

That's a fact!

One Friday morning, Galileo class was focused on a very important decision. It was the last day of term, and that afternoon they could choose a class activity to do. Mr Robins said that the class could either watch a film or spend the afternoon painting, but it was difficult to decide what to do. Grace and Karl really wanted to watch a film, while Bertie and Ama loved painting and wanted to do that. Most of the others were undecided, and so Mr Robins said that Grace and Karl could stand up and say why they thought that a film was best, and then Bertie and Ama could stand up and say why they thought that painting was best. After that the class could take a vote.

Grace and Karl went first. "Watching a film is amazing" said Grace earnestly. "You get lost in another world, and it's so exciting".

"Yeah", added Karl, "and it's really chilled – it's the best end to the term. We could have afternoon snack while we're watching the film, it'll be like the cinema"

Then Bertie and Ama got to have their turn. Ama smiled around at the class, "Painting is really relaxing", she said. "I've just learnt to paint a really good sunset, and I can show you how".

"And", chimed in Bertie excitedly, "we've got those massive sheets of card, we could do really big paintings. That would be so awesome!"

"Right", said Mr Robins, "thank you Grace, Ama, Bertie and Karl. Let's take a vote now. Who wants to watch a film this afternoon?" He looked around and counted the hands in the room.

"And who wants to do painting?" As few hands went up, but not very many. Mr Robins counted these hands too. "Ok then, most people want to watch a film, so that's what we'll do this afternoon"

"Yes!" shouted Grace. "See, I told you that watching films is the best – it's a fact!"

"Hang on", protested Bertie, sounding a bit grumpy now that he couldn't do painting. "Just because watching a film got the most votes doesn't mean that it's a fact"

"Yes it does", replied Grace. "Most people voted for a film, so most people think it's best, so it's a fact that it's best".

"No way!", said Ama, "I don't think it's a fact, I still want to do painting so it can't be a fact that films are best".

Mr Robins checked his watch. "All right, there's a bit of disagreement here – we've got a bit of time before lunch so let's have a look at what we makes a fact or an opinion". "And", he added, smiling at Ama and Bertie "if you still want to paint, maybe you could do it at the back of the room while the film is going on?"