

Newsletter Term 5 - June 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.



ACORN CLASS

June has been another busy month in Acorns Class and the children have been hard at work. We have welcomed our new reception cohort to our class and they have settled in very well. Our current reception children have welcomed our new children with open arms, guiding them around the resources and making them feel really at home, well done children !

In Computing, Year 1 have enjoyed completing the coding units for this year making simple games by adding code and testing it. In our art lessons, the children have been practising and refining their drawing skills including using charcoal pencils to create different effects.

In Maths we have been counting beyond 20 in EYFS as well as practising our number bonds to 5 and to 10. Year 1 have been completing a unit on time and they are practising telling the time to the hour and half an hour - you can continue to support your child by practising this at home, the children are very keen !

In Geography, we have nearly completed our last unit on habitats around the world. We have learnt about the seven continents and explored the different animals that live here and how they are adapted to the environment around them (emperor penguin, red panda, african elephant and whale shark). The children have learnt a great deal about each animal which I'm sure they'd love to share with you.

In English, the Year 1 children have been writing about other cultures and have written a story based on the book Wombat goes Walkabout. They worked hard generating their own ideas and writing a five part story of which they are very proud. In EYFS, the children have been writing phrases and sentences using the phonics they have been learning. We have started to learn the phase 5 phonic sounds and so they have a huge array of sounds to use in their spelling now . The children are doing well writing their own sentences with some lovely neat handwriting too.

We have lots more to cover before the end of term and so the children will be kept busy right up until the end of term with lots to look forward to both in school and off-site

OAKS CLASS

English

Our English topic this term has involved us looking into Nordic mythology. We chose the story Arthur and the Golden Rope to base our writing off. As a class, we followed the story of Arthur and his Quest. The children then wrote their own version of the story based on Fenrir's perspective.

Maths

Year 3 and Year 4 have both been challenged with our unit based around telling the time. It is a really tricky concept for anyone to learn, but the children have all done really well.

Science

This month in science we have been recapping on everything we have learned this year. We are recapping our knowledge through competitions. So far the children have competition in a general knowledge competition, an electricity competition and a rock competition. At the end of the term, they will find out who won each competition and we will award an overall science award to the child with the highest score.

History

In History, we have begun our new topic looking at the Ancient Egyptians and everything they achieved. So far we have decided that some of the greatest achievements the Ancient Egyptians made were the way they used the River Nile, their use of the papyrus plant and the way they constructed the concept of three farming seasons to effectively use the River Nile and flooding to ensure they never ran out of food.

French

We have begun our new topic thinking all about school! So far we have looked at how to say 10 different subjects in French. This is a particularly hard topic, but all the children are doing well.

RSHE

The theme for RSHE this term is all about how we might change. We have thought about different changes that might happen in our life and how some can be controlled and some can't. We had a long discussion about what a compromise is and how we can put that into practice in school. This week we have discussed what a secret is and what a surprise is and how they are different.

RE

In our RE topic, we have been looking at different journeys in people's lives. We have looked at our own journeys as well as some religious journeys that people might take.

Computing

In computing, we have been looking at simulations. We have discussed what they are, why they are used and the advantages and disadvantages of using them. We have also completed some simulations online and evaluated how useful they are,,

MIGHTY OAKS CLASS

Mighty Oaks

Earlier this term, the pupils all travelled to Skern Lodge near Appledore in Devon from Monday to Wednesday where they took part in a range of outdoor activities. Here are excerpts from the children's recounts of their trip.



Last week, we went to Skern Lodge in Devon for this year's residential. We did a lot of activities: surfing, rafting, climbing, assault course, rock-pooling and a night walk. It was a 3 hour drive in a bus to get there but it was definitely worth it.

Climbing and assault course

We got a helmet and harness, put them on and started. There were two walls – one easier, one harder (I went on the easier). After that, we took on an assault course where we had to work together to get to the finish line, but there was a twist: we couldn't touch the floor or we would earn lava points (which we didn't want).

We had to get a rope and swing to the other side, then walk across a rope, climb down some planks, cross stepping stones and balance on the middle of a seesaw.

Surfing

At Westward Ho! we did surfing. It was amazing because of the excitement of crashing through the waves and dashing towards the shore, although it was very hard to keep the board end up, so that it didn't tilt downwards.

River Rafting

After he explained everything we needed to do to be safe, we pushed our rafts in the river and hopped in. We had to push upstream against a current. It was an extremely tricky task to overcome but we found our strength to keep pushing on. Soon we found land and decided to have some fun. We had to walk around the inflated wall of the raft and not fall off. Everyone had a go and even the teachers and no one fell.

The water was shallow and not too cold. When we got to a little island, we got out and went in the water and were pulled along by the current.



Overall comments

When we did the assault course, there was an 8-foot wall and I lifted 8 people over the wall!

The food was like a masterchef had made it and the activities were even better.

The feelings I had were excitement, thrill, eagerness and joy. My proudest moment was facing my fear of heights on the rock-climbing wall.

Overall, Skern Lodge was a great experience. The staff were friendly, the food was good and the activities were amazing. I would do it again. It truly was brilliant!

STEM workshop for RIAT

On Tuesday, 24th June, year 5 and 6 spend the morning on an engineering challenge run by Rosie, an ambassador for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). They had to design and build a wind-powered vehicle to carry a bucket of supplies. They had a budget with which to purchase materials and specifications that had to be followed. All four teams produced excellent vehicles, which travelled the length of the hall. We had a wonderful morning of creativity with children testing and tweaking their designs. The winning team, whose vehicle met the specification, who were careful with budget and who worked together effectively as a team were Finley and Max. They will be asked to represent the school at the finals taking place at RIAT in Fairford on 18th July.



First Aid Course

All the pupils in Key Stage 2 were introduced to basic first aid on Monday 16th June. They learned how to call the emergency services, put casualties in the recovery position, help a choking casualty and perform CPR after checking it is safe to do so.



Leavers' Service

Our year 6 pupils joined other leavers from all over the county on June 12th for a special celebratory service at Gloucester Cathedral. Our banner was proudly paraded, children sang songs, listened to stories and key messages and took part in prayers showing thanks for the past and hopes for the future. We were given a candle, which was lit during the service and which we will use in our school worship sessions until the end of term.

