

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thankfully the weather is less cold than the bitter temperatures we experienced last week which has meant the playground pals have been able to get back out on duty. Unfortunately for them (and the staff on gate duty) it has been rather wet instead! We really are grateful to our playground pals for the help they provide in escorting our younger children to their classes, and personally I find their company such a joy when it is my turn on the gate. They embody the aspect of Catholic Social Teaching which we are focussing on this half term: Solidarity and Peace, in the way they support our school community.

Year 5 visit to Bucks Museum

This week Year 5 visited the Discovery Bucks Museum for a workshop based around our Autumn History topic 'Anglo Saxons'. Year 5 were able to experiment with all different Anglo Saxon activities, such as weaving, broach making, depicting the Saxon language and identifying different objects found within Aylesbury that date back to the Anglo Saxon period.

We used our knowledge that we gained about the Sutton Hoo burial and the Staffordshire Hoard to understand what Aylesbury could have looked like in the Anglo Saxon period of history, and how different the town looks nowadays!

We even had a chance to look around the museum and see all of the artefacts that have been dug up by archaeologists, that tell us about what kind of lives the Anglo Saxons lived.



Different forms of prayer used in school

In school we use a range of different forms of prayer, and this week our focus is on Visio Divina. As some families may not be familiar with this type of prayer, I wanted to share a little information and a few examples.

Visio Divina, which means “divine seeing.” It is a gentle, reflective way of praying by looking at an image and taking time to be still.

Instead of using words straight away, children are invited to look carefully at a picture—often a piece of religious art, a scene from the Bible, or an image that shows kindness, peace, or care for others. They notice what they can see, how it makes them feel, and what message it might hold.

Visio Divina helps children to:

- develop calmness and reflection
- grow in empathy and understanding of others
- connect prayer with everyday life
- listen quietly and respond thoughtfully

It is a very accessible way for children of all ages and abilities to pray, especially those who find silence or spoken prayer challenging.

We often use Visio Divina in RE lessons, class prayer, or worship, helping children learn that God can speak to us not only through words, but also through what we see and reflect upon.



Best wishes, Mrs Machin



We have been learning: about people who help us, this is our topic for the Lent Term.

You can help at home by: by talking to your children about the different people in our community that help us, police, fire fighters, doctors, nurses, teachers and many more. . .

Reception

We have been learning: about beats and rhythms. We read the story 'Tanka Tanka Skunk', clapping the beats.

You can help at home by: asking your child to clap the beats to different words e.g. Kan-ga-roo.

Year 1

We have been learning: one more and one less in maths.

You can help at home by: practising one more and one less than a number within 20.

Year 2

We have been learning: about the different stages in food production.

You can help at home by: seeing if your child can remember all of the four stages.

Year 3

We have been learning: how to say the names of body parts in French.

You can help at home by: asking your child to say the names of different body parts in French when pointed to.

Year 4

We have been learning: about the water cycle in Geography.

You can help at home by: asking your child to describe the water cycle and to name any technical vocabulary.

Year 5

We have been learning: about the Anglo Saxons.

You can help at home by: asking your child what they learned on their visit to Discover Bucks Museum.

Year 6

We have been learning: to create scaled drawings.

You can help at home by: asking your child how they would use scale factors to enlarge shapes.