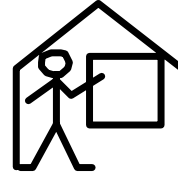


May 15<sup>th</sup> 2009



Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Creative Arts Week**

We have had another fantastic Creative Arts Week in school. As you are aware our focus has been India. The pupils have experienced and participated in a wide range of activities including working with an artist, Indian dancing, a textiles day and decorating plates and elephants with Potz. We would also like to thank Chinar's Mum for coming and spending some time with different pupils on Thursday.

However the highlight of the week for most of us was the Indian Banquet that we had.



### **Summer Concert June 30<sup>th</sup>**

This year's summer concert will be at 2pm on Tuesday June 30<sup>th</sup> at Christ the Cornerstone Church. Our theme for this years concert is 'Here comes the sun!' and we have spent time this week planning this event. I have no doubt that it will be a huge success as always. We will all look forward to seeing you there.

### **A visit from a Buddhist Monk.**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Craig, a Buddhist from the Buddhist Temple at Willen, visited The Redway.

This was arranged by Palms class so that the students in the group could work on their ASDAN activity, Making Choices: Invite someone to share their religious beliefs with your group.

Craig arrived in school at 10 and was warmly welcomed by Palms where he spent snack time with us. He was very friendly and talked to us about the temple and the drumming that is used at the temple during prayers.



Palms then took Craig to the hall, where we had invited some of the other classes in school to meet Craig; to learn about Buddhism; and to use the drums which he had bought.

Craig set up a small altar on the table where there was a statue of Buddha, candles and incense. He then talked to us about

Buddhism and gave us a demonstration of drumming.

He then asked for groups of students to come up to the front and play the drums by following his rhythm. We also chanted whilst doing this. This was very popular with the students with four or five groups of nine participating in the activity.

Everyone was able to join in either by drumming, clapping, chanting or smelling the incense which was taken around to all students who could not drum. The statue of the Buddha was taken around to everyone so that they could feel the statue or look at it close up.

At the end Ruth (Boden-Webster) asked for the food donations that the students had bought to be offered to Craig. The monks and nuns at the temple do not buy food, they live off donations. This was also a way for us to say thank you to Craig - we really enjoyed his visit!

This week we all went on a visit to the Buddhist temple as a follow up activity and found this to be an amazing experience.



### Pupils in Key Stage 3 also went on a visit to Northampton Museum



Key Stage 3 made two visits to Northampton Museum last week; Chestnuts on Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> May and Willows and Rowan the following day. On both occasions, we spent the morning there with a specific purpose in mind: to find out what we could about The Romans from the resources available to us at the museum. This information-gathering visit was to start us off on our theme this term which is "Past Times" the focus of which is, at present, The Romans. Over the course of the term, we will also be looking at The Tudors.

We had a really interesting time at the museum. We had the opportunity to explore Roman artefacts, some real and some replicas, including pots, toys, coins, tools and mosaics. We were also able to feel the kind of fabrics that clothes would have been made from and actually try on some clothes. The armour we were shown was really heavy! Before we left, we were able to have a look around other parts of the museum and some of us were really intrigued by the shoe collection.

We will now use what we have discovered about The Romans to inform our activities over the next few weeks. For example, some of us will make our own shields and swords and others will work on using musical instruments and the resonance boards to create a marching song for our armed "soldiers". We will also be creating our own mosaics and togas as well as taking part in a "Roman Baths" experience with massage oils and warm and cool water on our hands and feet. We are especially looking forward to taking part in the "Roman Feast" we will be organizing!

**More photos from Creative Arts Week - - -**



Please remember that school finishes for half term on Friday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and that the pupils return on **Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

Have a relaxing weekend everyone

Ruth