

St Mary's News



Friday 6th June 2014 – Issue 3

SPECIAL EDITION - RESPECT WEEK 2014

New Editors

Unfortunately our time as editors will soon come to an end, so if you are in Year 5 and would like to apply for the job, please write a letter of application to Miss Slack. We will decide on the new editors in the week beginning 7th July.

By Bethany and Madison

What is Respect Week?

Pupils took time to reflect on issues of diversity and equality during Respect Week at St Mary's. Each day focused on a different topic linked to culture, our environment, disability and faith. Visitors to the school commented on the excellent behaviour of the pupils and also the interesting questions which they asked during the sessions.

Our school councilors have all helped to contribute to this special edition of the newspaper, which we hope that you enjoy reading!

Recycling workshops – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

As part of our Respect Week activities, each class had the chance to complete a workshop with Demelza from Devon Recycling Team. These gave the children the chance to understand the importance of recycling, respecting living things (no matter how tiny) and developing respect for the environment.

On Tuesday morning after break time, Demelza came to show Fernworthy Class just how important recycling food waste is for us and other living things. We were surprised to find out that the workshop was going to take place in the classroom, rather than on the field!

All the children started to ask questions about what a compost bin is like inside. Then we looked at what it would be like to live inside and finally we got to look at some soil which she had taken from her compost bin. We dissected the soil in groups and found some interesting mini-beasts, including some baby worms, which we watched hatching – it was amazing! The whole class really enjoyed the experience and hope that Demelza enjoyed it just as much as we did.

By Ellie Bovingdon-Dance



Today is the 70th Anniversary of the D Day landings which were the first stage of the invasion of Nazi-occupied Europe.

By the end of D-Day on 6 June 1944, the Allies had established a foothold in France – an event that would eventually help bring the second world war to an end. Let us always remember with respect the brave people who are prepared to fight for freedom.



Dragonfly Nature Walk

On Tuesday, Venford Class had a nature walk in our school field and made some beautiful dragonflies. During our walk, we saw lots of different mini-beasts and thought about what they were called. Emily and Claudia were our two leaders for the walk.

Afterwards, we made some toy dragonflies using sticks, pipe cleaners, beads and wings. It was fun making them! When we had made them, we played on the field and flew them in the Willow Tunnel.

By Hannah T



Buddhism

During our Respect Week, we learnt a bit about Buddhism and Mrs Hutchinson led an assembly to explain a bit more about it. Burrator Class also did some research about Buddhism and created some writing about Buddha's birthday. Here is some information I found out about Buddhism:

Buddhism started with the Buddha. The title 'Buddha' means 'enlightened one' or 'one who is awake'. The Buddha was born in Nepal, India named Siddhartha Gautama around 2,500 years ago. He did not claim to be a god or a prophet. He was a human being who became enlightened, understanding life in the fullest way possible. Siddhartha was born into royalty sheltered from the harsh reality about the world. Eventually he found out the truth and decided to seek for it. He meditated and nearly starved to death doing it when he found out this wasn't the answer. He travelled further until he found a tree called the Bodhi tree. He seated himself there in a meditation pose and vowed not to rise until he had reached perfect enlightenment. Buddhists believe that the ultimate goal is to achieve enlightenment like Buddha.

By Jasmine



Blind Football Session

Mr de Young taught us some of the skills for Blind Football. We thought carefully about what it might feel like to be blind. At first I felt nervous about putting on a blindfold and being led by someone else, but as soon as I started to move, I felt better.

We played a few football skill games, like passing the ball – once we started to do the same thing but blindfolded, it got more difficult but it was fun!

By Joseph



Dementia Awareness

During our respect week Burrator had a lesson on Dementia. The class had to make a poster on Dementia including all they already knew, as well as some information from an Alzheimer's Society leaflet.

Dementia is not a natural part of aging, but is more common among over-65s. Also Dementia is more common in women than men; one of the reasons for this is because women normally live longer than men.

Dementia consists of a collection of symptoms such as memory loss, mood changes, as well as problems with communication. These symptoms come from a number of diseases that cause change in the brain. The most common is Alzheimer's disease this changes the chemistry and structure in the brain causing brain cells to die. There are many different types of Dementia and they all affect the brain in a different way.

Some people fear Dementia but a lady called Caroline who has Dementia said "To be able to drive, sing, use a computer quite happily – it's not the end of the world". Caroline is 55 years old and an active member of her local community.

If you want to find out more information on Dementia or find out about how to get involved go to Alzheimers.org.uk.

By Bethany

Bushcraft

During Respect Week, the whole school went up onto the field to take part in some Bushcraft activities. The first group made little fabric campfires with real twigs from our woodland area near the car park. The second group gathered wood and learnt how to light a real camp fire and stay safe. We were then able to toast marshmallows and cook some popcorn.

By Eloise



Guide Dog Visit

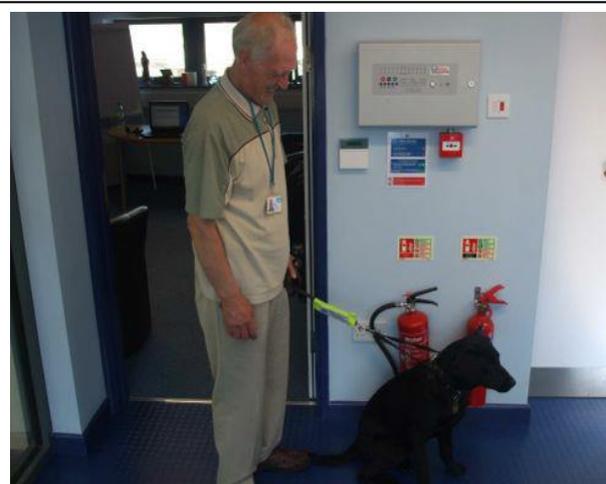
On Wednesday, we had some visitors to our school for a very special assembly. We sat on the amphitheatre on the playground for the assembly. Our school met some very special visitors called Marvin and Coral, who were guide dogs and their owners.

One of the dogs was a working guide dog and the other was a puppy, who was training to be a guide dog. We found out some interesting facts, such as:

- The Guide Dog Charity trains about 1,350 puppies every year.
- Some people are allergic to dogs, so they use a special breed of dog called a 'labradoodle', as these dogs do not shed their hair.
- A guide dog will usually have about 7 puppies in one litter.
- Guide dogs only work for so long and then they retire. Usually this is after about 7 years.
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After the talk, we were all able to stroke the dogs and ask our own questions.

By Louis



Garden Area

We were hoping to build a new gardening area at the top of the field, with the help from some visitors. Unfortunately, they were not able to help out on the day, but St Mary's had its very own 'Ground Force team', Mrs McCullough and Mrs Bradford, along with some pupils from Burrator, who made a fantastic job of creating a planter which our gardening club have now started to fill with vegetables and herbs. A big thank you also to the Abbey Gardening Department and Mr Norman for providing and delivering the materials for the planter.



Please send any ideas or suggestions for St Mary's News to the School Office or email the information to admin@st-marysrc.devon.sch.uk.