

# Spittal Community School - Where I Call Home

## Spittal is by the Sea



Following on from a conversation about the impact of another Covid lockdown on learning and social interactions our Head Teacher and I decided to plan a fun creative week for the end of the summer term. We wanted the children of Spittal Community School to work together on a project that would help reunite our school community that has been separated from each other during the Covid pandemic. We discussed newspaper articles about 'putting the fun' back into the curriculum and talked about a previous project that we participated in. (Create, Aspire, Transform – with

Berwick Visual Arts and Northumbria University)



After this, I approached Val Tobiass from Berwick Visual Arts (BVA) and she introduced me to their Artist in Residence, Joanne Coates. Jo had produced online photography workshops and we discussed extending one of the projects into in person workshops during the summer term. At first we were planning on a one-week photography project to celebrate the local area and to enable the children to be out in our local community. In addition to this we decided to incorporate a week of whole school literacy based on the book 'Town is by the

Sea' by Joanne Schwartz. Staff at school felt reassured by the structured literacy element and very quickly we started to produce joint plans and share ideas for the workshops and outcomes.



We went out! The workshops started on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June. Jo worked in school all week and every class from Nursery to Year 4 went out in the local area to take photographs of places and spaces that are special to them. This was fantastic! The children have not been on any school trips this year and were so excited to be out as part of their school day. The children couldn't wait to work with Jo and one class, because they recognised her from the online workshops, gave a huge cheer as she walked into their classroom.



The work... Linking the art week to the literacy planning worked incredibly well. The planning came from CLPE and there was a strong focus on vocabulary which was evident in the discussions taking place and the writing that was

produced. The children are now always 'lupin spotting'. The flower featured in the book and was photographed on the promenade.



We ended the week with a large celebratory assembly. All the classes shared their work and the staff felt that the whole school had really 'come together' that week. We were still in our separate 'bubbles' but had regained some of our sense of community. Jo also presented each child with an Arts Participation Certificate and some cake. It was a real celebration. There is one last part of the project that is yet to be completed. Jo is producing images that will be printed on banners and hung in our school field. We are hoping for an exhibition and an even bigger

celebration