

## Year 5 Update: 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### Forest school

It was a really blustery day today, which brought an unexpected chill to forest school. It is a reminder that at this time of year it is important to still be wearing layers as they can be put on and taken off as needed.

We started the sessions with our chant, counting and waving to the trees on site. Today we introduced the Elder tree with its purple buds. It is one of the first trees on site to be approaching leaf burst.

For the last few weeks we have been asking the children to connect with the feelings in their body to share with the group. This week we moved on to thinking about our needs. Feelings and needs go hand in hand and are a really helpful way of understanding our behaviour and the behaviour of those around us. We all have needs. These can be split into our needs to survive and our needs to thrive and grow as people. The children were able to think of the survival needs and then Emma introduced some needs to thrive. If our needs are met we have comfortable, pleasant feelings but when we are having uncomfortable, unpleasant feelings it can be our signal that our needs are not being met. They were then invited to tune into their bodies and feelings to think about their need that they might meet at forest school today. Some shared that they had a need for fun and play, to be heard, for rest, for freedom and for friendship.

Next we gave the children a challenge we call the rope shape game. For this, the children held on to a circle of rope altogether. We talked about ways that people communicate successfully. Many of the ways we communicate involve some visual cues and when we communicate well, we need to learn to listen and only have one person talking at a time. For this activity, we asked the children to close their eyes, taking away visual communication. They had to rely on listening to one another and not talking all at the same time. This was really tricky for some and initially was about who could shout loudest. They then began to realise they needed to have one leader and gradually less voices were involved and they were more successful

Our bodies needed warming up so we played a quick game of ostrich tag before sitting back together at the log circle to learn a knot called the clove hitch. This anchoring knot is really useful for attaching a rope to a tree. The children really persevered with many achieving the knot and then going on to help others in the class.

After this we listened to Emma tell the story of Brigid's Feast: An Imbolc Story. This tells of Brigid waking up and warming the plants and creatures with her fiery breath.

For the rest of the session, many children had a go at making a wheat Brigid. This involved lots of knot tying with rafia and a great amount of patience. They were really proud of their efforts and knotting skills. Others had a first go at hapazone using mallets to bash the pigment from green leaves into material. Some made some beautiful pictures out of these. Digging in the digging area was popular as lots more rocks are being dug up. The children are getting very excited about the 'gemstones' they are finding and using the guides to identify them. Some are challenging themselves more on

the slack line, taking their hands off the hand hold and trying to balance using their core. Others were excited about knots and keenly worked together to throw a rope over a high tree which was attached to a log to create a swing. Finally we had some children who wanted to look after our Earth by planting summer bulbs. We can't wait to see if they flower later this year.

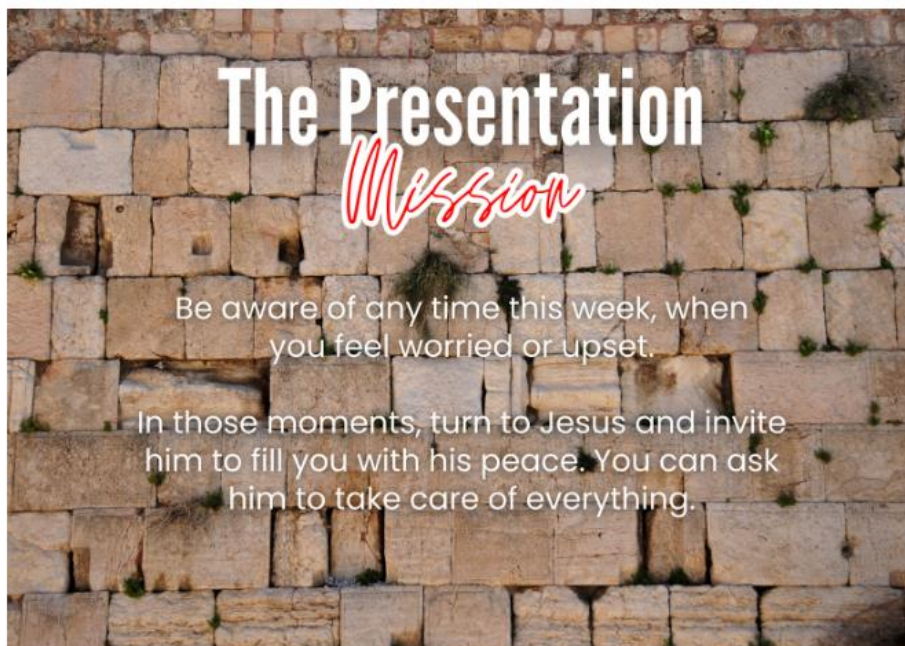
We gathered back together at the end and reflected with a new song called Bele Mama which we had a go at singing in a round.

