



As we've mentioned before, this term we have been focusing on the value of 'Respect'. Our key Bible story is the story of the Roman Centurion (Luke 7:1-10). We feel this story is a useful way of explaining the value Respect. At the time, many Jews hated the Romans at the time of Jesus as they had occupied their land. The centurion in this story is shown to be a respectful and kind man who looked after his Jewish servant, went out of his way for him, and built the Jews a synagogue. He also showed Jesus respect. Perhaps you would like to discuss and learn more about this story with your child- please watch this video [click here](#), which may be a useful starting point.

**What is respect? What does it look like at Dursley?**

Respect can be summarised in the words of Jesus: do to others as you would have them do to you. Respect has to do with recognising each other as fellow human beings made in the image of God with equal rights to ourselves. Respect does not mean that we always agree with the other person but that we are prepared to listen and share our views without rudeness or impatience. Respect needs to start with respect for ourselves and our own unique contribution to our homes, schools or communities. Respecting is also linked to the words honouring, esteeming, valuing and listening whole-heartedly.

**Around the Academy – Reception**

This week some of the children decided to design their very own monsters, inspired by the story 'Monstersaurus'. They thought carefully about what their monster would look like and used collage material to decorate their drawings. The children then wrote a list of ingredients to go in their magic monster potion - some needed to use smelly pants! The children then used their lists to gather the ingredients and make their potions. Then the monsters came ...



**Thank you**

Reception want to say a huge thank you to Mrs. Pegler, Mrs Houghton and Mr. Morgan for the new wood chip in our mud kitchen area. The children are loving being able to use it again and are cooking up some delicious muddy meals!

**Holidays During Term Time**

Whilst we realise absence through illness is unavoidable, we do have concerns about children missing school through holidays and the impact this makes on their learning. Children also need to be present for important assessments throughout the year – **there are particularly important tests for Year Six and Year Two in May and Year One in June. We cannot, therefore, authorise any requests for family holidays except in exceptional circumstances.** If you do need to take your child out of school for a long absence, please contact the school office for an absence request form.

**Kindness, Respect, Responsibility, Thankfulness, Forgiveness and Perseverance in Action**

**Around the Academy – Years One and Two**

Travelling back to 1666, Years 1 and 2 have immersed themselves in facts about The Great Fire of London. From Thomas Farriner and his simple mistake (with huge consequences) to the rather strange actions of Samuel Pepys and his cheese (ask your child to explain!). In English, we've finished writing our own stories linked with Little Red Riding Hood. The children enjoyed replacing the wolf with another baddie who wanted to eat Little Red. RE has sparked the most curiosity recently as we've been finding out about the religion of Judaism and the names of different Jewish artefacts - What is a Mezuzah? How is a Yad used? Why is Challah bread only eaten on a Friday?

**Pet Club**

The children were so excited to meet Walter and his 3 baby boys this week in pet club. They learnt all about how to look after a Guinea pig and enjoyed a lovely cuddle and stroke. Mrs Watts and Miss Webb were so impressed with how quiet and careful the children all were!



**Around the Academy – Years Three and Four**

This term we have been focusing on Picasso in Art where the children have been able to use stencils to create a background and then go on to create an abstract portrait in the style of Picasso.

In Science, we have been looking at teeth, the digestive system and how muscles work. The children particularly enjoyed our experiment where the children got to recreate the digestive system.

PE we've been learning the rules and skills of Tag Rugby which we will continue next term.



**Around the Academy – Years Five and Six**

In Years 5 and 6 we have been learning all about the Amazon rainforest. We located South America on a map and looked at the physical features including rivers, mountains and volcanoes. We learnt about biomes and used ICT to research different biomes in the world. In science we have had a biology focus learning all about the circulatory system. We learnt about the heart and created heart pump models with beakers, balloons and straws; we were amazed at how fast the pump works! We made 'blood' using cheerios, food colouring, raisins and marshmallows to represent each component. We did an investigation to test how our pulse rate changes after exercise. In English, have been writing a gothic horror narrative using exciting vocabulary.

