

Visit by Newlyn School to Penzance Jewish Cemetery by *Mandy Pearce*

On Tuesday 24th May, 2016 Newlyn School's year 6 class visited the Jewish Cemetery. The sun shone! There were 25 children with their teacher Miss Jo Fitzgerald, a Trainee Teacher and an LSA. The children had no idea where they were going as we crossed the town, which added to the sense of anticipation. When we arrived it was explained to them that they were about to enter a place which is still very important to a lot of people and that according to Jewish tradition, all the boys should cover their heads while in the Cemetery. They were asked to decide what was important, what was interesting and what was puzzling. They were fascinated by what they saw as the door was unlocked and they could see the gravestones.



They had many questions and some were genuinely moved by the experience. After lunch the children had the opportunity to ask their questions and have a look at the photos taken that morning. The questions were wide ranging and covered not only the specific gravestones, the names, the Hebrew words they had seen but also Jewish faith and practice generally. They were thoughtful, interesting queries. Pat Lipert and I did our best to field all their questions and were genuinely

impressed by their behaviour, interest and sensitivity to what they had seen.

I am sure Miss Fitzgerald will be able to build on this experience as the class discover more about the Jewish faith in their RE lessons in the future.



Photographs by Mandy Pearce