



News on the Ninth

Gusford Celebration Newsletter – Issue 72 – 9th March 2016

News on the Ninth - a reflection of Gusford



What do you tell others about Gusford? Well a quick trawl of social media can reveal all the things that a few people think we are not doing, but take the time to read the News on the Ninth and you will see the wonderful range of what we do achieve at Gusford. For me, this picture above sums up all that is good about Gusford and you can read more about what it stands for on the article on page 6 and in my headteacher blog on our website. This month saw our RE curriculum day, paired class work, crating Anglo Saxon jewellery, FA coaching and educational visits to name but a few things. When a friend or neighbour asks about Gusford then point them in the direction of News on the Ninth to give them a flavour of what the school really does do for children.

RE Day



On 4th March we had our RE day. The day started with Barry, from the Suffolk Jewish community, who talked about his religion and showed some of his artefacts and talked about some of his practices. We then had another visitor when Mary from the Buddhist centre talked about Buddhism and wellbeing.



Throughout the day we then read stories from different religions and made a range of our own artefacts. A quick glance at gusford Twitter page reveals all that we did including making our own Buddhas in Y1, Mandalas in Y5, Y6 & Y1, unleavened bread in Y2, and tried on Joseph's

technicoloured dreamcoat in Y3. There was plenty to enjoy and it helped the children enjoy and understand the perspective of other people's beliefs and understand the importance of tolerance.



Inspiration

Year 3 Colchester Castle



On 11th February 2016, the whole of Year 3 from Gusford Primary School went on a trip to Colchester Castle to study the Romans.

Soon it was 9.15am and we walked through the double doors to leave the school. On the way to the coach, my friend's mums' were waving to them, as they strolled on the coach. Alexi and I were walking to the beautiful coach and sat right at the back. Next, whilst I was on the coach, I saw a vast football stadium.

After, we got off the coach and walked to the castle gate, walked in and was so, so, so amazed! It was beautiful, there were glass cases covering delicate property. On the stand it showed you important information. Like in the Roman time, Romans won over the Celts and the Celts sometimes fought naked!

Then we walked upstairs and looked at the roundhouse. It had straw on top of the roof and other muddy things. We walked further on and found Roman armour, it was really heavy because it was made out of chains! I put my arm through it and I could hardly pick it up! It was kind of like an arm rest!

Next, we went downstairs and the teachers told us to get our money for the shop to buy something. The amount of money we were allowed was a maximum of £3.00. I bought a feather pen and a pad that said 'Colchester Castle'. Afterwards, we went in a hall with tables for us to eat lunch. I had a delicious lunch that was very yummy!

Next we went to see a man and a well. The man told us to count the steps in hundreds. There were twenty steps. The man called the bottom of the castle vaults. When we got down to the vaults, there were human mouse holes, well that's what I called them! The man told us information about the Celts. Then he asked for a volunteer to show you what happened and it was Mr Webber. Mr Webber had a heavy thing around him, like a necklace that was dirty silver. Afterwards, we went back upstairs again and looked around the museum a bit more.

Eventually, we went to the jail and there were sounds coming from a speaker in the corner of the prison. There were metal bars covering the way to get out. It wasn't that scary! When we went out of the prison it was very crowded with the other class. Finally, we got out of the crowd and walked upstairs. We grabbed our belongings from the crates and we got into our groups. The teachers led us outside to say thank you. We walked outside and for some reason there was a smell of hotdogs! We all got in a line for our picture taken. We all smiled and felt so tired! We eventually walked to the coach. In the end, we walked to the coach and went back to school. After that, it was assembly and home time. I had a lovely day!

I would recommend this visit to a friend because I learnt a lot about the Romans. I would recommend it to someone who hasn't been before.

By Darcy 3F



School Council

For the last couple of weeks, the School Council has been busy with thinking about what things we can do to improve Gusford further. School Councillors were tasked with collecting the views of their classmates and the suggestions were rather enlightening! Suggestions included better playtime equipment, new tables and chairs, access to newer books and up-to-date technology in classrooms. These were put forward to the Senior Leadership Team and as a result of this; a few reps were invited to attend a meeting with them to discuss their ideas. Reps were also invited to a meeting with Mrs Clayton in order to provide an insight into how they think behaviour can be improved at Gusford. The School Councillors presented the views of their peers extremely well and it was great to see how much they want to make a difference to their school. We are currently looking into all of your great ideas and will keep you updated of any outcomes!

Miss Kenny

5W FA coaching

Every Wednesday afternoon 5W have been lucky enough to be enjoying PE with Rosi the FA coach. They have been learning a variety of skills and have been loving every minute of it. There isn't a quiet moment and no time for resting. Everyone is active and learning new skills which can be applied to many different situations not just in football. Every single child takes part and they are always eager to act on advice to make their skills even better. It's lovely to see everyone learning so much as well as enjoying every part of the session at the same time (Even when everyone is covered in mud!)

