

PERFECTLY GREAT PGL

On Wednesday 28th September class 5 arrived at PGL. PGL is a fun outdoor pursuit's centre (founded by Peter Gordon Lawrence), where you take part in activities while staying a couple of nights in little chalets. It is on the beautiful coast of Dorset in Osmington bay.

One of the reasons I enjoyed PGL was because I got involved in some activities I had never done before, e.g. kayaking, raft-building and playing Ambush (a game). Although I found all the tasks really good fun, I found some quite challenging - which was a good thing! For example, in raft building we had to tie strong knots to make our rafts secure. We also all learned how to work well as part of a team. One of the things I loved, was that even when we were just going to a new location each day, the staff sang songs with us!! To sum up, I think PGL was an extremely valuable experience for me.

The most exciting activity that I took part in at PGL was definitely Kayaking; (kayaking is like canoeing but with a much smaller boat). The first thing I did in Kayaking was to carry out five challenges that we had to try and complete. One of them was sitting at the back of the Kayak and tipping the boat backwards; another was sitting at the front of the boat and tipping it forwards; a third one was actually standing up in the Kayak!...

In the Kayaks we also played a fantastic game of Quidditch (taken from Harry Potter). Quidditch is a game where you have to score goals with various types of balls, eg. Quaffle and Golden Snitch. And guess what? Gryffindor, my team, won against Slytherin! (Gryffindor and Slytherin

are the houses in Harry Potter). I found Kayaking wonderfully stimulating, because you had to work hard to paddle. I also really loved the movement of the water beneath the boat.

The other activity I loved at PGL was a game called 'Ambush'. Ambush is a game basically like Hide and Seek but you play it in the dark! The first team runs and hides, putting out several arrows indicating where they are; the second team have to follow the arrows. When the second team get close enough to the hiding place, the first team have to call out "Ambush!" and try to catch a member of the second team. If they manage, then the first team wins that round and vice versa.

The game Ambush really taught me to use my eyes and ears and to be silent. It also trained me to have better awareness of my surroundings. Moreover, when you put down the arrows for the other team to follow, you had to think quickly and use your imagination to trick the enemy! I really enjoyed Ambush because it stirred up a lot of suspense: you got to creep up on people stealthily, not even knowing exactly where they were.. It was so exhilarating searching for good hiding places too!

When I came back from PGL, what had I gained? I really felt my relationships with other children and teachers had grown, by doing out-of-classroom and informal activities with them. Even more, I'd learnt some important skills that could be used in the future. And finally, all I want to say is: I just had a fantastic, 'PG-Perfectly Great' time!!

By Joseph Marletta