

# HMS VICTORY TRIP

by Sam

After getting to school early in the morning, we left for Portsmouth Harbour.

The journey was long and tiring, but the one and a half hour coach drive was worth it because in front of us was the great HMS Victory. It was incredible, not just the size but the masts that held up the rigging and yet we later learnt this was not its full height. Lining up now, we were split up into two groups 5L and 5S. Being in 5L I will tell you about our amazing trip.

It started with us walking up a ramp onto the Quarter deck, the deck on the top of the ship. Walking underneath the Poop deck we reached Captain Hardy's quarters. To our left was a large hammock and in front of us was a big steering wheel. Next to the wheel was a fact board saying that the wheel had to be pulled by three or four men. Turning round towards the Forecastle we walked back in the direction we came.

In front of us lay Nelson's plaque, written down was the time and where in the body he got shot. Moving on, we quickly shuffled down the steep staircase waiting to see what was next. It was the Upper Gun deck. It was filled with cannons the length of cars and cannon balls the size of footballs. The Middle and Lower Gun deck was just the same, huge cannons and big cannon balls filled the deck. Below was the Orlop deck, the hospital, where all the amputation and medical things were performed. We saw where Nelson died and all the equipment they used in their work. Going down a very steep staircase we reached the last deck, the Hold. It was filled with barrels, food and ammunition. This is where the Powder Monkeys came to get ammunition which they then transported to the gunmen. At last we came out of the ship through the gift shop which sadly we could not use.

It was lunch time, after so much walking I had worked up an appetite. I ate up everything in my bag and I was still hungry. At about one o'clock we swapped round activities with 5S. We climbed aboard the boat again, and went into a room with three benches. These benches split us up into three groups of six.

Each group was given information about two people who worked on the ship back in 1805, of which we had to make a short sketch to act out with information we had been given. Our group was given a doctor and a gunman both named William. Our story featured the doctor having to amputate someone's leg!

After a long day on the boat, it was time to set foot on land again. I felt little like one of the ship mates from 1805!

Back on shore, we headed to the museum. The visit started with a brilliant and immersive video about Lord Nelson and his Navy, and the battle of Trafalgar. As the video ended, the doors opened and we entered a long corridor where we were surrounded by images, lights and sounds that made us feel we were actually in the battle.

Next, the shop, one of the highlights of the day and a place for me to spend some pocket money! It was packed with great stuff and there was so much choice, in the end I made the sensible decision and went with a ruler, pencil and rubber.

As the day wound to a close, it was time for our group photo in front of the great ship itself. We managed to keep straight faces for at least one of the pictures and then bundled aboard the bus, tired, but happy and inspired after a brilliant day.

