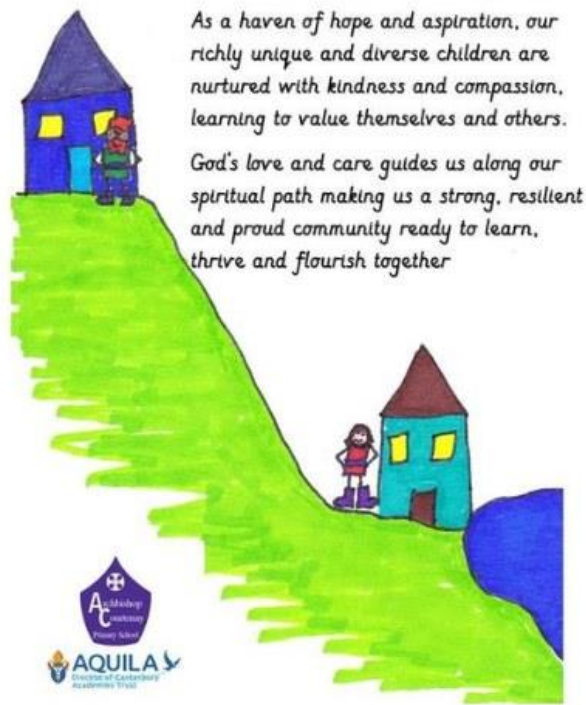




Archbishop Courtenay Primary School -
Friday 13th March FB



As a haven of hope and aspiration, our richly unique and diverse children are nurtured with kindness and compassion, learning to value themselves and others.

God's love and care guides us along our spiritual path making us a strong, resilient and proud community ready to learn, thrive and flourish together

In this issue



Headteacher Welcome

Information for Parents

The ABC Archie Awards

Wrap Around Information

Dates for Diary

OPAL Play

Collective Worship

Reception

Year 1 & 2

Year 3 & 4

Year 5 & 6

Contact Us



1 - Have a wonderful Mother's Day!

Headteacher Welcome



Dear families,

It was lovely to so many mummies, daddies and other family members at school this morning to celebrate Mother's day

It was truly lovely to see mums, dads, and other family members joining us at school this morning to celebrate Mother's Day. The children were so pleased to spend time with you, and I sincerely hope you enjoyed the occasion as much as we did. I am aware that some parents were disappointed due to the limited number of tickets available. Please be assured that we will explore ways to open up these events to more family members in the future.

This week, I had the delight of visiting classrooms and witnessing our children's learning in action. The progress they are making is exciting; the pupils are engaged and, most importantly, genuinely enjoying their lessons. How do I know this? I asked them! Their enthusiasm was clear to see. One young man proudly said, "I am more intelligent now," another exclaimed, "I love maths," and an entire class shared how inspired they feel during their writing lessons. I am immensely proud of their resilience and eagerness to learn.

For those children who need a little extra support, it was heartening to hear how they receive help from adults and have access to resources tailored to their needs. Above all, our children are happy and content, and that truly makes me smile. I hope you feel the same.

In addition, our children recently responded to an external safeguarding questionnaire about their experience at school. The results clearly demonstrate how safe and valued they feel:

- 98% feel safe at this school
- 94% can talk to an adult if something is worrying them
- 97% say their teachers help if there is any bullying
- 96.5% say the school teaches them to look after their emotional and mental health and wellbeing
- 97.5% say the school teaches them how to stay safe online
- 98.5% say the school teaches them to respect others and treat people equally

These results reflect the positive and nurturing environment we strive to create every day.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Sue Heather

Headteacher

Finley and Lena WINNERS of the Oracy Cup!



We are thrilled to announce that Archbishop Courtenay Primary School has proudly secured second and third places in the prestigious Oracy Cup, a regional public speaking competition involving over 200 schools across Kent and south-east London.

This remarkable achievement highlights the exceptional oracy skills of our pupils, who prepared and delivered structured presentations demonstrating their ability to communicate ideas clearly, build persuasive arguments, and speak confidently in front of an audience. The competition, organised by Charlton Athletic Community Trust and Equalitas, aims to nurture young people's confidence, teamwork, and critical thinking through the development of effective spoken communication.

We are incredibly proud of our pupils for winning second and third places in this competition. Developing confident speakers is an important part of helping children succeed both in school and in later life. This achievement is especially meaningful for our school because many of our pupils speak English as an additional language. Seeing them present their ideas with such confidence is wonderful. I must also congratulate Mrs Hawks and Miss Taylor for their dedication and leadership in preparing our pupils for this competition."

Annie Wiles, CEO of Aquila, Diocese of Canterbury Academies Trust, said:

"This is a fantastic achievement. Competitions like the Oracy Cup give young people the opportunity to develop the confidence and communication skills that will support them throughout their education and beyond."