## R.E

This week we have been looking at the different Dioceses and which one we are a part of. We have researched the role of Westminster Diocese and the Bishop in our area. The children then created an information leaflet about this show what they have understood. Perhaps your child could tell you about Bishop Paul and why he is special to our school in particular.

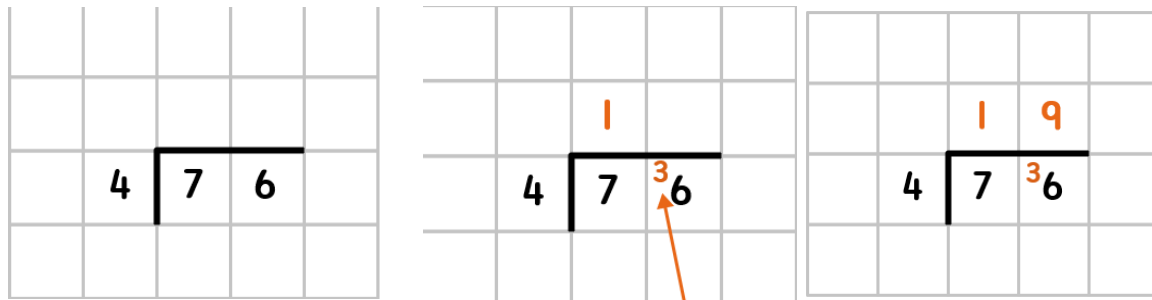
*Key words: Vocabulary: Mission, Westminster, Diocese, Bishop, Mitre, crozier, symbol*

### Weekly Mission



## Maths

This week in Maths, we have been continuing our learning on multiplication and division. We have been using the long multiplication method to solve word problems. After this, we began looking at the short division bus stop method, including exchanging.



Key words: Multiplication, lots of, inverse, reasoning, consecutive, product, division

The number that is dividing is called the **divisor**.

A **dividend** is the number that is being divided.

If there is a number left over, this is called a **remainder**.

We need to **exchange** any amount left over.

The answer to the division question is called the **quotient**.

Get ahead: next week we will be continuing our learning on division.

### English

The children have continued to read 'Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone' this week. They have used parenthesis (see link below) to write their own chocolate frog cards.

Key vocabulary: parenthesis, relative clause, imperative verb, modal verb.

Get ahead: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z7hppg8>

### Safer Internet Day

This week was safer internet day. We would like to take this week's update to ask you to have a chat with your child to remind them that all their personal information, including mobile numbers are kept private. We know that some of the children have mobile phones and can talk to each other when they are at home, please can you remind the children that they should not be giving out anyone else's number.

Please can we also remind the children that if they are setting up groups where they can talk to each other, please only add people to the groups who would like to be in them. If they choose to leave the group then this decision must be respected.

We know that the children enjoy talking to each other outside of school but we just want them to remember the importance of reflecting their everyday conduct with their online conduct.

We would just like to make you aware of the age rating of the following social media/messaging platforms:

WhatsApp- 16+

Snapchat- 13+

DisCord- 13+

Instagram- 13+

TikTok- 13+

### Reminders

- School closes for half term at 3:30pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February at 3.30pm. This will be our Year 5 'Harry Potter Day'. The children may come to school dressed in something related to Harry Potter if they wish, they will not need to wear school uniform on this day.
- School will be closed Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February for staff training. Term begins again on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> February.
- There will be a PFA Spring disco for Year 5 and 6 on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February. You can purchase a ticket for this on the School Gateway.
- Please ensure you have given consent for our school trip to the Leavesden Harry Potter Studios on the school gateway.
- Year 5 will be visiting West Watford Mosque and attending Ash Wednesday mass at Holy Rood Church on 14<sup>th</sup> February. Please ensure that your child brings a packed lunch to school and has a coat and suitable shoes for this trip.

Have a lovely weekend,

Amy, Hannah, Catherine and Magda

## Five ways to wellbeing challenge



### CONNECT / KEEP LEARNING

Ask somebody for help with something that you find difficult. If it is work in class or a friendship problem, you could ask an adult at school. You could also ask a family member. Could you help someone else with a problem?