

Last January in Y2 we collected names of volunteers who would be prepared to write to an individual child in class in response to a letter from the child asking how the weather affected their jobs.

Volunteers came from friends and acquaintances as well as other parents within the school (but not within the year group) and included those who worked within the school—dinner lady, lollipop lady, cycle trainer, caretaker, cleaner and those who worked at the nearest post office and shop.

I have several friends who live abroad and so we sent letters to Germany, France, USA and Brazil asking what their weather was like. We received back lots of really good information about weather in different countries and how it affects people.

We were lucky in that only one child failed to receive a letter but that was covered by the head writing to the child as though they were the person the child had written to!

We kept a weather chart for the whole of the month and our foreign friends sent us information about their daily temperatures via e-mail. The information re temperature that we had from USA and Brazil caused great excitement especially when we marked the depth of the snow in USA on the door and took a photograph of our tallest child next to the mark and then e-mailed the photo to USA. The snow was as deep as the child was tall!

All the information was recorded on PowerPoint and the children took turns to read what they had written for each slide. Their voices were recorded and they sang songs for the children of those foreign friends. The whole package was sent as a thank you to our foreign helpers who had told us not only how the weather affected their jobs but how it affected their children too.

And of course our own weather threw up floods and strong winds in our area which flooded houses, closed roads and delayed flights.

It turned out to be a really exciting topic and we could have spent a lot longer having fun with it if we'd been allowed!