We extend our warmest congratulations to our talented pupils, Finley (Year 5) and Lena (Year 6), who represented Archbishop Courtenay with distinction.



Comic Relief



This year, we have decided not to collect donations for Comic Relief within school. We understand that the current cost of living is placing additional pressure on many families, and we do not want to add to that strain. Comic Relief remains an important national charity, and if you and your family wish to support their work, there are still opportunities to contribute through in-store purchases or by gifting via dedicated apps and online platforms.

Come and work for us!



Are you friendly, motivated, and enjoy working with children? We're looking for someone to help make lunchtimes safe, fun, and enjoyable for our pupils.

The role is 7.5 hours per week, Monday to Friday 11:45am – 1:15pm, term time only (38 weeks).

What You'll Do:

- Supervise children in the lunch hall, playground, and classrooms during wet play.
- Help children eat their lunch and watch out for those who might need extra support.
- Organise tables and chairs, and keep the lunch area clean and safe.
- Encourage children to play nicely and help resolve any disagreements.
- Use your OPAL play training to make playtimes creative and fun.
- Follow school rules to keep children safe and support their behaviour.
- Report any concerns to teachers and work with staff to support children's needs.

Who We're Looking For:

- Someone enthusiastic and caring who enjoys working with children.

- A team player who wants to help children have a positive lunchtime experience.
- Willing to learn and use OPAL play ideas.
- Someone who follows school policies and supports children's safety and well-being.

Why Join Us?

Be part of a supportive school community.

Receive training and support to develop your skills.

The ABC Archie Awards





2 - This week our Archies have been awarded to the following students from across the school:

EYFS: Isla C for being polite and being a great friend and always including others

KS1: Sena for always being a great role model and being a kind and helpful member of the class

LKS2: Ayesha for always being a kind friend and helping adults around the school

UKS2: Mollie for showing the school values especially aspiration and friendship

Well done to all our weekly winners and I wonder who will win the Archie's next week?

Wrap Around Information



Wraparound:

<https://archbishop-courtenay.cbfs.uk>

Breakfast (7:30am-8:30am) £4

Social Club (3:15pm-4:15pm) £3

Wraparound (3:15pm-6pm) £12

Tax-free childcare vouchers = 20% off

Universal credits = claim up to 85% back

FOR SUPPORT CONTACT:

archbishop-courtenay@cbfs.uk

01444 523 335

Dates for Diary



- Thursday 19th March - Year 6 PGL & SATS Meeting 3:30pm School Hall
- Friday 20th March - Netball Match Snodland away
- Monday 23rd March - IRock Concert 2:30pm
- Friday 27th March - Non-Uniform Day for Easter Raffle Donations
- Monday 30th March - Easter Raffle
- Tuesday 31st March - Easter Service - All Saints Church
- **Thursday 2nd April - End of term 4 - 1:30pm Finish**
- **Monday 20th April - Start of Term 5**

OPAL Play



We still have many new areas we want to set up for the children from a new woodland walk, to sandpits and water play!

How can you still help? Things we would still love to have...

- cable reels
- tractor tires
- lorry tarpaulin
- wooden hat rack
- role play hats, microphones and fancy dress
- Easter themed items for next terms role play area
- Sandpit toys (shovels, spades and buckets)

Collective Worship



This week in Collective Worship we explored the theme of how our actions and words can affect others, focusing on listening, saying sorry, and speaking words of love.

At the beginning of the week, we listened to the story of Zacchaeus. The children learned that Zacchaeus was seen by many people as a *traitor* because he collected taxes unfairly and was not trusted by his community. In the story, Zacchaeus climbed a tree to see Jesus as he passed by. Although many people disliked Zacchaeus, Jesus chose to notice him, speak to him, and spend time with him. This helped Zacchaeus realise that he had done wrong and inspired him to change his ways.

We used this story to think about the importance of listening and noticing when others might need help, kindness, or someone to talk to. Sometimes we can be busy with our own activities or thoughts and might miss when someone nearby needs us to listen. The children reflected on how we can try to be more aware of others and show kindness by taking the time to listen.

We then continued to think about the same story and the idea of saying sorry. We talked about how saying sorry is not just about the words we say, but about meaning it in our hearts and trying to make things right. Zacchaeus showed he was truly sorry by choosing to change his behaviour and give back what he had taken unfairly. The children discussed how a genuine apology often includes trying to improve our actions and showing kindness afterwards. In the story, Jesus showed acceptance and love towards Zacchaeus, which helped him realise he could choose a better path.

