

Long Melford Church of England Primary School and Nursery

Roman Archaeological Dig



In September, our Year 3 and 4 children, participated in a Roman Archaeological Dig, run by the Long Melford Heritage Centre, on our school field.

In years gone by, we have taken children to visit archaeological digs that have taken place around the village; mainly these have been linked to the new building developments that have taken place. Our children have always been fascinated by what the archaeologists have

been doing and what they have found.

During the early part of the Summer Term, I met with John Nunn and Kenneth Dodd, who had come up with the idea of developing a special archaeological dig for our children, which would teach them the skills that archaeologists use and let them find things including pottery, coins, animal bones and jewelry. Plans were made and involved lots of people to whom I need to give huge thanks:

- FLUMPS (Friends of Long Melford Primary School) – for arranging for a digger, to dig a 4 by 4 metre pit on our school field.
- The Long Melford Heritage Centre Team who came into school over several weekends in order to prepare the pit for the children.
- The Heritage Centre volunteers who have been amazing this week and have given up their time to help our children have an awesome experience that they will not forget: Kenneth Dodd, John Nunn, Alan Border, David Burch, David Gevaux, Richard Michette, Elaine Symonds, Angela Starkey and Deborah Blake.
- Lynda Badger, our Legionary Soldier, for keeping order at the dig and for coming into school to share artifacts with Year 3 and 4.

Without all their help and support, this activity could not have happened – it was a great opportunity to ensure that our children were aware of the history of Long Melford. It has also enriched the Roman topic that they are looking at – The Romans are no longer just invaders who came from Italy, but are now people who lived in Long Melford, including **living on our school field!**

I also have to thank our children who were so enthusiastic and excited – the squeals and shouts every time they found something was a joy to hear. Many children have also announced that they want to be an archaeologist when they get older!

Long Melford Heritage Centre has been nominated for a National Archaeological Award for running this activity with a Primary School. At Long Melford, we all have our fingers crossed for them!

