St. Mary's CE VC First School, Charminster - December 2018

We were blessed with sunshine for our school visit to the church for our Remembrance Service last month. It was a peaceful and respectful time for us to come together with Reverend Mark and some of the other villagers to remember, in the words of a child, "those who lost their lives to save us". The children shared art work, read poems and sang some songs in order to support our reflection on the theme of Remembrance.

Our Year 3 and 4 children all battled the elements during their visits to the New Barn Field Centre in Bradford Peverell in order to explore 'Stone-Age Life'. The children enjoyed experiencing life in the hut with the campfire and making flour using stone-age tools. It is so important for us to stimulate and inspire the children through bringing learning alive in this way!

Many parents were able to join their children in maths sessions across our school last month for our 'Maths Show and Tell'. It was fantastic to see the 'buzz' coming from the classrooms as children explained their own learning and demonstrated the methods they use in their everyday maths lessons. Lots of parents felt it was so useful to see the teaching and learning approaches used in school.

We have been busy reviewing our Christian Vision for our school alongside the values which provide us with a foundation on which to build. Staff and governors have been working alongside our Education Adviser from the Diocese to support these developments. Our children have begun to explore the key question: 'What are Christian Values and what do they look like in our school, homes and communities?' Children were tasked with discussing the values most important to them with their own families and feeding back to their classes and teachers. I look forward to sharing our revised vision for our School as we move into 2019!

I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas which I hope will be a time for reflection as we move into the new year!

Suzanne Garner, Head Teacher.