Later in the week we explored the power of words, linking our thinking to two Bible verses: *Proverbs 16:24*, which reminds us that kind words can be sweet and encouraging, and *Psalms*

64:3, which shows how words can also be used to hurt others. We talked about how our words are very powerful—they can make someone feel happy, valued, and included, or they can make someone feel sad or upset.

For the children, this helped them understand that the way we speak to one another matters. Choosing words that are kind, encouraging, and loving can brighten someone's day and help them feel safe and valued. On the other hand, unkind words can hurt feelings even if we did not mean them to. The children reflected on how they can try to use their words to build others up, show care, and spread kindness in our school community.

EYFS: Darling and Rashford



This week in EYFS we have had another wonderful week full of learning and creativity.

In Drawing Club, our focus story was *The Three Billy Goats Gruff*. The children really enjoyed bringing the characters to life through their drawings. We started by drawing the troll, thinking carefully about what he might look like and describing his appearance and behaviour. The children used some fantastic vocabulary to describe him! Later in the week we focused on the goats. Many of the children said that the Big Billy Goat was their favourite character because he bravely headbutted the troll and chased him away from the bridge. We saw some beautiful drawings and it has been lovely to see the children becoming more adventurous and confident with the words they use when describing characters.

In Maths, we have been learning about the numbers 9 and 10. The children explored how the numbers look, matched them to Numicon, and practised counting out the correct amounts. We then moved on to comparing numbers up to 10 using the vocabulary *more*

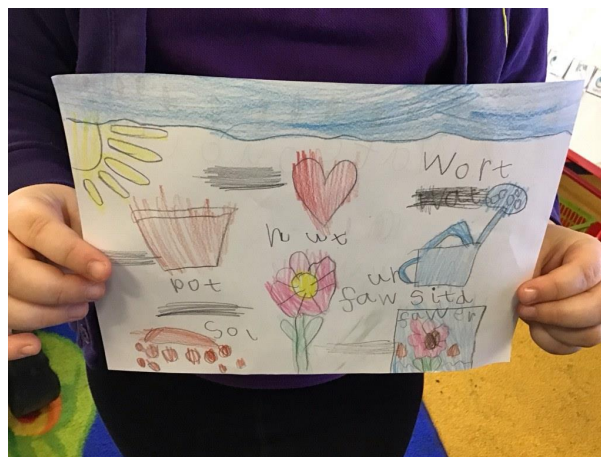
than, less than and *fewer than*. Some of the children also began exploring which smaller numbers can be combined to make 9 or 10.

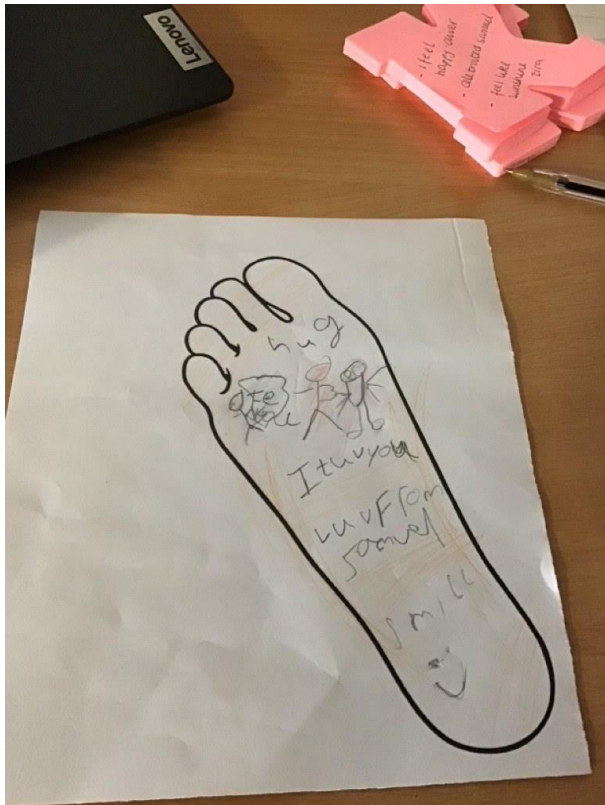
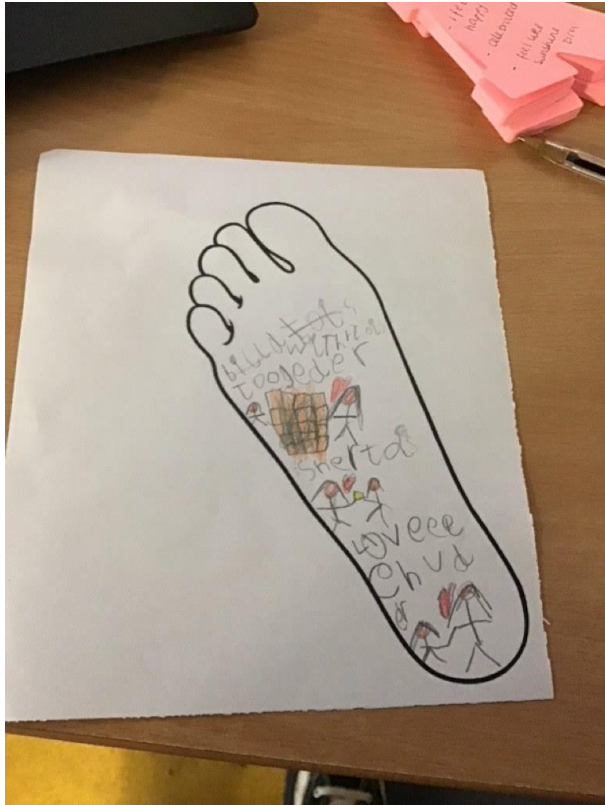
In R.E., we listened to the story of Palm Sunday, when Jesus was welcomed into Jerusalem by crowds of people waving palm leaves and shouting “Hosanna!” and “Hooray for the King!”. The children made their own palm leaves, completed some writing about the story, and discussed how we can make others feel welcome. We also talked about how it feels when someone makes us feel welcome and included.

