



PARK HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL

LOWER EASTERN GREEN LANE, COVENTRY - CV5 7LR
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Headteacher: Mr P Griffin

20th July 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As many of you will be aware, Park Hill has been part of a project for the past 3 years, along with Broad Heath, Howes, Finham and Stivichall Primary Schools, that has focused upon peace, friendship and building links with Japan.

Our children have: exhibited peace poems in Coventry Cathedral and the Japanese Embassy; been involved in a Noh theatre workshop and learnt the art of Japanese storytelling; two children and I spent 10 days in Japan for the Tokyo 2020 project and we have been part of the development group for the new Japanese Peace Garden in the War Memorial Park, which saw pupils from Park Hill helping to dig foundations, build walls, develop information materials and plant cherry blossom trees. The building of this was funded through donations from companies and charities such as Severn Trent and the Daiwa Foundation. Many experts also gave of their time freely to ensure the garden truly represented a 'little piece of Japan in Coventry.'

On Friday 2nd July, the project culminated in 2 events. Various dignitaries attended Coventry Cathedral in the morning where they were entertained by pupils from Coventry schools who performed traditional Japanese activities, such as a tea ceremony and a NOH performance, and the Ambassador was presented with a cross of nails as a symbol of friendship and peace. Japanese art was also exhibited following a collaboration with a Japanese artist and Earlsdon Primary based on waves.

In the afternoon, the Japanese Peace Garden was opened by the Lord Mayor and the Ambassador. Mr Griffin and Mrs Jones, our Chair of Governors, attended and were entertained by Taiko drumming and the Young Ambassadors, who delivered a speech detailing their involvement in the garden project. Imogen Collins from Year 5 spoke about her involvement with the children from the other schools and was the perfect Park Hill role model.

Recently, we had the 'Flame of Friendship', being passed to us from Mount Nod and we in turn delivered it to Eastern Green, as we shared the Olympic values across the city.

Over the Summer holidays, please take time out to go and visit the garden, which is situated behind the aviary. We hope you get as much enjoyment out of your visit as we have through being involved in the whole project.

Message from Mr Griffin

I would like share how grateful I am to Mrs Bailey and to all of the children who took part in the project. I am delighted to see how the project has evolved and how we have been able to involve as many children as possible in such an interesting experience as this. I was so proud as I looked at the photographs highlighting the development of the Japanese Peace Garden at the Memorial Park. Proud too, when I stood and listened to Imogen who spoke so clearly and represented Park Hill. Thank you to you Mrs Bailey and to the children who represented our school so well.

Kind Regards
Mrs Bailey