



I arrived in Oxford after a long flight and met Mark and Lorraine, and their two cats Tigz and Boo. The next day I went to work with Lorraine to Oxford University Press. The University of Oxford is famous as it is the oldest university in the English-speaking world, dating back to 1096, so very very old. You go to University when you are 18 years old, but some very clever kids go when they are much younger.



The Oxford University Press creates books for both university and school students. One of its most famous books is the Oxford English Dictionary. We met the chief editor, Michael Proffitt, who has the final say on what new words get added to the dictionary. One of the most famous new words added recently was "selfie"... I've been taking lots of these on my holidays!

We did a tour of Oxford. Most of the buildings in Oxford belong to the university. Some buildings are called colleges and these are where the students live, play and do their homework. Other buildings are where the students attend classes and some are big libraries. Some of the buildings are very old and very beautiful with pretty gardens. Many of the buildings have small funny looking statues on them called gargoyles. They are high up so we could not get a picture but you can look at them online.

Lewis Carroll is a famous author who was a teacher at Oxford University. He wrote Alice in Wonderland in 1865, which is about a girl named Alice falling through a rabbit hole into a fantasy world populated by odd creatures. We bought some Alice in Wonderland stickers.

Oxford has a river running through the centre and people like to punt on the river so we went to take a look. A punt is a flat-bottomed boat made to be used in water that is not very deep. We also visited Oxford Castle which was built shortly after the Norman Conquest of England in 1066. It was a bit scary as it is one of the most haunted buildings in England. Footsteps are often heard around the prison and white mists appear in the crypt, which is where people were buried. But we didn't see or hear anything thankfully.

The next day we visited Cambridge, which is another city about 80 miles from Oxford. It is very similar to Oxford as it also has a very old university and has lots of colleges. It also has a river and punting. Oxford and Cambridge are the 2nd and 3rd best universities in the world. We got to have some yummy English strawberries as June is when strawberries are ready to eat in England.



It's been fun Visiting England.









