

OPAL—Play in action!

I wrote to you all last week to provide you with a bit more information about the exciting OPAL programme that we have just started to support our enhancement of the play provision for our children at lunchtime. This week we had a play assembly on Wednesday where we introduced two new play opportunities to the children. These will support them with imaginative and fantasy types of play. There was much excitement when the children heard that they were going to have a trunk of dressing up clothes to be able to use and a big collection of cardboard boxes to let their imaginations run wild with! From space ships, to castles and from shields to submarines, the playground was full of creative ideas, smiling faces and people having fun. We talked as a school about the kind of considerations we need to have when playing and sharing these resources with one another and the children have demonstrated great

respect for one another, the items they're playing with and it's been lovely to see some great mixed age playing in action.



Children's Mental Health Week

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, a week dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of the children's wellbeing. This year's theme is: Your Voice Matters. As a Rights Respecting School, we're very mindful of Article 12 in the UNCRC which states that children have the right to express their views, feelings and wishes in all matters affecting them, and to have their views considered and taken seriously. We talk with the children about this in school so that they recognise the value in voicing their thoughts. We have worry boxes in classes and a post box in the hall for the children to be able to write down things they would like to share with us. This might include something they are worried about or ideas and suggestions they would like us to consider. Even if not always able to deliver their wishes and requests, we're able to have a conversation to discuss the reason for this which helps them to feel that their voice is being heard in school.

Place2Be, the charity who launched Children's Mental Health week offer parenting advice from child mental health experts and a range of practical tips to support children's wellbeing and behaviour can be found via this link. <https://parentingsmart.place2be.org.uk/> Some additional 'Top Tips' for families can be found here too <https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/schools/primary-age-activities/#resources>



Safer Internet Day

Next Tuesday is Safer Internet Day, a day that takes place in February each year to raise awareness of a safer and better internet for all, and especially for children and young people. We will be celebrating this day in school and drawing attention to the importance of keeping ourselves and others safe online by considering the content we access and our conduct when communicating with others online. We will be supporting the children by providing them with reminders about what to do if they encounter a situation online that makes them feel unsafe or upset. The link below will take you to a selection of resources and guides to support you as parents to help keep your child safe when online.

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>



Diary Dates

Wk. beg 5th Feb	Children's Mental Health Week
Mon 5th Feb	EYs visit to the fire station
Wed 7th Feb	4C to attend Parish Mass at 10am
Fri 16th Feb	EYs People who help us dress-up day
Fri 16th Feb	Cake stall (on the playground after school)
	Wk. beg 19th Feb HALF TERM
Wed 28th Feb	3P to attend Parish Mass at 10am
Mon 4th March	Book Fair starts (Mon 4th - Thur 7th)



Cake Stall

The Friends are going to be hosting a cake stall on Friday 16th February after school and will be looking for donations of cakes on the day. More information will follow.



How do people help us and what jobs do they do?

The children in Early Years are currently working hard to find out the answer to their key question for this half term, 'How do people help us and what jobs do they do?' They have welcomed a number of people into their classrooms over the past couple of weeks to find out a bit more about their line of work and how their role helps others.

They have had a visit from Phoebe, a past St Edmunds pupil who is now a vet. They also invited Ian, our crossing patrol officer into talk about how he keeps us all safe when crossing the road to get to school. Their final visitor this week was from Dr Hannah.



The children listened really carefully and asked some fabulous questions to further their learning. They asked questions such as, How does your brain work? Which pets have you looked after? and How do we cross the road if you're not there?



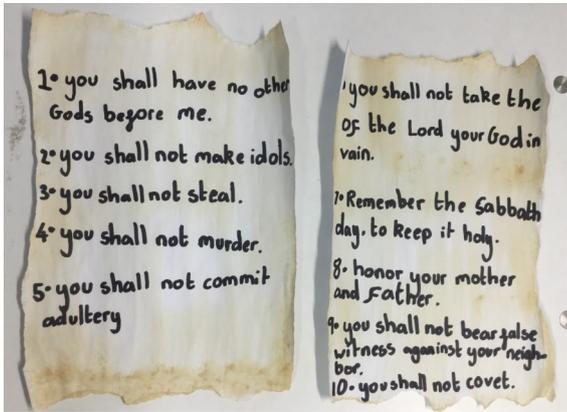
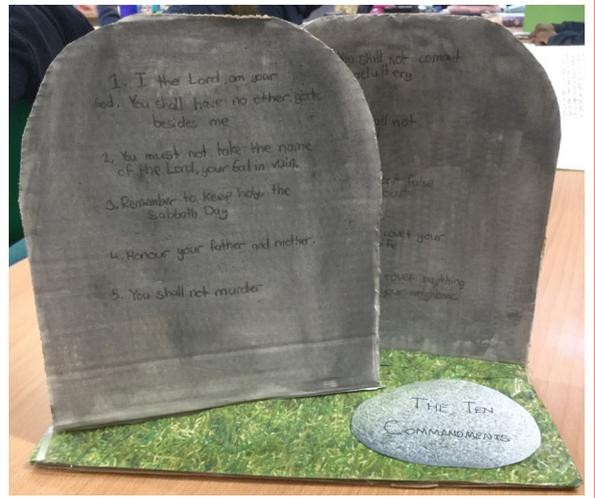
Donations of wellies

We remain on the look out for any pairs of children's wellies that your child has outgrown and is no longer making use of at home. We will be talking more about wellies in the not too distant future but in the meantime, if you have any unwanted pairs, please send them into school and we will happily put them to good use.

