Blacko Primary School wins Heritage Lottery Fund



Project Weave participants with one of their creations

Through visits to various heritage sites and practical workshops, the children will learn about the history of the mills and the cotton industry. They will learn about interview techniques and equipment in order to talk to the local community to gather and record conversations and information about life at the mill.

A variety of creative workshops with different artists, including a well-known textiles artist; students will make textile pieces, fused glass work, contemporary art, photography, film and animations, all based on weaving.

A hundred young participants from the school and volunteers from around the local community will be involved in this project. Working with heritage experts at the mills, Project Weave participants will gain a deeper insight into an important part of their history, as well as teaching them valuable new skills.

Commenting on the award, Paula Halstead, Director at First Teach Tutoring, said: “I enjoyed writing, planning and organising the project. I am pleased to have been able to help the school. We are thrilled to have received the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project will give the children an understanding of their heritage in an educational, fun and creative way.”

Mark Harrison, the school head, said: “This project has really enthused the pupils. They have loved visiting various local mills and are looking forward to working with some of our skilled local weavers and using different materials such as glass. It gives them a real feel of their heritage and will also create a legacy for the school which will be visible for many years."

Sara Hilton, Head of HLF North West, said: “Lancashire’s industrial heritage is something we can all take pride in, making the area what it is today. I’m delighted that this award will enable those stories and skills to be captured and shared with future generations.”

Further information

For further information contact Paula Halstead at paula@firstteach.co.uk or Mark Harrison at head@blacko.lancs.sch.uk or visit the First Teach website.