

Newsletter Term 6 - July 2025

Our Christian value this term is: Respect.



RESPECT

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value RESPECT.

We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT RESPECT TOGETHER...

We are learning at school about the importance of treating others with **respect** even if we sometimes do not agree with the way they behave or the things they say. We have also been thinking about how we should treat the things that belong to us and to other people **respectfully**.

- Think of some practical ways that you show **respect** to each other in your family.
- Often we show **respect** to someone by the way we speak to them. What does this mean in practice?
- Do you treat one another's possessions with **respect**? What does this mean in practice?

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"Respect - to get it you must give it"
Anon



READ TOGETHER...

Moses and the Burning Bush

Moses led the sheep across the dry and dusty desert to Sinai, God's holy mountain. But in the stillness of the wilderness, while the sheep were grazing, Moses' thoughts were never far from the plight of his people the Israelites, who were suffering at the hand of the cruel Egyptian king. Moses had left Egypt years ago. He felt guilty and wished he could help his people, but what could he do? He was not brave, he was not a **respected** leader. Who would listen to him?

And then in the distance Moses noticed something very strange. A desert bush was on fire. The flames licked hungrily around the branches and yet, strangely, the bush did not burn up. He drew closer and as he did so, he clearly heard a voice call to him from the bush, "Moses, Moses!" "Yes, here I am" stammered Moses. "Take off your shoes", said the voice, "for you are standing on holy ground." Reverently, Moses untied his sandals and fell to his knees. "I am the Lord God of your ancestors and I have seen how my people suffer under Pharaoh. I have heard them call out to me to rescue them and now Moses, I am sending you to lead them to freedom." "But I am nobody, I am nothing. How can I go to the king and expect him to **respect** a simple shepherd? How can I ask him to let the people go?" But God replied, "Do not be frightened, I will be with you." "But what if the people will not listen to me?" said Moses. "What do you have in your hand?" "A stick." Moses replied. "Throw it on the ground." Moses did as he was asked. To his astonishment the stick turned into a writhing, angry snake. "Now bend down and pick it up by the tail." Nervously, Moses did as he was asked. Immediately, the snake once more became a stick. "When you perform this miracle," said God, "the people will believe that I have sent you. Take the stick with you for with it you will perform great miracles. Now go and do as I have commanded."

And so it was that on that ordinary day an extraordinary adventure began for Moses and for the people of Israel. It was a story that the world would never forget.

Bible story based on Exodus 3-4



QUIZ Tangled Strings

Which stick became the writhing snake?



An American Indian Tale

Adahy was a good father and as his young son, Kuruk, grew up he proudly taught him all that he knew. In time, Kuruk married and brought his new wife to live in Adahy's home.

Soon they had a baby son, Elan. As Elan grew older his grandfather, Adahy, began teaching the young boy all that he knew and Elan learned to **respect** the forest, its animals and all the different plants. As years passed by Elan's mother begrudged sharing her home more and more with the old man until in anger one day she told her husband that Adahy must leave.

Kuruk was horrified, "I can't make him go, this is his home and he built it for us." Angrily his wife replied "If you do not make the old man go then I will be off and I'll take our son, Elan, with me."

Kuruk knew he had been left with no choice, but he felt so guilty he couldn't bring himself to tell the old man himself. Instead he told Elan to take his grandfather far away, deep into the forest and leave him. "Give him this blanket to keep him warm", he said. Elan was horrified. "But I love and **respect** Grandpa. He has taught me all that I know. How can I do such a thing?" His father replied, "Elan, just do as I've asked."

So the next morning, thinking they must be going hunting, Adahy followed Elan deep into the forest. When the old man could walk no further and stopped to take a nap, the boy, with tears streaming down his face turned back and left Adahy sleeping. That evening as Elan returned, Kuruk and his wife saw the blanket. Elan explained, "I gave Grandpa half of the blanket. The other half, I will give to you some day."

His mother and father understood the message. They went straightaway and fetched Grandpa.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Who do you respect?

Draw or paint a picture of your chosen person and make a frame to surround it. On the reverse give 5 reasons why this person is worthy of special **respect**. The picture can then be hung in the school Challenge Gallery.



FAMILY FOCUS

Respect Detectives

It is important to show the same **respect** to other people that we would wish to be shown to us. It is also important to **respect** the built environment as well as the natural world. Go on a family walk in your village or town. Look around for signs that people **respect** the places where they live by looking after property and public spaces.

- Can you see any graffiti?
- Do dog owners clean up after their dogs?
- Do you notice litter anywhere?
- Are public facilities left clean and tidy – ie benches, telephone kiosks, toilets?

Write to your local council to let them know the results of your survey.



FASCINATING FACTS

Religious communities often treat their holy books with great reverence and **respect**. They believe the holy book contains God's teaching.

- Christians believe that the Bible is God's word to his people. They show **respect** and reverence by treating the Bible carefully. In some churches the Bible has a special stand called a lectern, from which it is read during worship.



- Orthodox Jewish men wear a kippah to cover their heads, as a sign of humility and **respect** towards God. The Torah scrolls are kept in a closed cabinet called an Ark and when reading them a pointer, yad, is used to follow the script so that the scrolls are not touched by hands.



- Muslims keep their holy book, the Qu'ran, covered and in a clean place, not on the floor nor with anything placed on top. To show **respect** and reverence they only handle the book with clean or gloved hands.



