

WISE ABOUT WORDS – THE STORY SO FAR

What is Wise about Words?

Wise about Words is a 2 year joint project with Norwich Theatre and the Wensum Trust, and is funded by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation.

Its aim is to give teachers the tools to use the arts within the curriculum so children can grow their love of stories, gain life skills and build an emotional language so they can tell their own story and become well rounded individuals.

We do this by bringing stories to life in creative and interactive ways and by using games and techniques to help children find their own voice and build skills like teamwork, resilience, confidence, perceptions, emotions, problem solving, self-awareness and focus.

Through the whole project the children have been creative, daring, brave, collaborative, and enormous fun to work with. We are all very proud of them.

As we draw to the end of the first year on the project we wanted to share some of the amazing work your brilliant children and their teachers have been doing.



We have celebrated giants and taught them not to be so selfish!

Created fabulous fairytales with puppets after discovering The Grimm Tales

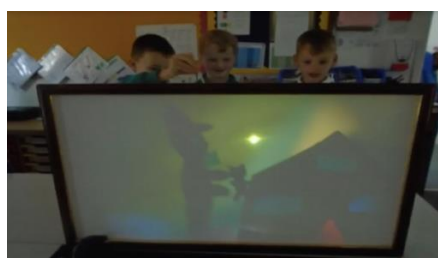
Taken part in an expedition with Shackleton and even interviewed him!

Invented, built and fixed machines while exploring FaRther by Grahame Baker-Smith

Experienced banquets at the Mead Hall from the story of Beowulf

Explored the Apartheid and built a better understanding of how those segregated may have felt.

Discovered the emotions and perspectives of characters from many different stories.



Created hundreds of brilliant tableaux as well as making new endings to many famous stories. One class has even shared a wonderful performance of their version of 'Tinga, Tinga Tales' after exploring what bravery meant to them.



What are teachers saying about the project?

The group work from the children has been powerful and thoughtful. Putting themselves within the story has helped them to empathise and understand character and motivation.

I've been surprised by the emotional power of the sessions and the improvement in those that often find more passive lessons difficult.

I've seen an improvement in focus, teamwork and communication.

I've been surprised by the impact (the project) has had on the children and how amazingly they have taken to it.

It has been lovely to see which children have really flourished in the drama sessions – not necessarily the ones I would have expected.

But most importantly this is what the children are saying about the project....

What does Wise About Words help you with?

Understanding people's feelings

Use your mind and imagination

It gives me a confidence boost.

Understanding of how life works in different ways.

Teamwork

Creativity

Pretend to be people in stories and how they feel.

Communication

Let's me express my feelings about stuff.

My emotions

Confidence

Tolerance

How do you feel after a Wise About Words session?



How has Wise About Words changed you?



What's next?

Next year another 8 teachers are added to the project which will mean in total 4 professional creative artists, 8 schools, 16 teachers and more than 500 children will be involved in the project. There will be many more stories told, shared and created.

Throughout the summer holidays keep reading and sharing stories to your children and ask them to play some of the drama games with you, it will all help keep their imaginations and language growing. It's also a great way to share some time together and have some fun.

"I've always believed that drama and storytelling is for everyone, and essential to give children and adults the opportunity to express themselves physically, mentally and emotionally. Seeing the children engage their imaginations, grow in confidence and have their voices heard shows how powerful Wise About Words truly is." Paul – Actor and Artist