

Upper 3 pupils enjoy their animal encounter



Last Friday, pupils in Upper 3 were delighted to have Mr Hayes deliver a very informative, hands-on animal encounter during science week; they absolutely loved meeting his more unusual animal pets and learning about their natural habitats and interesting adaptations.

Mr Hayes first introduced us to some rare 'black beauty' stick insects from Peru. They have a very unique coloration, with a black body, yellow eyes and red wings. We learnt how they can make themselves look like scorpions (a form of mimicry) and spray a smelly defensive liquid to keep their predators away!

Next was the Madagascan hissing cockroach. The hissing sound is used as its primary defence, to frighten off potential predators by making it sound just like a snake. It certainly took some of us by surprise when we heard it!

The pupils seemed to especially enjoy meeting the two geckos, Deric and Nova. They had so many interesting questions to ask. Nova, the leopard gecko, has a beautiful spotted pattern and we discussed the importance of this for camouflage. We loved learning about her 'tail drop' mechanism that she can use to distract her predators if they get a little too close. Deric, the gargoyle gecko, is able to use his prehensile tail to help him to grip and climb the trees with ease.

Towards the end of the session, those who were feeling particularly brave got to hold Domino, the Paraguayan rainbow boa. We learnt about her unusual feeding patterns and how she is able to eat really large prey for her size.

Thank you, Mr Hayes! We had a wonderful time.

Mrs Jennifer Yeomans