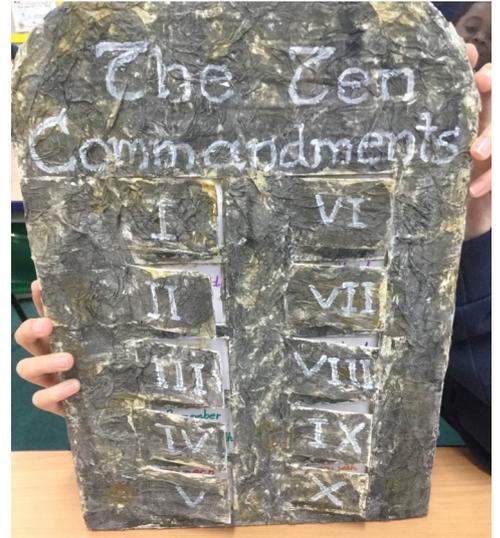


Year 5 RE Homework

In their RE lessons Year 5 have been focusing on The Covenants made by God with Noah, Abraham and Moses. This week they have been learning all about the Ten Commandments and for their Home Learning the children were asked to present the Ten Commandments in a creative way to consolidate their learning.



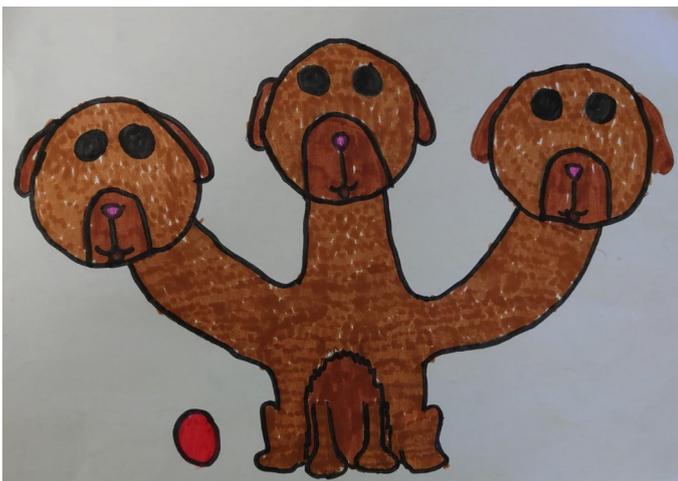
Here are some of the wonderful pieces of work the Year 5 teachers have been receiving this week.



Key Stage 2 Percy Jackson Club

One of many lunchtime clubs currently on offer at school is Percy Jackson club for key stage 2. The club is all about Greek mythology and is based on the popular books written by Rick Riordan. In previous weeks we have created and taken quizzes to see where our mythological allegiance lies. We have also made signs for our fictitious Greek God cabin. This week we created our own creature- a hybrid of a real animal and a mythological animal or of multiple mythological animals. Here are pictures of some of our creations.

Written by Richard (6W)



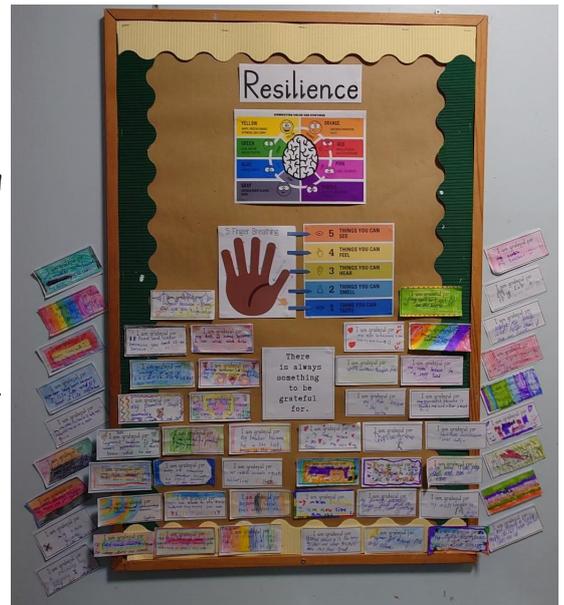
Egyptian Tomb Drawings



The children in Kingfishers and Owls class have been learning about the Ancient Egyptians in their current history topic. They used their imagination to visualise the walls of the lower playground being transformed into the inside of a pyramid, a tomb for a pharaoh. They became tomb painters and decorated the walls fit for Tutankhamun. Look closely to see what you can see in some of their drawings.

What are we grateful for?

Last week we welcomed Annie and Sue from OM Health and Wellbeing back into school. For part of the day Annie spent time with the children in Year 4 and led a workshop all based on the theme of resilience. Using the analogy of us each being a boat and they were discussing how we make sure that we keep our own levels topped up enough not to capsize when we hit a rock on the seabed. The session was packed with practical tips for children to think about and use to raise their own levels of resilience. Following this session the children have been thinking about some of the things that they have in their lives, whether that be people, opportunities or items that they are grateful for. They recognised that many of the things they are grateful for contribute towards them having positive mental health and the ability to develop their own levels of resilience.



It's **Book Fair** Time!



Book Fair

We are looking for some parents who could help run the book fair which is taking place next half term (4th-8th March). This requires you to help set out the cases of books and take the payments for purchased books. The book fair runs from 3:15-4:00pm for each of the 4 days. If you would be able to help with this event on any of the 4 days, please speak to Mrs Creffield in the office.

WANTED!

We are looking for plenty of cardboard boxes for the children to play with at lunchtimes. If you have any heading to your recycling bin, please bring them into school and let us take them off your hands. No box is too big!

We're also trying to source some pallets. If you have any connections with a business or people who could help us, please speak to Mrs Copeman or send an email to the office. .