- Sikhs cover their heads and remove their shoes before going into a room housing their holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib. To show **respect** and reverence nobody sits higher than the Guru Granth Sahib and no alcohol is ever taken into the room.



HEADTEACHERS MESSAGE

As we reach the end of another school year, it's time to say goodbye to our amazing Year 6 children and start getting ready to welcome our new Reception starters in September.

This year, like every year, we've had our share of challenges—but also so many moments to celebrate. We've seen fantastic achievements, big and small, and shared lots of proud and joyful moments together.

A huge thank you to our brilliant staff team, who work incredibly hard every day and always put the children first. We're so lucky to have such a dedicated group of people here.

Thank you as well to all of you—our parents and carers—for your support, encouragement and the many ways you help the school throughout the year. It really does mean a lot.

And to the children—thank you for filling our days with smiles, laughter and curiosity. Every step you take in your learning reminds us what a special job we have.

Wishing all our families a fun, relaxing summer. Enjoy the sunshine (fingers crossed!) and we'll see you back in September, ready for a brand-new year of learning and adventures!

Mrs Pascoe

ACORN CLASS

Acorns have rounded off the year with lots of activities. Acorns have worked really hard to learn the dance moves and lyrics for our summer production, frequently outshining Mrs Spring!

We also had a fabulous trip to Robinswood Hill with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. We searched for evidence of animals living in the woods. The children found deer footprints, nibbled nuts, lots of feathers, worm holes, bones and even a frog!



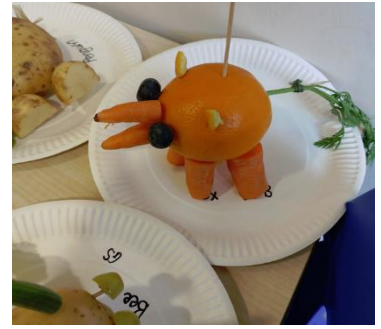
Later in the day we went pond dipping with a net. For many of the children this was a first experience. We were so excited to find baby newts, caddis fly cases, tadpoles, whirligig, pond snails and even a leech !



Over the last couple of weeks we have made entries for the village fete, had great fun making puppets for the Orpheus project and also managed to fit in a trip to see a theatre production!



This week, we rounded off the year with a whole school rounders match and a picnic lunch. Well done Acorns, you have worked really hard this year and you deserve a lovely summer holiday before we do it all again next year !



OAKS CLASS

Maths and English

Year 3 and Year 4 have finished their lessons in both maths and English. All children have done very well this year and have completed everything in their respective curriculums.

Science

We have now finished our science competition. The children competed in 6 different competitions, winning prizes for each individual competition. An award was then given to the two children with the best overall score.

MIGHTY OAKS CLASS

It's hard to believe that we have reached the end of another academic year – this last term always seems to whizz by, filled as it is with so many activities. We have visited North Cerney several times in the last few weeks – to learn our songs for Wednesday evening's concert and to watch the Forefront Theatre present stories from the bible in an entertaining way.

The whole school enjoyed a puppet-making workshop run by the Orpheus project last week. Students made colourful bird puppets, which can be carried in a parade as part of 'Orpheus Day' in Cirencester on 23rd August. This event celebrates the discovery of the mosaic of Orpheus at Barton Farm, just outside the town. Orpheus is a character from Greek mythology, whose music was said to charm the birds, fish and wild beasts.

Key Stage 2

Our art and music this term has been linked to the theme of Ancient Egypt. In the last few weeks, the children have designed and made Egyptian scrolls, using colours, symbols, images and patterns inspired by art from ancient Egypt. This week, they made zines, which are mini-books, containing information of their choice linked to this topic.



We have sung a song about the Nile in two parts, with some children learning to play a musical accompaniment on glockenspiels. We have also learned a song about the social structure in Egypt and the different roles that people had in society.

Mighty Oaks

Year 6 maths has finished this year with a project working out the cost of a holiday abroad. This included calculating travel costs (fuel to the airport, parking and flights), accommodation costs, food and activities. This hopefully gave them an insight into the use of maths in everyday situations and an appreciation of how expenses mount up!

Year 5 have completed their work on decimals, by multiplying decimal amounts. Their final topic this year was negative numbers. They considered how and why these are used and did some counting forwards and backwards through zero and calculated differences.

Our final piece of writing for the year was biographical. The class worked together to write a biography of the famous female pharaoh, Hatshepsut, before researching, and writing about, their own chosen historical figure.

Our last few science lessons have focused on how science has helped us to learn more about dinosaurs. We have considered how a dinosaur's skin colour might make it more or less likely to survive in different temperatures. We have used scaling to try and draw a life-size outline of a dinosaur by using a single bone. Finally, this week, we will be looking at trace fossils such as tracks and coprolite (fossilised dinosaur poo) and considering what these can tell experts. To better understand the importance of coprolite, we will dissect owl pellets to see what we can learn from these.

During the last few weeks, our year 6 students have all been on visits to their new schools and have returned with positive reports. Most of them were able to have some fun as a last 'treat' before leaving, with a visit to Far Peak climbing centre where they took part in bouldering, caving and low rope activities. They are now engaged with putting together their leavers' service. We hope to see many of you there to bid them farewell on Thursday afternoon.

We wish all the children and their families a very happy and restful summer and look forward to seeing the students return in September, ready for their new year of learning.

