

Visit to Sri Devi Kamakshi Mandir

Introduction:

The Prep students of Santa Maria witnessed a remarkable journey on September 26, 2023 to Sri Devi Kamakshi Mandir at Aruna Asaf Ali Marg, as part of their curriculum of India's diverse religion and culture.



Circle time:



The day of the school begin with circle time, where the children had a discussion about the visit to Kamakshi Devi Mandir. Mussarat madam explained every single detail about the visit to temple and she also showed them the pictures of different places of worship. They were also shown pictures of the main temple and assembly hall. Children were told about the goddess and

offerings at the temple. It was an interactive session and all the children were listening patiently and responding while taking turns. They were very excited about the visit.

Before heading for the bus at 9:30 am, children were asked to use the washroom. Children left their shoes in the classroom, with their name tags in them. Everyone was independently doing their work they have been asked to.

Visit to temple:



Around 9:30 am all the children were settled down in the bus and were ready to go. On the way to temple, the children were asked by the class teacher to notice the landmarks. Well children found it interesting and were responding in their own way. There was fun and laughter all along the way. We all reached there at around 9:45 am and all the children were asked to be in queue, led by their respective class teachers. At the entrance of the mandir, teachers talked to children about their observations.



Children gave responses and recalled the information, which was already shared by the class teacher with pictures in the school. Then children entered in the mandir and they were asked to sit in the premises. Teacher explained about the relevance of the deity which was carved out of black stone. Children were shown, Ganpati ji and Aadi shankaracharya at the left and right side of the main sanctum. Children were asked to sense the smell and sound

inside the premises. After that children headed towards the assembly hall and were asked to do parikrama.

After that they all were asked to settle down and pujari ji distributed prasadam to all children. They all relish their prasadam including teachers. The children were encouraged to responsibly dispose of their pattals in the dustbin nearby.

Learning:



This visit proved very fruitful, as it showcased the purpose to visit in terms of gaining an insight into different religions and connection with our roots and culture, and beliefs. This was a diverse group of children but all were able to watch and understand the practices and rituals in a temple. It was a memorable experience which not only enriched their knowledge but also induced the understanding of diverse belief and culture.

Return journey:



After this enriching experience, children were asked to head towards bus and then they were asked to get settled on their assigned seats and have water. Then teacher started having discussion about the visit and their observations. She did also talk to children about prayers in front of deity. They said that they took blessings from Devi Kamakshi and also prayed for the good health of their family, keeping their family members away from problems and well-being of their pets etc.

After arrival in school they were being asked to recall their experience of journey with illustrations. The teacher patiently recorded their responses in the given sheets.



Conclusion:



Numerous pictures were taken, throughout the visit, to capture their excitement and wonderful experience.

The visit to temple and other places of worship is an excellent educational and memorable experience for the students and will be helpful in enriching their understanding about cultural and religious diversity. It will be very helpful in deepening their knowledge and understanding of diversified culture and religion.

I am very thankful to all the teachers and school authorities to make this journey memorable and safe for all the kids. I will look forward for many more enriching experiences.

Regards,
Deepmala
Mother of Vidhant Singh
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