

## Y6 Paulton's Park Visit

*18th May 2015*



**Wellow**  
Primary School

Our aims were to follow up the work done in class on making fairground rides; we had developed D&T skills in design, purpose and building a structure, and science skills in electrical circuits to make our rides work. We were going to find out more about the forces involved in real fairground rides, and use technology to write a programme to make a model fairground ride work. We were also going to have the opportunity to go on the rides and spend the day with friends who were full of expectations of the experience.

As we approached the first ride, some pupils began to demonstrate their anxiety; they encouraged/ pressured each other to take part and all went on, but not all enjoyed the experience. As the other pupils realised this they began to form small groups to support other children, suggesting that they pair up with them, or go together as a four, or to take a particular seat or a more protected place. They were encouraging, supportive and very thoughtful towards each other. They celebrated when someone overcame their fears and went on the rides. As we walked between the rides, the more confident pupils shared their own anxieties and talked about the thrill and excitement they felt and how it helped them to balance the fear and joy of the experience.

As they watched the rides, the more anxious pupils began to talk about their own feelings and to explore why they didn't enjoy the feelings that others did. One particularly poignant moment came towards the end of our visit when a vulnerable girl talked herself into getting on a ride then asked if it was OK if she changed her mind as she was going to get off again. This was such an important learning moment for her as we affirmed that it was OK to say no and to change your mind if you feel uncomfortable. She felt really empowered by her decision and was confident to explain it to the others when their ride was over.

Everyone gained a deeper understanding of personal choice from this experience, and everyone grew in their ability to understand or to support someone with different feelings to their own.

