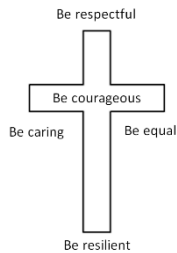




Chelmondiston Church of England Primary School



'Love other people... as we love ourselves.'

(Luke 10:27)

Our children will be taught the academic and life skills to be able to achieve their potential in a nurturing Christian environment; with this resilience and courage they will learn to be caring towards others, know that all people should be equal and aim to be custodians of the wider world.

This has been a busy and exciting year at our school, despite the many disruptions and uncertainties. Outdoor Learning has been a main focus for us throughout the year and we have found that the benefits for well-being, developing an awe for nature, and providing opportunities for developing relationships and a sense of responsibility have been bounteous.

Forest School sessions continued throughout the year; we are fortunate to have amazing school grounds with two wooded areas and an outdoor classroom.



After returning to school in March, the numbers of children doing Forest Schools were doubled to ensure that each class would be able to have this amazing opportunity. As soon as we could, classes were able to leave the school site and visit Pin Mill woods.





After two classes had to isolate in the summer term, children returned to an Outdoor Learning Day. Here are some of things pupils said about the day:

“On Outdoor Learning day we did a freeze frame connected to English about a brave warrior battling for his life against a ferocious sea hag – Grendal’s horrible mother. Being outside was really fun for us because we felt lively and fresh and new when we went back inside. It was a boost for our well-being. Our favourite part was the noun hunt because we got to find lots of different stuff and we felt adventurous. We also enjoyed making shapes that related to Maths.” Charlie and Tom

“I just really like being outside because you get to look at the trees and nature.” Ivy

“I liked how we took pictures (with a camera) and made the Iron Man. I liked having more room and having fresh air.” Bentley

“It was more fun to explore and find the materials. It was like an adventure.” Ethan



Unable to have visitors in school at some points during the year, we held Zoom meetings with inspirational individuals. One of the highlights was when each class participated in a Zoom call with Eleanor Church who is a documentary filmmaker, adventurer and environmentalist; she has been making films for over 15 years in challenging conditions all over the world. Her work has always focused on the environment and people, and the impact that they have on one another. She explained to the children about the effects of plastic pollution in our oceans and how we can act to reduce plastic use. Here is what Bobby and Amy, Year 6, wrote about the event:

On Tuesday, we met a photographer called Eleanor Church who talked about Ocean Day and plastic in the ocean. She and another 13 women set out to find the Great Pacific Garbage Patch which is an area twice the size of France full of rubbish! They set off from Hawaii and

were beginning to doubt themselves, when, on the surface of the water, they saw: a toothbrush, a bucket and even a plastic chair. The expedition included marine biologists who threw a net into the water to see what they would find on the surface; they found many small pieces of plastic which were dangerous for the sea life.

Our favourite part was when Eleanor told a story about one night, after a huge storm, she could see thousands of stars in the sky which lit up the sea. She went on to talk about how if you picked up 10 pieces of litter every time you visited the beach, you could save many sea creature's lives. Overall, it was a great experience and everyone took a lot away from it, for example, Edme class are trying to not use any one use plastics for a whole week.

Here are some other learning highlights from this year:



Easter Gardens made by our after school 'Late Bird Club'



Cygnets class enjoyed their Easter Tens Frame treasure hunt.



Melissa class made a banner for Pentecost, which was displayed in the churches in Shotley, St Mary, and Chelmondiston, St Andrew.



Eco school were proud to harvest their broad beans, which, once cooked, Thistle class used to make a couscous salad.

We were keen to ensure that our Year 6s enjoyed their final weeks at Chelmondiston Church of England Primary School and used this as a time for reflection, to prepare for their transition to high school and to enjoy the nurturing, Christian environment that we provide. They visited Xplore to do quad biking, crate stacking and archery. The children also walked to Neptune Quay to enjoy a morning of sailing on the River Orwell, as well as visiting the Methodist Church and camping on the school grounds.



Revd Canon Liesbeth held a thought-provoking leavers' service at St Andrews Church, which culminated in the children singing outside.



Lesley Etchingam, Headteacher.

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