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VIKINGS FOR A DAY

ST. JOSEPH'S P.S., POYNTZPASS

ON MONDAY, 4th October we went on an outing to the Share Centre at Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. We went there to sail on their Viking ships as we had been studying the Vikings in our history lessons. About 1000 years ago the Vikings were attacking monasteries all over Ireland and stealing the precious things. They came from Scandinavia and were called the 'The Danes'.

It took us about one and a half hours to get to Lisnaskea. We watched a video about the Vikings and then we were ready to go out on the Viking long-ship. We dressed up with shields, helmets, swords etc. and went down to the quay. The Viking long-ship was built on the Isle of Man and sailed over to Ireland.

There is a powerful engine in it but it can go using the big sail or the oars. When we had gone out a bit the engine was switched off and we had to row. It was very hard work and we had all to try to pull together. We were really tired before we had gone very far.

Then we put away our oars and started up the engine again. We sailed round several islands. There were farm houses on some and a restaurant on another one. The crew tied a rope around Paul Coulter and pulled him up to the top of the mast to act as "Look-out" then we sailed back to the centre. It was a beautiful day with blue skies and white clouds. We had a picnic and then did some 'orienteering'. Then we went home. We had a great day out.



Our first look at the Viking ship on Lough Erne.



A Viking, ready for battle.



Rowing is very hard work.