

News from St. Mary's Primary

Report written by Jessica Fryer and Eli Chigome, journalists - Rowan class

St Mary's have been working hard this term learning about and using our Christian values. Our Christian Value for this term is respect. We gave a warm welcome to our guests and we thank Jackie Cork and Bryn Rickards for lovely worships.

Nursery and Reception have had a great month, going to the Sea Life Centre and having fun. Their sharing café was about The Bad Tempered Ladybird. They made ladybird biscuits and went on a mini beast hunt in the playground. They have also been busy getting fit in preparation for our Sports day which takes place on the 29th June.



Year 1 have had loads of fun this month with making swords, going on trips and sharing cafes. They had a lovely sharing café reading and learning all about the 'Tiny Seed.' They made beautiful sunflowers with pretty petals. On their school trip they went to Hedingham Castle and held swords, helmets and maps. Mrs Brinded nearly had her head chopped off!

This is a recount of the day from year 1:

Our trip to Hedingham Castle: - A wet, dark, but brilliant day!

Early Tuesday morning we arrived at school, it was raining - Oh No!

Firstly, we came into class and registered then got ready to go on the coach - we were all very excited. Then we walked in the drizzly rain to get on the coach - it was huge! We got to sit with the people in our group. It was quite a long journey. We looked out at the rain; it just wouldn't stop. The clouds were black and grey; the rain drops trickled down the window.

After a while we arrived. A man from the castle called Simon dressed in olden clothes came onto to our coach and told us where to go. So we walked over the bridge and saw the great, enormous, amazing castle. The walls were stony grey and crumbly. We walked through a wooden door and sat in a dark but grand room with bumpy walls and colourful material hanging from the ceilings.

Next, we listened carefully to where we had to go and we made our way steadily up the windy staircase, holding on tightly to the rope. When we were at the top of lots of stairs we sat down and met a man called Steven, who told us all about what we would do if we were servants. We lay down on the floor because that is where they used to sleep. We also learned that they would have to climb the steep stairs many times to set up the great hall and feed the Lord and his guests' dinner.

After that we met the musicians, who told us that music was an important part of entertainment and how they would dance in the great hall after they had feasted. We did a circle dance and then learned about the old instruments that were called bagpipes and a cittern.

Then we went back downstairs into the castle kitchen. We played some games and we won the beanbag toss. Next it was time for lunch. Finally! We were really hungry!

We ate lunch and chatted to our friends. Suddenly it went dark! There had been a power cut so all the lights had gone out because of the stormy, windy weather - Oh No! Luckily some people found some torches and we were able to venture

down the scary staircase into the dark and creepy store rooms. Here we met Sam, the Archer, and Simon, the soldier; they were very loud and scary. They told us about daggers, swords, spears and shields. They told us weapons were needed to defeat an army. We got to hold the swords and shields - they were really heavy! Then Sam the Archer showed us how to load a bow and arrow but he couldn't shoot one because we could go outside. Next they showed us about armour; we were allowed to try on some chainmail and helmets. The lights came back on for a little while but then went off again!

Then we went back upstairs again. We met a medicine lady who told us about the different medicines she used in the castle. If you had a headache they would tie a cabbage to your head. And if you had sore eyes they would rub them with snail slime - disgusting!

Finally, we met a man who told us all about defending a castle and what you would do inside the castle if the French enemy attacked. If they were using a battering ram to attack, you could pour boiling liquids on them or throw rocks at them. Then if they tried to climb ladders, you could swipe away the ladders with long, pointy sticks. Then they might start to attack by digging tunnels and making fires beneath the castle!

Then we went back downstairs with all the other schools to say goodbye and thank you to everyone. We walked very quickly down the big hill to get back on our coach. In the end we were a bit soggy but happy. What an amazing day we had at the castle.



Year 2 also went to the Sealife Centre at Clacton and had a great time too. They experienced what it is like to be under the sea and the waves. During their sharing café, the book that they had read 'Sharing the Shell,' inspired them to go to the Sealife Centre.



Year 3 had a sharing café about Fantastic Mr. Fox. They learnt about the characters and did colouring and crossword activities. They have also been thinking about not having litter dropped all around the school. This is part of their RE learning on stewardship.

Year 4 have had a sharing café about The Jungle Book and made beautifully colourful rainmakers inspired by jungle characters and the sounds of the rainforest. They have done really well with Accelerated Reader and are achieving excellent scores.

Year 5 and 6 have been working together to make portraits of wealthy Tudor Lords, Ladies, Kings and Queens as part of their topic on Tudors. They first drew their figures and painted the background. Then they used collage materials to create the beautiful clothes. On their trip to Kentwell Hall, which is coming up, they may be able to see some 'living Tudors'!



Year Five have also written some wonderful Roald Dahl poems, whilst Year Six have been creating some superb tension in their Haunted House stories this term. Year Six also enjoyed a very busy and exciting visit to London as a reward for all their hard work in their SATs. They enjoyed seeing many famous sights along the River Thames and spent several hours exploring the Science Museum.

This term, we have also had a visit from M and M Productions who put on an excellent performance of The Jungle Book for the entire school to watch and enjoy. Thank you to the Rosa Simon Music Fund and the Parent Support Group for funding this for us.