In Phonics, we have been recapping digraphs that we have previously learned. The children have also been practising reading longer words that contain two or more digraphs, such as *shimmer*. We have been very impressed with how confidently the children are beginning to tackle these longer words.

What a fabulous week of learning it has been! We are very proud of all the children and the enthusiasm they bring to their learning every day.

We wish you all a lovely weekend and would also like to wish all of our mums and carers a very Happy Mother’s Day. We hope you have a wonderful and relaxing day.





we encountered a weak mage who needed our help from within one of the graves. This experience not only sparked our imaginations but also enriched our vocabulary as we incorporated words such as *acquire*, *powerful*, *cemetery*, and *immense* into our writing. It's wonderful to see how the children are embracing new language and concepts with such eagerness.

Meanwhile, in Frank class, their curious quest led them to a stunning crystal canyon, where they had the opportunity to meet the enigmatic crystal keeper. The excitement in the classroom is palpable, and I can't help but wonder what thrilling adventures await them next! It's a joy to witness the children's creativity flourish as they engage with these narratives.

In our Religious Education lessons, the children have been delving into the significance of Easter. They've been exploring why eggs are a prominent symbol during this time and what Easter represents for Christians. This exploration has provided a meaningful context for discussions about traditions and beliefs, fostering a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Our indoor P.E. sessions have been equally engaging, as the children continue to explore the *zoo dance* topic. They've been learning about the movements of large animals and have been creating their own dance movements to reflect their chosen animal. It's delightful to see them express themselves through movement, and their enthusiasm is infectious!

As we approach the weekend, I would like to take a moment to wish all the mothers a lovely Mother's Day on Sunday. It's a special time to celebrate the incredible women in our lives, and I hope everyone enjoys a day filled with love and appreciation.

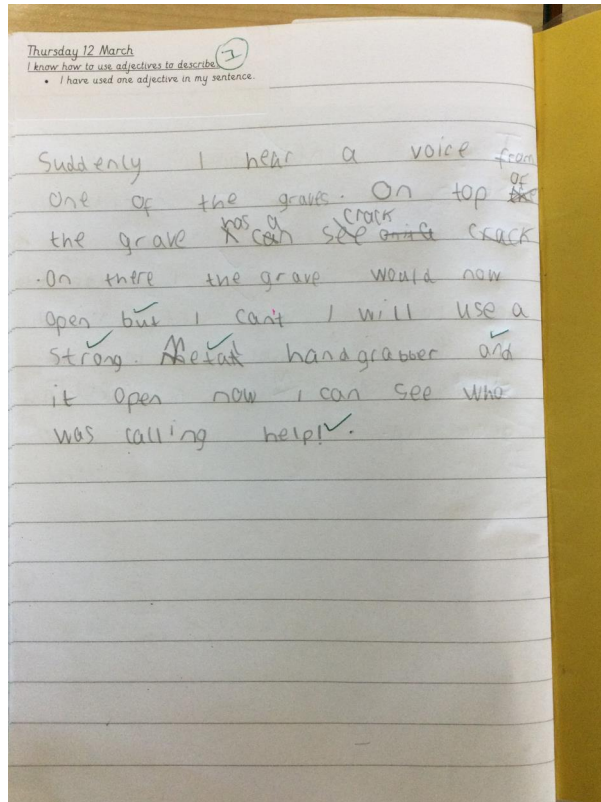
Thank you for your continued support and encouragement. Let's keep the momentum going as we navigate through this term together!

