



16th June 2023



Newsletter

Reflection on the week:

This has been a great week full of fantastic learning opportunities. I have enjoyed visiting some of the children in their RE lessons and I have been impressed with their understanding of the importance of saying sorry when we have made mistakes and of showing forgiveness to others.

We welcomed our Governors into school on Tuesday for a Governor day which focused on our Catholic Ethos and on how the children are being taught our Catholic RE curriculum. I am pleased to let you know that they were impressed with what they saw and happy that our children are receiving quality first teaching in RE. As always, our children were the stars and were keen to talk about how they follow the example of Jesus, to be the best people they can.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Fathers Day

We wish all of our Dads and Grandads a great day on Sunday and we hope that you get a chance to rest and relax. Our own love and good wishes go to Father Bernard, our Holy Cross Father, who gives so much of his time and support to our school.

Summer Fete

I am very excited to take part in the summer Fete on Wednesday next week. I am looking forward to seeing all of the stalls, chatting with parents and to seeing the children having lots of fun. My sincere thanks to parents and carers who have contributed in any way to the Fete.

Warm, sunny weather

We are scheduled to have some very warm weather next week. Please make sure that you are following our summer uniform policy.

Children must have sun cream applied before they come to school and we recommend the long-lasting sun cream. If not this, then they must have a named bottle of sunscreen in their bag and be able to apply it themselves. Please teach your child to do this over the weekend if they cannot already. Your child must have a named hat and a named water bottle in school every day. Sunglasses are not part of our school uniform.

Personal hygiene is also very important in the warmer weather so please encourage your child to take a daily bath or shower and to use deodorant.



