliament - very successful with some wonderful artwork!

Empower: Girls were given brain storming sheets to write down Brownie or Guide Laws that they thought should be introduced and ones they wanted rid of.

Other sheets did the same for National Laws. Results below:

- Brownies wanted new uniform designed, or to wear their home clothes; bring their parents to stay for their first meetings; to eat cake every week; to bring a teddy every week; to have a closing song.
- Brownies do not want: to line up at the end of the meeting before going home; to sit down at the end of the meeting; to be banned from sitting on tables and doing gymnastics or eating on the carpet during meetings.
- Guides wanted: lots more charity work; pillow fights; less expensive fun trips; more junk modelling and arty creation times; phones to be allowed; no uniform; biscuits every week; more badges; uniform for everyone; sweets and sugar every week; run a mile every Guide meeting to keep fit; to take shoes off at the door; be allowed to sit on tables during meetings; adults vacuum at the end of the meeting; more adults in every week; games; suitable footwear; 10 jumping jacks each minute for boisterous Guides; hair tied up at all times; more snack times; more learning of technology; run the marathon every month
- Guides do not want: to be banned from sitting on tables or doing gymnastics during meetings; be vacuuming at the end of meetings

- New National Laws: Minimum speed limits on motorways as well as maximum; only to smoke if part of your religion; no homework for Key Stage 1(except phonics and reading); pizza express everywhere; drones to be banned; CCTV banned from looking over other people's property; schools education on LGBT; no products to be tested on animals; no maths; no algebra; only maths, English and science homework; no terrorism; no animal killing; every pupil to have finance education; a roof over everyone's head; more money to be spent on child abuse, depression, bully and disability issues; no STEM; to vote if you have job however old you are; less expensive make up; religious freedom; GCSE' later age; ban of importation of exotic animals not natural to this country; vote at 16; more room for animals in zoos.
- Laws to be got rid of: less health and safety laws; going to school; be allowed to eat mince pies on Christmas Day i.e. get rid of all petty outdated laws; be older before you can drive a car; compulsory school.

1st Portsdown Guides

Our evening started with the girls transforming the hut into a polling station. Each patrol took charge of a different section from putting up the bunting to making the polling booth.

- The first task was taken from 'Engage' - the girls set up their own party and elected a leader. each leader came up with three points for their manifesto and presented them to the unit. A vote took place in the polling booth and each vote was rewarded with a sticker.
- Then they moved on to 'Explore' - they worked out what an MP should do in a typical day, most girls worked their MP hard!
- The evening's final activity was Question Time from 'Empower' - the girls loved putting their leaders in the spotlight and getting to know more about their Guiding and working backgrounds.

At the end of the evening the winner of the election was presented with the squeazy Big Ben. Great fun was had by all.

3rd Bordon Brownies

We invited the local councillor and the girls asked him lots of questions. We were impressed with their questions, many focussing on the town's new facilities, new school, new bypass and all the new houses.

One Brownie, who is very shy, asked him if there would be houses for those who could not afford to buy which was quite impressive for an 8 year old.

The we had 4 candidates who stood as Prime Minister - they made their speeches before we voted for them.

We had a vote on the new resources and the region's Discoveries in the Dark badge (next term planned!) They liked the ballot boxes.

In Sixes they completed the activity deciding what an MP would do in a time and at what time of the day.

I was disappointed with the activity boxes as their were not enough items for each girl to have one of each. The girls liked the bunting and it was divided between them all.

The local MP, Damian Hinds, also sent the unit an email.

Bishops Waltham Guides



The Guides quizzed local MP, George Hollingbery.

1st Catisfield Guides

The evening started with the girls questioning Lyndsey Cook, Pam Marsden, Jacqui Dixon and Kathy Davis on their Guiding background and achievements.



Then local councillor, Pam Bryant, chatted to the girls about her work and the girls asked her questions relevant to the local area.

The evening concluded with the activity from the pack deciding how an MP should fill their day.