Dear Parents and Carers

The final week of this half term has been filled with great fun and excitement, much of it being had by our Year Six children who have been enjoying a week of activities at Barton Hall in Devon. During the week long school journey the children have had the opportunity to try abseiling, learn how to fence, face their fears on zip lines and trapeze swings as well as taking part in wacky races and vertical challenges to mention just a few of the new experiences they have been exposed to. Pictures of the week can be viewed on our twitter feed – I should warn you that there is some footage of dodgy dancing from the disco divas!

Awards were presented to the children in Nursery, Reception, Year One, Year Two, Year Four and Year Six for achieving 100% punctuality last week, and Reception also received the 100% attendance award. The children in our Reception class have featured weekly in the punctuality and attendance awards this half term – well done to them. Children were also celebrated for demonstrating the peace in our school and community; if the events in Manchester on Monday have taught us anything it is that we must do all we can to promote peace and stand united against those who set to cause harm and divide our communities.

Over the last few weeks children in Key Stage Two have been taking part in Bikeability Training. The training, provided by Cycle Confident is the Cycling Proficiency Test for the 21st century; the course is designed to give our children the skills and confidence needed to ride their bikes, safely, on the roads in our local area. This week the children in Year Five took part in the training, earlier in the term the children in Year Three and Year Four also benefited from the sessions, funded by the Department for Transport. Parents please note that all children who cycle to school must have a helmet to ensure their safety.

Our Nursery children went on an outing to Bocketts Farm Park, in Surrey, on Wednesday. The children enjoyed a tour of the farm on a tractor trailer and saw a range of farm animals. Through the day the children were given the opportunity to handle a number of the animals including rabbits, a phantom mouse and guinea pigs and they watched as a goat was milked. The highlight of the day was the pig race with a blue pig winning. Before heading home the children also had some fun in the playground greatly enjoying the monkey slide!

The Year 5 children visited Southwark Cathedral on Wednesday to learn more about Pentecost and completed the Experience Pentecost activities. The class worked in groups and rotated around the activities including sections learning about giving, doing, telling, waiting, receiving and caring. The children learnt about Christian experiences across the globe and how we can all love Jesus.

On Thursday children from Year Two to Year Five celebrated the Feast of the Ascension with a Mass in church, led by Father Mark. In the absence of Year Six, children from Year Five took on the roles of Deacon, Subdeacon, candle and cross bearers; the children diligently fulfilled the roles assigned to them and are more than ready for taking over from our older children in the new academic year. During the service the children held a minute’s silence to remember the families and victims of Monday’s events in Manchester.

Year Three rounded off the half term nicely with their class assembly this morning. During the assembly the children shared with us their learning on the Ancient Egyptians with a recreation of a burial ceremony; thankfully Kieran’s brain remained within his body! The children went on to perform a skeleton-rap and shared their writing based on the Egyptian themed story of Varjak Paw. The perfect end to the term!

All that remains is for me to wish you all a happy and safe half term break.

Kind regards

Mrs Warland
Head Teacher