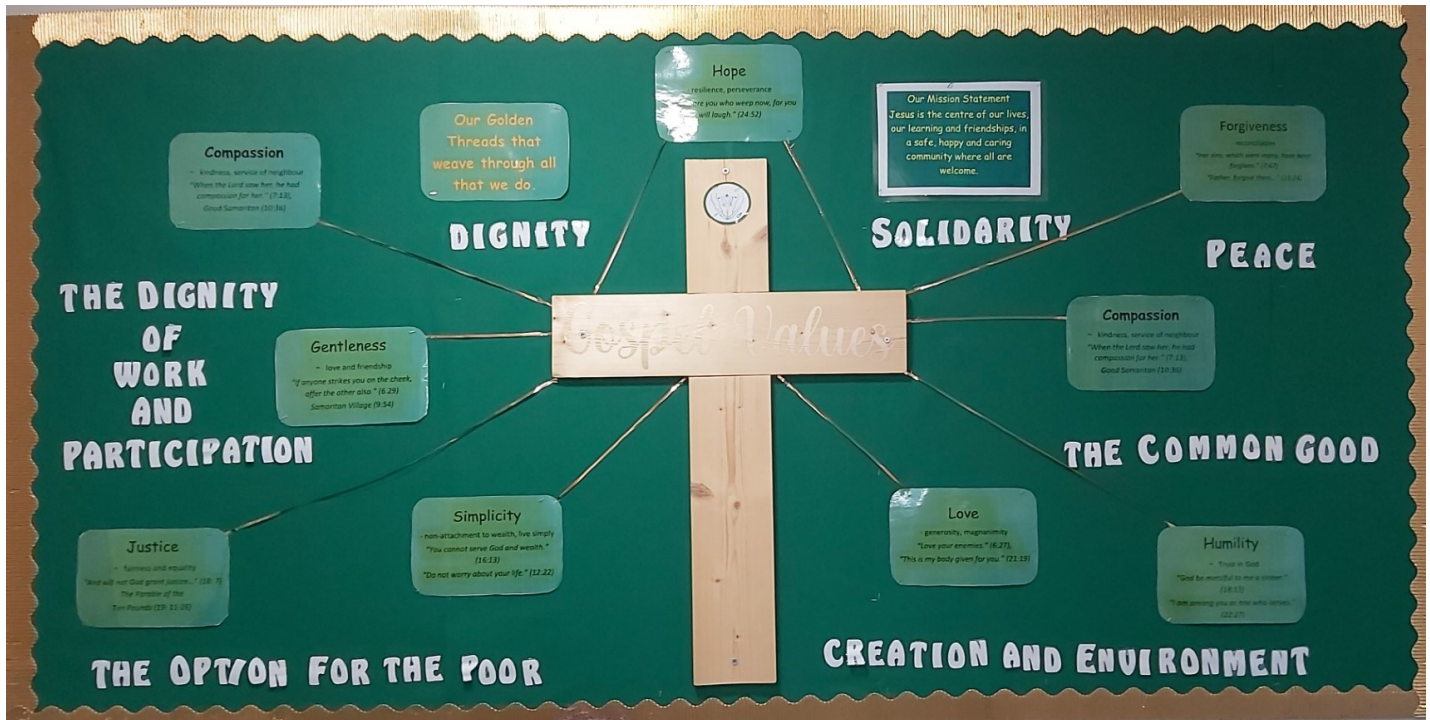
Catholic Social Teaching

We have been learning about the importance of Catholic Social Teaching in our lives. Our 9 Gospel Values are the bedrock of our school and what we would like the children to show to others. There are also 7 principles of Catholic Social Teaching and these underpin our Gospel Values. The Gospel values are the golden threads that weave through all that we do at Holy Cross and the Catholic Social Teaching principles are the silver threads that run from the Gospel Values. Our first board as everyone comes through into our school, shows this.

Human Dignity is the cornerstone of these principles and the children have been learning about this, this week. We want our pupils to think about others and the dignity of human life as we are all made in the likeness of God and should therefore reflect this to others through our words and actions.

We would like parents to support our work on Catholic Social Teaching at home and to find out more please follow this link: <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/catholic-social-teaching>.

There is also a helpful video if you follow this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XNcBCPVbYDU>



Choir Visit to Alexandra House Care Home

On Saturday some of the choir visited Alexandra House Care Home, again, to sing for the residents. It was a lovely performance and thoroughly enjoyed by the residents.

Thank you to the children for giving up your Saturday morning to brighten up someone else's day.





Year 2 Trip to Colchester Zoo

What a wonderful day Year 2 had at Colchester Zoo! The children fully immersed themselves into the trip and saw many amazing breeds of animals from all around the world! Our particular favourites were the sea lions, elephants and giraffes. The absolute highlight however was the parading Lion who seem to enjoy his time basking in the glorious sunshine. Lots of happy memories were made and the children were a credit to Holy Cross. Thank you to everyone who made the trip such a success.



Year 5 & 6 Football Match

Well done to the Year 5 & 6 footballers who played Pemberley Academy. The game resulted in a draw.

Thank you to Mr and Mrs O'Rourke for there generous donation for the new school football kit.







ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Squirrels, achieving **100%** attendance. Well done! The joint winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Foxes, Hares and Eagles, attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at **8:30am** until **8.50am**.

It is **essential** you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Pupil Asset report absence option on every day of absence. We need full details of why your child is unable to attend school. We are frequently having to contact parents, to find out why their child is absent from school. If you do not notify us of the reason for your child's absence it may not be authorised.

| | |
|---|---|
| Butterflies | 97% |
| Ladybirds | 93% |
| Dragonflies | 96% |
| Grasshoppers | 90% |
| Hedgehogs | 96% |
|  Squirrels  | 100% |
| Badgers | 97% |
|  Foxes | 99% |
| Hares | 99% |
| Rabbits | 96% |
| Kingfishers | 96% |
| Robins | 94% |
| Eagles | 99%  |
| Owls | 98% |



Times Tables Rockstars

Congratulations to the following children for trying really hard with their times tables this week.