Thursday 12 March
I know how to use adjectives to describe.
• I have used one adjective in my sentence.

Suddenly I heard
a voice calling
from one of the
graves. I heard
a crack on the ground.
I will use a
strong robot to
open the grave lid.
The strong robot
will lift the
person up from the
grave with its
powerful arms.

Wednesday 11th March
I know how to use conjunctions in my sentences.
• I have used one conjunction in my sentence.

I pick up the stick of ice and I feel more
power and I really want to go to the
to go and the first thing on my list
so I have to get rid of the things
both and or 5 things and the first
thing is to see if I can fly to
the airport and the next thing
to do is have a sleep over with
the spider dragon & things and
to go and I pack a jet pack
and I drive over the town and
I see if I can run straight forward
to the school and I am the first
when his hand is and I finish.



Year 3 & 4 Jobs, Shakespeare and Pankhurst



Another week jam packed full of fun and antics in LKS2 this week. We've been busy making mayhem and raiding each others classrooms as part of our History topic: Romans and maintaining curiosity in British Science Week in science too. Here is a snap-shop of our week:

📖 English: This week the children have been researching whale migration and creating non-fiction information texts that explain what a whale does throughout the year. The children have really enjoyed finding information about the topic and being able to work together to help structure ideas for writing.

📊 Maths: We have continued our work on fractions and have been exploring fraction families, fraction walls and equivalent fractions. The children have been working really hard and have explored a variety of different practical resources and written models to help them show their understanding.

🔬 Science: We have continued our topic on light and focused this week on material properties and how shadows are formed. The children really enjoyed the openness of our lessons and the freedom to explore their own curiosities and make their own scientific discoveries based on their existing knowledge and linking this to new terminology. Ask them about what a translucent material is and what it does to light! They even had a go at creating their own spectrums in class.

✝️ RE: This week we have considered further what happens at the Gurdwara and how the Gurdwara is organised. The children have created mindful, curious questions which Miss Copley will take to the Gurdwara in Gravesend to answer. The children are really looking forward to seeing pictures and video clips!

🌸 Mother Day: We wish all our Mums and special ladies in our lives all the love and thanks possible for the incredible jobs you do for us. Thank you from all the children.







Wednesday 4th March 2026
 T: The Gurdwara is at the heart of the Sikh community; how and why?

A Gurdwara is a Sikh Temple and place of worship.

A1. The Gurdwara is the central hub of Sikh life, acting as a place of worship, community center, and, literally, the doorway to the Guru.

Q1. Why is a Gurdwara important to Sikhs?

Q2. How is a Gurdwara important to the Sikh community?

A2. Because a Gurdwara acts as the "doorway to the Guru."

Q3. What events/festivals happen at the Gurdwara?

A3. Major festivals involve the Akhand Path (continuous 48-hour reading of the Guru Granth Sahib), Kirtan (devotional singing), Langar (free communal kitchen), and Nagar Kirtan (processions).

Q4. What is the Sangat?

A4. The holy congregation or community of devotees who gather to worship, meditate, and learn together in the presence of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Q5. What is Punjabi School and why is it important?

A5. Punjabi School is an educational program focused on teaching children to speak, read, and write the Punjabi language using the Gurmukhi script.

Q6. What is a harmonium and what is its role in the Kirtan Debat?

A6. A harmonium is a small, portable, hand-pumped keyboard instrument that produces sound using metal reeds and air pressure, often used in Indian devotional music.

Q7. What is a Granthi?

A7. A Granthi is a trained, often salaried, custodian and ceremonial leader of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Q8. What is Kabaddi?

A8. Kabaddi is a high-intensity, 7-a-side, contact team sport originating from South Asia, combining elements of tag and wrestling.

✓ super research.

Write 1 question you'd like to find out about the Gurdwara.

How is the Guru Granth Sahib treated?
It is covered, carried on the head, water is used to clean the pages, the book is kept to rest in a bed frame made of silk. The room is clean.



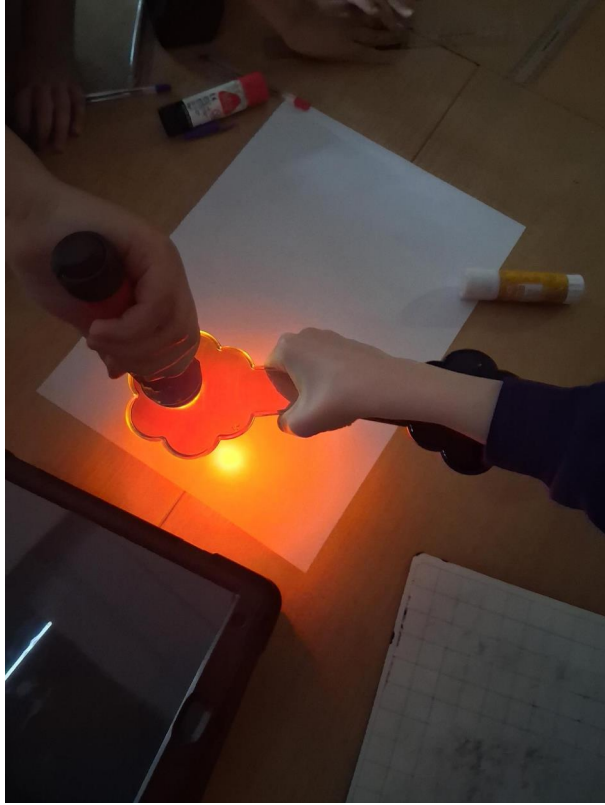
and should be treated with respect.