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### Year 5 & 6 Girls Football Festival

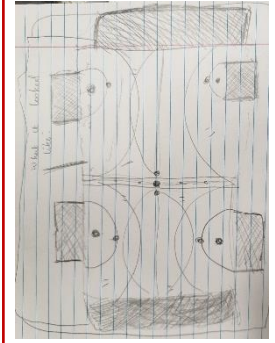
What happened – There were five other school and we were all mixed up so we met new people and made new friends. It was so fun and there was five rounds. We all played well and fair. We were tired when it was over, but to be honest it was worth it! Here is a picture of the football pitches at Rednock.

How I felt:

Angeliki – at first, I felt scared, but then I felt really excited.

Emilia – I was a bit scared when they told us they were mixing up teams, but after a while, I was fine.

By Angeliki and Emilia.



### YOUNG VOICES

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January, we went to Young Voices. Before the concert, we had to practice every Tuesday for around three months. It was definitely worth it! On the day, we left on the coach at 10.30 and were singing songs the whole journey. We arrived at the Resorts World Arena in Birmingham and put on our brightly coloured, funky hats, so that the teachers could easily recognise us, amongst the thousands of other people there. After eating lunch, we headed into the arena for a practice.

There were various acts performing such as MC Grammar, Urban Strides, the Young Voices Band and our personal favourite, Nandi Bushell, who (although is only thirteen) can play lots of instruments and did a big drum show that was amazing to watch. The parents arrived and the concert began. We had the time of our lives, and are sure Young Voices is an experience we will never forget! After the concert, we got on the coach to head home and finish off an amazing day.

Finally we would like to say thank you to the amazing teachers that helped us get to Young Voices: Mrs Delmaine, Miss Payne, Mrs Walters, Mrs Close and Mrs Kingscote.  
By Ruby, Jack, Arthur and Tommy.

### Panathalon

Panathalon (Photos)

On Wednesday, the children competed in a Panathalon at KLB against 8 other schools in a variety of activities including curling, basketball and bowling. The children had fantastic time trying new sports. Our team showed great attitude, perseverance and teamwork.

Although we didn't win, the children were awarded a medal and a certificate each making our school very proud!

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**Attendance & Achievement**

If attendance drops below 95%, then absence begins to have a significant impact on achievement. Catching up after absence can be difficult – this period can last as long as the absence itself. 95% attendance means around 10 days out of school in a year. 90% attendance means:

- ½ day absent each week
- 4 weeks absent each year
- ½ year absent over 5 school years

Being in school is important to your child’s achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. [Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best results.

% Attendance figures for week commencing: 29 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	
Elm	88.68%
Palm	94.05%
Oak	93.89%
Cherry	89.6%
Larch	93.93%
Maple	96.15%
Cedar	89.29%
Magnolia	90.34%
Willow	90.0%
Sequoia	81.9%
Copper Beech	90.83%

If your child is finding coming into school difficult please come and ask us for support. We would really like to help you and your child to ensure they are happy and secure in school.

[NHS - is my child to ill for school](#)

 **Value Leaves Awarded** 

Kindness	Responsibility	Perseverance
Tillie E Ella V Emilia Z	Tilly H Jacob B Purdie M William L	Emilia T Polly S Lacey-Mae E Zayne W Jessie P Ruby M Scarlett C Grace C Darcy B
Thankfulness	Forgiveness	Respect
		Astrid P Alexia D Paloma M Ted H

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	Dates for your diaries
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February	Swimming Gala
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Sequoia class
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Half Term Holiday
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Inset Day – School closed to all pupils
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> February	Parents evening (details to follow)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February	Coffee and Chat with the NHS Health and Wellbeing team 9am School Hall
	Parents evening (details to follow)
Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> February	School Association Pub Quiz at The Old Spot.
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Larch class
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Maple and Cedar classes
Coming Soon	More dates coming soon!

## School Association



We invite Sequoia Class to provide the cakes for the next monthly cake sale, taking place this Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February. The sale will be held in the junior playground after school. Please bring any cake donations to the classroom on Friday morning. Cupcakes or tray bakes cut into squares are preferred, in order to portion them easily!

If any parents could volunteer to help make the sale happen, that would be great. Need to be available from 2.30ish until 4ish. No skills required other than a friendly smile and ability to count! Please contact Sarah on [sarahpotter@gmail.com](mailto:sarahpotter@gmail.com) or 07792 605803 if you can help. Thank you

From Dursley C of E Primary Academy.

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