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| Hedgehogs: | Eliora Koranteng | Foxes: | Blake Simpson |
| Badgers: | Livia Mazurek | Rabbits: | Frankie Cripps |
| Hares: | Charlee Vanderhyde | Robins: | Mark Adjaye-Kwofie |
| Kingfishers: | Miles Agyei Frimpong | Owls: | Isaac Lieu |
| Eagles: | Lehna Ajong | | |

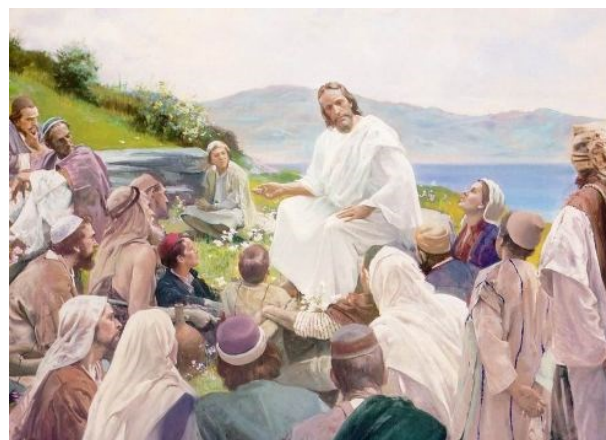
Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Gentleness

- love and friendship

"If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also." (6:29) Samaritan Village (9:54)



Congratulations to the following children who received the Gospel values certificate this week.

| | | | |
|--------------|------------------|---------------|------------------|
| Butterflies: | Reginald Ruxton | Ladybirds: | Zora Svobodova |
| Dragonflies: | Kyren Laidley | Grasshoppers: | Arribella Jones |
| Hedgehogs: | Mariella Messer | Squirrels: | Tilly Lentz |
| Badgers: | Jayden Bancroft | Foxes: | Oliver Ruffell |
| Hares: | Brayan Wator | Rabbits: | Tehila Sambo |
| Kingfishers: | Jermaine Ondiege | Robins: | Mara Ciotoi |
| Eagles: | Gilda Bosompem | Owls: | Dominic Marshall |

SUMMER FETE AND FAMILY PICNIC



COME ALONG AND
ENJOY AN AFTERNOON
OF FUN AND GAMES

refreshments
on sale

LOTS OF ACTIVITIES WILL BE ON
OFFER.
PRE PAYMENT TOKENS AVAILABLE
FOR ACTIVITIES.
PRE BOOK FACE PAINTING

Wednesday 21st
June 2023
12pm to 4pm





Save THE Date

FEAST OF HOLY CROSS FESTIVAL



SAT | **SEPT**
16 | 3pm
2023 till 9pm



COME AND CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF
HOLY CROSS WITH ENTERTAINMENT
FOR ALL THE FAMILY

Use code **HOLYCROSS**
to get 15% off your booking

Wyvern WOOD

Book an adventure now
wyvernwood.co.uk



GET YOUR TICKETS FOR

ADVENTURE ISLAND ***SOUTHEND ON SEA***

£15 PER PERSON FOR A DAY
TICKET AVAILABLE FROM
HOLY CROSS SCHOOL
OFFICE





Based on the gospel for Sunday 18 June, Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 9:36 - 10:8

"When Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd."

Do you ever wonder about the meaning of the words used by those who wrote the gospels?

In this gospel, the Greek word used for 'compassion', is the strongest one available. It describes the compassion which moves people to their very depths.

Whenever Jesus met people who were suffering, we are told he longed to ease their pain.

He met the sick and those who were blind, the widow whose son had died, the man with leprosy, the people who were tired, and had nothing to eat.

In the time of Jesus, some of the leaders should have been giving these people comfort and help, but they did just the opposite. They bewildered them with complicated arguments about the Law. The religion they offered was a burden. They were burying people with the weight of the Law.

May we never forget that when we meet people who are struggling we should not weigh them down with further burdens, but instead try to lift them up, offering them comfort and help.

May the compassion of Jesus
be visible in our lives
through our loving care
for all who are suffering.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Jesus is the hand of the Father who never abandons us, the strong and faithful hand of the Father who always and only wants our good.

A Weekly Gift to you and your family from your Catholic School

THE Wednesday
WORD



SHARING SUNDAY'S GOSPEL WITH PARENTS & FAMILIES

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that Jesus came to establish a kingdom – God's kingdom.

