

CALDER HOUSE SCHOOL

Thickwood Lane, Colerne, Near Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN14 8BN

All Creatures, Great and Small...

...as well as My Newt!

What does it say about a culture when libraries are the first buildings to be closed down in a bid to save some money? Equally, what does it say about a culture bent on covering every green surface with grey concrete and drab tarmac?

Luckily, the students of Calder House will never experience scarcity of books or greenery. There's no 'famine' here to speak of when it comes accessing the countryside as part of our Science Curriculum.

But, it isn't just about expanding our knowledge of the life cycle of amphibians, or learning that the only way to tell a male newt from a female newt is to look at their feet (no, really, this is the only way - and, even then, the feet are only discernibly different for a few months out of every year!). It is as much about Listening Skills, Fresh Air, Exercise, Building Confidence (sometimes, by way of learning to laugh at ourselves), and Team Spirit as it is about covering the curriculum.

The truth is, the prospect of handling a 'knot' of newts (if that is the correct collective noun: it certainly seemed appropriate) was not the most enticing to some members of Purple Class. Yes, initially, there was screaming . . . quite a lot of screaming. Yet, by the end of the afternoon, Purple Class Scientists were handling the amphibians like professionals. The same can be said of being around the alpacas.

Yes, we covered aspects of the Year 7 Curriculum, and we did so with lots of 'Hands On' practical stuff that means the Knowledge picked up will mean something to our young scientists. But, I do not believe that learning about Life Cycles was the most important lesson to be learned that afternoon. I think the photographs tell you what that was.

Mr. Perks
Director of Studies