Miss Williams

Y6 Red Cross Workshop



Currently, Year 6 pupils are taking part in a 4 week course designed to educate them about the topical issues of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. On a daily basis we see news items about this issue and we feel it was important to ensure that our children are fully aware of this issue and the reasons why people may choose to, or may be forced to, leave their homes.

"I really enjoyed the sessions because before Ruby told us I didn't really know what migrating meant. Furthermore, I was happy to learn that some people get help rather than living on the streets. We should appreciate how well we are treated and where we live."

Kayleigh Haddock

"It's interesting to learn about because I didn't really understand before but now I can sympathise with the people who have to leave."

Emilie Kennell

"It was interesting discovering how people survive in tough circumstances"

Aimante Gerlikaite



Friends Club



On Thursday 3rd March, Friends Club spent our lunchtime discovering some exciting new books when we learnt how to use eBooks with our brand new Kindles! Children ranging from years 3 to 6 eagerly shared stories, including 'My Dad is a Loser' and a 'Diary of a Minecraft Adventurer'. Due to the popularity of using the Kindles, we will continue to offer them every Thursday and Friday lunchtimes during our Friends club. It was a wonderful way to celebrate World Book Day and to promote our new Kindle Club, which is every Wednesday lunchtime in the library with Miss Johnston and is open to Years 5 & 6!



Y2 RE day bread making



We started the day looking at the story of Passover. We imagined what it would have been like if we were there and wrote a dramatic recount as if we were a friend of Moses and what we would be feeling. We found out that the Israelites were in such a rush they did not have time to let their bread rise. They just rolled their dough into balls and left it on top of their bags. As they walked through the hot desert this bread cooked. Fortunately we did not have to rely on sunshine to bake our bread!





Y4 Anglo Saxon Jewellery



When Mrs Gray told us we were going to make our own necklace I thought it would be tricky

because we had to make all of the beads. It took us a lot of preparation and time to make all of our beads. You had to make sure that the beads didn't slide over the pasta. At the end I was really impressed with my necklace. The thing I liked most about my necklace was the beads because they look really good when finished.

By Maddie 4GI

What I enjoyed about my necklace was making the beads. We used white sugar paper then measured out the cm and we cut it out. After that we rolled it up.



I also liked threading the beads onto the necklace. When I made my jewellery I liked the disk because of the colour I painted it. What I enjoyed the most about my jewellery making was when I got to try it on. I also liked when I got to paint the beads.

By Libby 4GI

When I made my jewellery I made a pattern and it was symmetrical. The fastening was paperclips and the beads were made out of paper and four of my beads were wooden. In the middle of the necklace I put a circle and stuck two green and two blue sequins on it. I painted my beads gold and silver.

By Luke 4GI

Y4 Storytelling

The children in Year 4 have been using the art of storytelling to help them develop their own story writing skills. They learnt the story of Kassim and the Fox, used 'hot seating' to investigate the characters and then retold the story through drama. The children are currently writing their own version of the story.

In our English lessons we have been learning about the story of Kassim and the Fox. Mrs Urquhart took us into the hall to teach us the actions to the story. We all enjoyed acting out this amazing and fun story and afterwards we made story maps for our book. Our favourite part was when Kassim met the fox.

By Jessica and Silan 4GI

It was really fun acting out Kassim and the Fox in our group and it was really nice to film it on the iPads. I liked acting the part of the cat because I made the tone in my voice high pitched. My part was Kassim and I really enjoyed acting with lots of different characters around me.

By Lucia and Laurelle 4GI

I really enjoyed playing the mouse because I got to squeak a lot and got to have cheesecake instead of chocolate. I want to teach my family the story and actions.

Barney 4GI

I played Granny and I loved giving Barney his cheesecake in Kassim and the Fox. Lily 4GI

I played the dog and I enjoyed following Kassim around and being able to tell the others where we were going and what we were going to buy. I really enjoyed being able to take part in the story. Lia 4GI

In our English lesson we learnt the story of Kassim and the Fox and some actions to go with it. My favourite part was when Grandma gave us a slice of chocolate cake. My favourite part of the story was when I got to say "What have you got in your bag?"

Levon, Aaron and Jayden 4GI



Collaboration

Y6 & Y1 - RE day



Parent Council

This month we looked at the behaviour policy, what is going well and what improvements parents would like. This was a really helpful session to help the school as we update the behaviour policy. We are always looking for more parents to join us on the parent council so do let the office know if you would like to join us. Our next meeting is 5th May 2pm.

On Friday 4th March Year 1 and Year 6 joined together as part of our special RE day. We learnt about Mandalas and why they were made for celebrations in the Buddhist religion.



After looking at some, we then created designs of our own. Once we had chosen one we then set about making them. Mandalas show the Buddhist belief of kindness and so much kindness was shown as all the children shared ideas

and resources and worked together to create fantastic Mandalas of their own. Year 6 children shared their stories with year 1 that they had been discussing as part of their morning lessons. What a fantastic afternoon.