Jesus was concerned about his people. He wanted to bring to them the Kingdom of his Father, so he set out to heal them and to bring them the peace of God, and he sent out his disciples to do the same. Today, the Church continues Jesus' work and invites everyone to enter into God's kingdom – to make present God's blessing of peace and healing.

Wednesday 14th June 2023

Everywhere I go I can spread either gossip or peace, either hurt or God's healing – the healing which Jesus brought as he went round the countryside.

I may not be able to heal physically, but I can spread the healing of peace in my community. Enjoy your week and help reveal **GOD'S KINGDOM**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



To see this week's Parish Version of The Wednesday Word: wednesdayword.org – Parents' Pages – Lectio Divina with Fr Henry.

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 18th June 2023



When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his twelve disciples, "The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest." He then gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: "Go to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge."

Adapted from

Matthew 9: 36-10:8 (11th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A)

**Everyone can learn more about this Gospel
in Church – all are warmly invited.**

"It is in the human heart that
God's kingdom takes root
and grows." Pope Francis



WORD CONNECTING HOME, SCHOOL AND PARISH THROUGH SUNDAY'S GOSPEL

God's kingdom is right here - right now! When we welcome Jesus into our lives and try to live as he taught us, God's kingdom grows within our hearts. Within our families, and everywhere we go, we can help to reveal God's kingdom, sharing God's healing love and peace - making life better for all.

Luke 10:1-12. 17-20



1 Enjoy reading the Gospel

Jesus felt sorry for the crowds because they were worried and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. So, he gave his disciples the power to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness and said: "Now go to the people and tell them that the kingdom of heaven will soon be here. Cure the sick, raise the dead to life and heal the lepers. You received without paying, now give without being paid."

What did Jesus tell the disciples to say to the people? Which word or words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Words are ...

GOD'S KINGDOM

3 Loving God & Each Other

"Where Christ is, there is the kingdom of God." *St Ambrose*

God loves all people equally and invites everyone to share in his kingdom - today! Ask your child what the words 'God's kingdom' mean to them. We can see God's kingdom in the person of Jesus and demonstrated through the loving actions of others. Ask your child who brings peace, joy, happiness, love, kindness or understanding into their lives (you might like to give your child an example of your own). Where and when does your child personally experience these special gifts?

"The kingdom is hidden within you; it is found in your own soul." *St Isaac of Nineveh*

We can help God's kingdom of peace and healing to grow within and around us through the little things that we do and say. Each of you choose one way in which you can help the kingdom of God to grow. Perhaps you can: be more helpful around the house; share more; support a child, family or project at school where help is needed. Why not get involved with a charity that helps the poorest in the world (e.g. visit Cafod.org.uk or Missio.org.uk)?



Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to build your **kingdom** in our hearts and in the world - to do your work on earth with love and care for all. Amen.

Gospel Gallery

L Y H H V P Y V E R Y
S G P E A C E S U E R
G O E A A H R A E N R
P D S L Y L K M C N O
H Y **D I S C I P L E S**
V S E N T P N N Y A E
N E H G T L G H G R T
D I A N M O D G N I K
Y R E V P L O D O M O
D S D G D O M M G D S
S E L P I C S I D A N