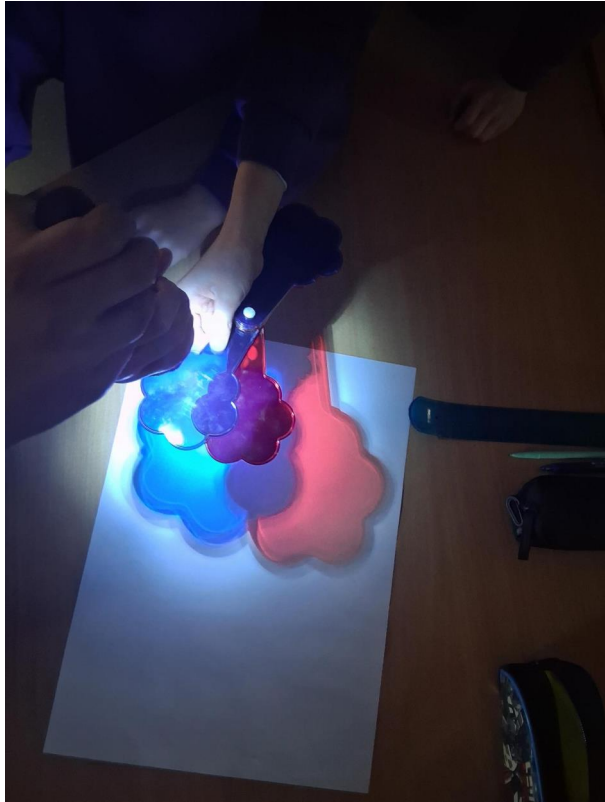
Sikhs treat the Guru Granth Sahib with the greatest respect, why do you think this is?

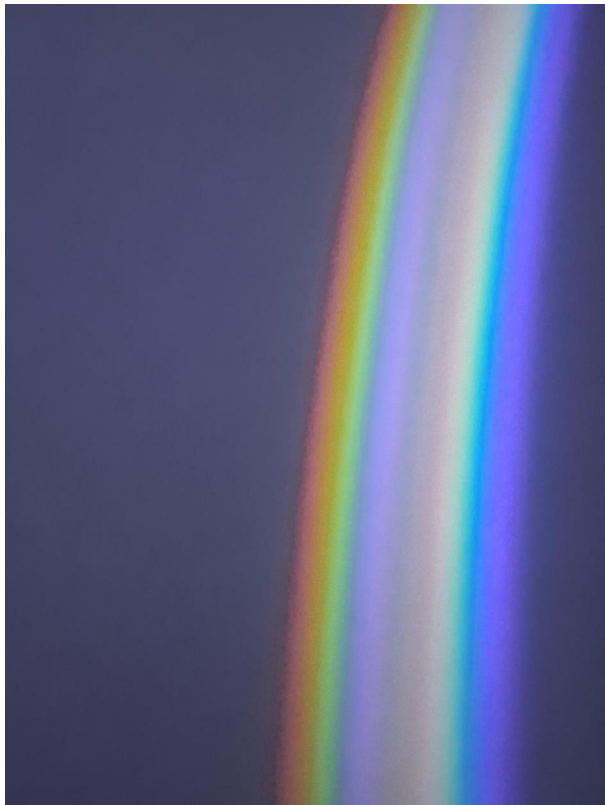
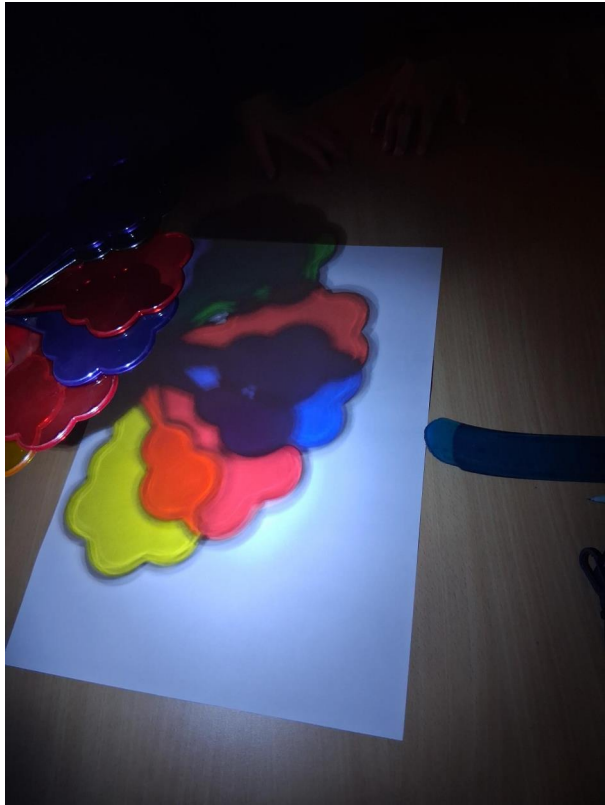
* Because it is a holy script.

