Case Study: Colourbox Montessori School

❖ Pre-school (3& 4 years old)

❖ 36 children,11 adults in total

❖ Main learning focus: Montessori classroom swap with equine theme

Outline of the day: **The children swapped their classroom for the galleries and the Alborada Trust Education Centre of the Heritage Centre for a day.** They took part in wool winding (based on paintings of horses), painting wooden horses using shaded colours, gluing and sticking trophy collages (inspired by the trophy gallery of the museum), exploring the galleries and enjoying a range of Montessori classroom activities. These included pouring horse feed, matching numbers with associated images, sorting and ordering different sized horse shoe shapes, using instruments to make horse sounds and playing with model horses and paddocks. They also met the real horses under the care of the RoR in the Rothschild Yard.

The children ate their lunch in the picnic room. We had a break time in the Rothschild Yard near the horses, during which we galloped over low jumps and imagined that we were horses! We were also able to do one of our practical activities in the small picnic room overlooking the horses and this could also be used for those children who needed a nap.

Highlights: The children really enjoyed seeing the real horses up close. They particularly enjoyed using the horse jumps and painting their wooden horses.

Comments: **Being offsite is always exciting** and the Museum environment stimulated and inspired the children to ask lots of questions, which resulted in them gaining new knowledge. Having the different areas, with no other visiting schools, meant that we could clearly plan our day and the activities for each environment. Being able to set up the afternoon before enabled us to be organised.

We will definitely visit again, and we have lots more ideas!

Top tips: **Staff being able to visit the museum in advance and have an understanding of the layout** enabled us to be efficient with the children's movements, which is essential with little children.

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NATIONAL HORSE RACING MUSEUM