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER **ACROSS** OR **DOWN**

- ☒ **DISCIPLES SENT** ☒
- ☐ **HEALING PEACE** ☐
- ☐ **KINGDOM GOD** ☐
- ☐ **VERY NEAR** ☐

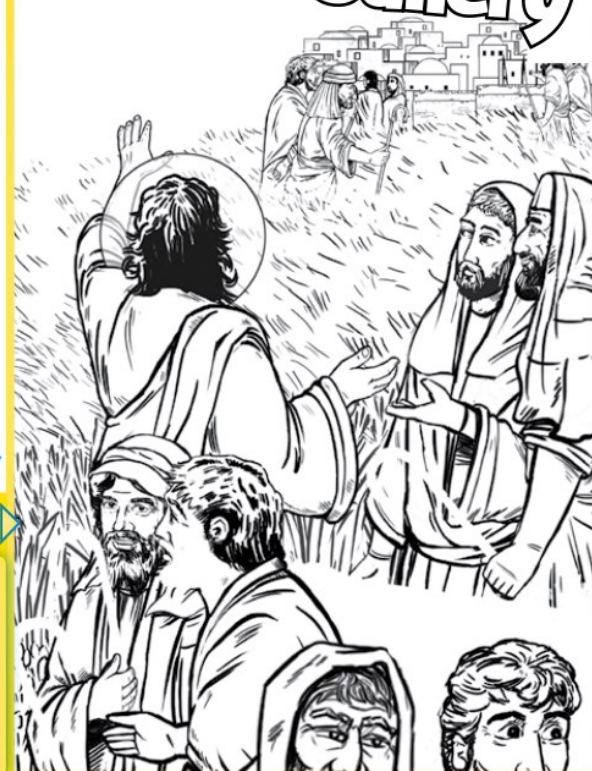
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Whilst thinking about this week's Gospel, search for at least three differences between this picture and the colour one. Then draw them in before colouring.

Cross out the letters **u b c** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

upebcople kibngudocm nuecarb cheabul

Jesus said, "_____ the _____ who are sick and say, 'The _____ of God is very _____ to you.'"



Just like Jesus' first followers, we too should work to bring peace and healing to other people by the things we say and the way we behave.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to ...





Encountering Christ
Prayerfully preparing for the
Sunday Mass and praying in
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 18th June 2023 - The Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for Sunday 18th June 2023 - The New Israel (Matthew 9:36-10:8)

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.' He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the, son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows: 'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'



3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Jesus was concerned about his people. He wanted to bring to them the Kingdom of his Father, so he set out to heal them, and sent others out to do the same. His aim was to bring them the peace of God, to help them by ridding them of their worries, their sickness, their embarrassment at being lost sheep without a shepherd (God was always the shepherd in Israel). When he set up the twelve apostles he was making a New Israel, a new set of twelve tribes, as a permanent healing body, to make sure that the Kingdom of the Father and its peace and generosity would always be available. He was not setting up a clergy, a set of leaders, but appointing his own helpers in spreading God's Kingdom. That is what every Christian must do. Do I make it my business to spread the Kingdom or the Kingship of God? Am I a labourer in the harvest, trying to bring God's peace and healing to all the sick sheep? After all, I was made in the image of God, and God gave me the task of following on his creative work. And then Jesus called me, too, to work with him. Am I supposed to cure the sick and cast out devils?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 18th June 2023



First Reading: *God chooses Israel to be his own possession*

Exodus 19:2-6

From Rephidim the Israelites set out again: and when they reached the wilderness of Sinai, there in the wilderness they pitched their camp: there facing the mountain Israel pitched camp. Moses then went up to God, and the Lord called to him from the mountain, saying, 'Say this to the House of Jacob, declare this to the sons of Israel, "You yourselves have seen what I did with the Egyptians, how I carried you on eagle's wings and brought you to myself. From this you know that now, if you obey my voice and hold fast to my covenant, you of all the nations shall be my very own, for all the earth is mine. I will count you a kingdom of priests a consecrated nation."

This reading records the special moment when God chose Israel to be his own possession, a kingdom of priests, a holy nation, formed of twelve tribes, just as in the gospel reading Jesus will chose Twelve to be the nucleus of his holy Kingdom. God had led them out of slavery in Egypt with a purpose: they were to be gradually formed and enlightened to bring God's Good News to the whole of creation. First they were given the Law (the Ten Commandments come just after this passage) which would teach them how the people of God must live out their vocation. 'Be holy as I am holy', acting in the image of God, completing God's work of creation. It was not going to be a smooth path. They rebelled already in the desert, hankering after the 'leeks and onions' of Egypt, and the history of Israel was to be a constant series of rebellion, recall and forgiveness – just like our relationship with God, full of failure and return. Formation always involves a fair amount of buffeting and correction, spiritual growing-pains as well as physical. Like ours, their learning process was slow and full of mistakes, but in the end they brought salvation into the world in the person of Jesus.

What can it mean that we are a kingdom of priests?