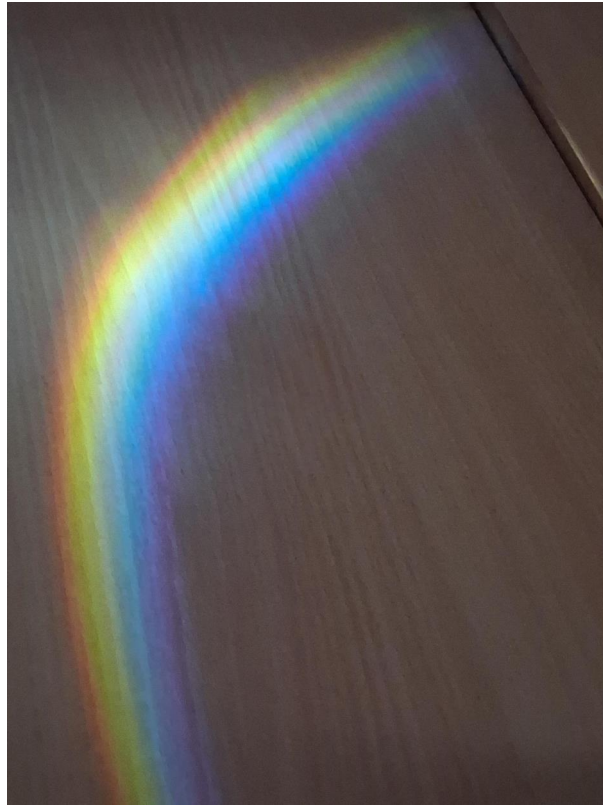
What is the Guru Granth Sahib? How is it structured?
It is the Sikh Holy Book. It is full of scriptures and wisdom. It is treated with respect.

What do Sikhs believe about the Guru Granth Sahib?
Guru Sahib, I need to be quiet so people can hear the scriptures and hymns being read aloud by a member of the community.









Year 5 & 6 Simmonds, Curie and Luther-King



We have had another productive and enjoyable week in UKS2, with the children working hard across all subjects. I can't believe that we are getting ready to start week 4 of the term!

 English

In English this week, the children have started writing a diary entry in the first person, imagining that they are Malala. They have been thinking carefully about how Malala might have felt during the events in her life and how they would feel if they were in the same situation. The children have been working hard to include emotions, thoughts and descriptive language to make their diary entries feel personal and realistic.

Maths

In Maths, the Year 6 children have been working on percentages. They have been learning how to find the percentage of an amount and applying this knowledge to a variety of problems. They are becoming much more confident with this skill and may now even be able to help you work out the best bargains when shopping in the sales!

PE

In PE, we have continued learning Tag Rugby. This week the children have been focusing on how to start a game and practising their passing skills, particularly ensuring that the ball is passed backwards correctly. The children are showing great teamwork and are enjoying developing their skills in this new sport.

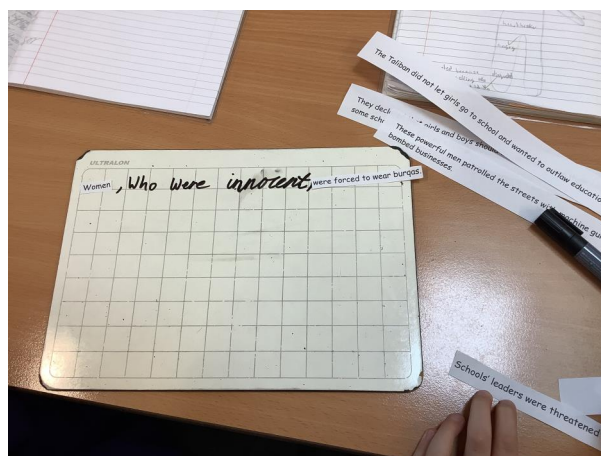
RE

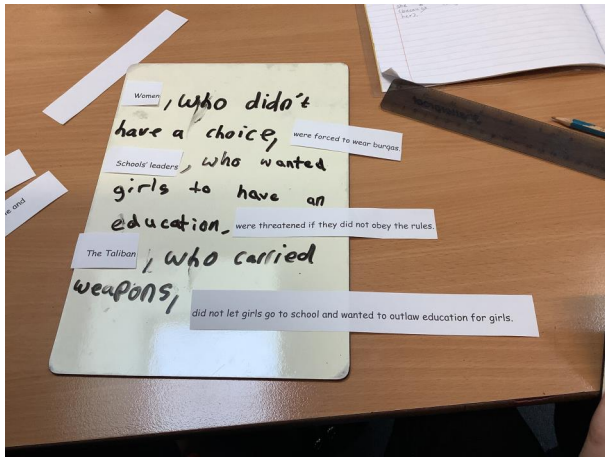
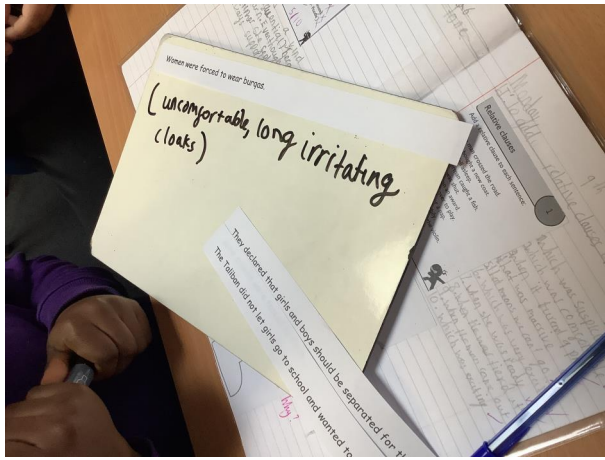
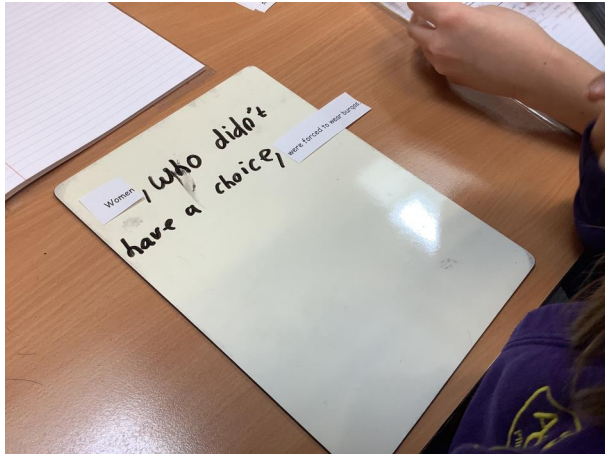
In RE, we have continued learning about the Easter story and how Christians believe Jesus helped to save humanity through his sacrifice. The children have been exploring the significance of these events and discussing why they are so important to Christians around the world.

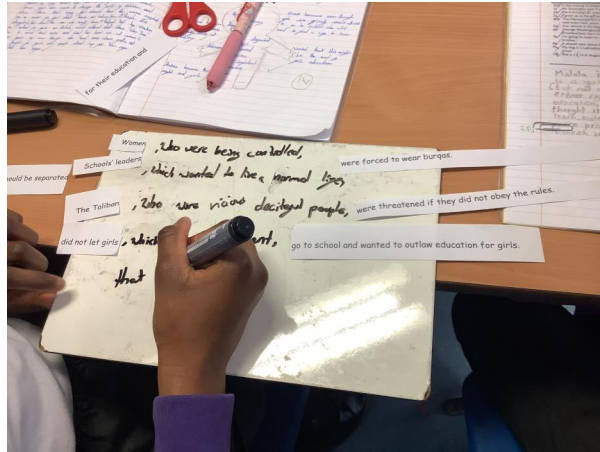
Mother's Day Breakfast

On Friday, we also celebrated Mother's Day with our Mother's Day breakfast. It was lovely to welcome so many families into school and share such a special event together. Thank you to everyone who was able to attend and help make it such a positive morning for the children.

Thank you for your continued support.







Contact Us



We are here to help you so please never be afraid to get in touch

Archbishop Courtenay Primary School

Eccleston Road

Tovil

Maidstone

ME15 6QN

01622 754 666

Office@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk

Headteacher@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk

Visit us on the web at <https://www.archbishopcourtenay.org.uk> or via Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopCourtenay>