Second Reading: *Reconciled to God*

St Paul to the Romans 5:6-11

We were still helpless when at his appointed moment Christ died for sinful men. It is not easy to die even for a good man – though of course for someone really worthy, a man might be prepared to die – but what proves that God loves us is that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. Having died to make us righteous, is it likely that he would now fail to save us from God's anger? When we were reconciled to God by the death of his son, we were still enemies; now that we have been reconciled surely we may count on being saved by the life of his Son? Not merely because we have been reconciled but because we are filled with joyful trust in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have already gained our reconciliation.

The clue to the importance of this reading comes right at the end: we have been reconciled, but we shall be saved. Through the loving obedience of Christ on the Cross the yawning chasm between God and humanity represented by the disobedience of Adam has been closed, the hostility (hostility on the side of Adam not of any angry god) annulled. The boundless love of God can be given to us in the Spirit, so that we too may live by that love, and play out our lives under its influence. The join of these two readings gives a wonderful assurance: the Shepherd's love is such that it dwells in us in the Spirit and thereby empowers us to act with that love towards those around us. This is what is meant by living the life of Christ.

If I have already been put right with God, can I just float along and leave it all to God?

“This is what is meant by living the life of Christ.”

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday this week to...

Amelia Chapska, James Hanmore, Milo Bagram-Spicer, Kojo Kwakye, Rhea Matunge, Demi Osiname & Blanka Trus.



Golden Awards:

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Butterflies: | Arthur Branch Dexter, for fantastic recall of number bonds to 5 and doubles |
| Ladybirds: | Olivier Trus, for learning his number bonds to 5 and 10 |
| Dragonflies: | Myles Owusu-Adu, for being a kind and caring friend |
| Grasshoppers: | Luca Cushway, for his fantastic maths work on numbers to 100 |
| Hedgehogs: | William Powell, for outstanding effort with his phonics |
| Squirrels: | Ivy Bennett, for fantastic work on your recount |
| Badgers: | Naya Kruszniewska-Quental, for having a wonderful attitude to learning |
| Foxes: | Margaret Oregbhemhe, for a fantastic attitude when we were on our trip |
| Hares: | The Whole Class, for completing their times tables tests with a great attitude |
| Rabbits: | The Whole Class, for completing their times tables tests with resilience |
| Kingfishers: | Samuel Shoji Akinwale, for really great maths work |
| Robins: | Bryan Udeagha, for working hard in maths and making good progress |
| Eagles: | Isla Tieu, for always working hard and trying her best in all that she does |
| Owls: | Dan Boateng, for working hard on profit and loss in maths |

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St David's

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 19th June

Ladybirds Parents Road Safety Workshop 9:00

Kingfishers Swimming

Years 1 & 2 Drawing 3:10 - 4:10

Years 1 & 2 Cosmic Yoga 3:10 - 4:10

Years 3 & 4 Cosmic Yoga 3:15 - 4:15

Year 3 International Club 3:15 - 4:15

KS2 Basketball 3:15 - 4:15

Tuesday 20th June

Reception Reading Zone

Badgers Harlow Museum trip

Year 3 & 4 Football 3:15 - 4:15

Year 5 & 6 Football 3:15 - 4:15

Choir 3:15 - 4:15

Wednesday 21st June

Year 4 Eucharistic Service 9:00

Family Picnic and Fete 12:00

KS1 Karate 3:10 - 4:10

Year 2 and 3 Gardening Club 3:15 - 4:15

KS2 Rounders 3:15 - 4:15

Thursday 22nd June

Reception Reading Zone

Foxes Harlow Museum trip

Year 1 Football 3:10 - 4:10

Year 2 Football 3:10 - 4:10

KS2 Karate 3:15 - 4:15

Friday 23rd June

KS2 Assembly 9:00

Year 2 Music Festival

KS1 Assembly 2:30

KS2 Dodgeball 3:15 - 4:15

Mrs A Kerrell *Mr S Kelliher*

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

Mr S Kelliher

Please download our News & Events App for dates for the year. Details are available on the schools website under News & Events at www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk