



20th October 2023



GOSPEL: VALUE: Our Gospel Value this coming week is **SIMPLICITY**. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

Weekly Reflection

We had a beautiful Harvest Assembly this afternoon and it was wonderful to hear the children reflecting in their poems and prayers, their understanding of our Catholic Social Teaching principle of The Common Good. The children prayed for a rich harvest for farmers, good weather to grow crops and for God to bless people who produce and serve our food. Their singing was joyful and it raised everyone's spirits as we close off this half term.

It has been a busy first half term put productive and positive. The children have taken part in lots of activities and it has been good to see their focus and enthusiasm in lessons. The children are happy, settled and enjoying learning. We thank you for your support for our school and please know that everything that you do makes our school community thrive.

I hope that you enjoy a well-earned rest with the children and some quality family time.

Wishing everyone a wonderful half term break.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher



Year 6 Prefect Assembly

On Wednesday Year 6 were given their Prefect badges. These symbolise their role model status to the rest of the school, leading the way with their hard work and living the Gospel values day to day.



Gates at Pick Up

Just a reminder that the gate to the main playground will not open until 3:10pm. Parents and carers may access the school site from 3:05 pm and we kindly ask that you do not queue outside on the pavement, as this blocks safe access for other people.

Secondary School Applications for September 2024 - Reminder for Year 6 Parents

The closing date for applications from parents of Year 6 children, for a secondary school place in Year 7 in September 2024, is 31st October 2023.

Applications can be made via their website www.essex.gov.uk/admissions.

Library Book Amnesty

The library have contacted us to say that there is a high number of pupils with overdue library books.

If your child has overdue library books please return them to any library in Harlow. Alternatively they can be brought to the school office before Friday 3rd November and we will arrange for them to be returned.

Burwell Residential Trip

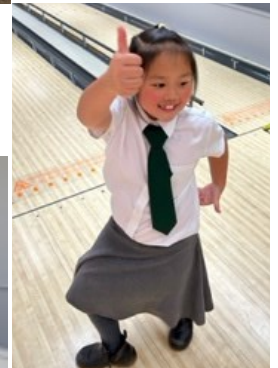
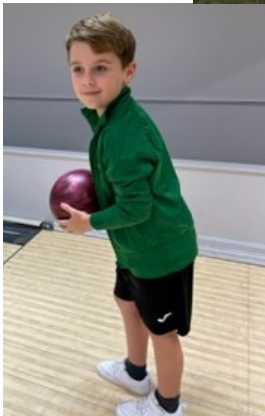
This week, Kingfishers have enjoyed spending three days on a residential trip at Burwell House in Cambridgeshire. The house and grounds offer a fabulous opportunity to explore lots of Geography skills and fieldwork through games and activities. At the end of the three days, the children were confident in navigating using a map and compass and enjoyed the competitive orienteering games, both on site and wider afield in the village of Burwell itself. They completed traffic surveys and sound maps in Burwell, the neighbouring hamlet of Reach and walked along a stretch of the historic Devil's Dyke. The children also made clay sculptures, which were inspired by our Anglo-Saxons topic.

Mrs. Guna, Miss Hollick, Mrs Mills and Mrs. McCombes were really proud of all of the children for their behaviour and manners and for how they fully embraced the activities and experiences. They showed great resilience in being away from their families and in trying new and delicious foods. It was wonderful to see the children playing and enjoying spending time outdoors.



Bowling Tournament

On Thursday a group of children took part in a ten pin bowling competition. They all had a fantastic time and represented the school well. Well done!



Wear Pink It Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in Wear It Pink Day and donated money to a such a worthwhile charity, Breast Cancer Now.

We raised £390.



The background of the entire poster is a dark navy blue. It is decorated with various white and red line-art fireworks. Some fireworks are large and complex, with many radiating lines and small circles at their tips. Others are smaller, simple circles or starbursts. The fireworks are scattered across the entire background, creating a festive, celebratory atmosphere.

Fireworks Disco

FRIDAY 3RD NOVEMBER

Reception, year 1 and year 2 - 3.30pm to 4.45pm

Years 3 to 6 - 5pm to 6.30pm

£4 a child, this includes snacks and unlimited juice.

Payment can be made by cash or card

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CONNECTING WITH STRANGERS

Even if your child only connects with people they know, they may still get friend requests from strangers. The Quick Add option lets users befriend people the app recommends – but these 'friends' are merely a username, which could have anyone behind it. Accepting such requests reveals children's personal information through the Story, SnapMap and Spotlight features, potentially putting them at risk from predators.

EXCESSIVE USE

Snapchat works hard on user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). Spotlight Challenges tempt users into spending time producing content in search of cash prizes and online fame, while it's easy for children to pass hours watching Spotlight's endless scroll of videos.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some videos and posts on Snapchat aren't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people (teens in particular) to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.



ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body-image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy if a young person compares themselves unfavourably with other users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

VISIBLE LOCATION

Snap Map highlights a device's exact position on a virtual map which is visible to other users. There are options to restrict who can see this information: all friends, only you (Ghost Mode) or selected friends. Snapchat also has real-time location sharing, which is intended as a buddy system to ensure friends have reached home safely – but which could also be used to track a young person for more sinister reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

TURN OFF QUICK ADD

The Quick Add feature helps people find each other on the app. This function works based on mutual friends or whether someone's number is in your child's contacts list. Explain to your child that this could potentially make their profile visible to strangers. We recommend that your child turns off Quick Add, which can be done in the settings (accessed via the cog icon).



CHOOSE GOOD CONNECTIONS

In 2021, Snapchat rolled out a new safety feature: users can now receive notifications reminding them of the importance of maintaining connections with people they actually know well, as opposed to strangers. This 'Friend Check Up' encourages users to delete connections with users that they rarely communicate with, to maintain their online safety and privacy.



DISCUSS AI

Although My AI's responses can often give the impression that it's a real person, it's essential that young people remember this certainly isn't the case. Encourage your child to think critically about My AI's replies to their questions: are they accurate and reliable? Remind them that My AI shouldn't replace chatting with their real friends, and that it's always better to talk to an actual person in relation to medical matters.



CHAT ABOUT CONTENT

It may feel like an awkward conversation (and one that young people can be reluctant to have) but it's important to talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting. Remind your child that once something's online, the creator loses control over where it ends up – and who else sees it. Likewise, it's vital that children understand that some challenges which become popular on the platform may have potentially harmful consequences.



KEEP ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Profiles are private by default, but children may make them public to gain more followers. Snap Stories are visible to everyone your child adds, unless they change the settings. On SnapMaps, their location is visible unless Ghost Mode is enabled (again via settings). It's safest not to add people your child doesn't know in real life – especially since the addition of My Places, which allows other Snapchat users to see where your child regularly visits and checks in.



BE READY TO BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with your child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, your child can select the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user (annoying or malicious messages, spam, or masquerading as someone else, for example).



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

Sources: <https://help.snapchat.com/en-gb/articles/22678035032-What-is-My-AI-on-Snapchat-and-how-do-I-use-it> | <https://www.snap.com/en-GB/news/ai-features-from-reel-and-new-safety-enhancements> | <https://www.snap.com/2023/04/19/snapchat-lives-location-sharing-challenge/> | <https://help.snapchat.com/en-gb/articles/70000408844>

[@natonlinesafety](https://twitter.com/natonlinesafety)

[/NationalOnlineSafety](https://facebook.com/NationalOnlineSafety)

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[@national_online_safety](https://tiktok.com/@national_online_safety)

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Gospel Value Awards

Forgiveness

- reconciliation

"Her sins, which were many, have been forgiven." (7:47)

"Father, forgive them..." (23:24)



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

Dragonflies:	Zach	Grasshoppers:	Phoebe
Hedgehogs:	Brielle	Squirrels:	Milo
Badgers:	Dominic	Foxes:	Mariella
Hares:	Jalynn	Rabbits:	Lucas
Kingfishers:	Ohemaa	Robins:	Justin
Eagles:	Iris	Owls:	Natalie



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Amara	Foxes:	Alexander
Badgers:	Mariella	Rabbits:	Miruna
Hares:	Kenna-Kah	Owls:	Eloise
Robins:	Ella		

ATTENDANCE MATTERS


Congratulations to the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies and Squirrels, achieving 97% attendance. Well done! The joint winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Rabbits and Owls, attaining 97% 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.

Absences over 3 days require supporting medical evidence, for the additional absence to be authorised. Medical evidence can take the form of prescriptions, antibiotics and medical appointments.

Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

 Butterflies	97%
Ladybirds	93%
Dragonflies	94%
Grasshoppers	93%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	97%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	95%
Hares	96%
Rabbits	97%
Kingfishers	94%
Robins	94%
Eagles	94%
Owls	97%

September — October 1/2 term			
Percentage Attendance	Hours of education lost	Weeks missed at school	School days missed
100%	0	0	0
97%	5	0	1
95%	10	0	2
90%	17.5	0	3.5
86%	25	1	5
80%	35	1wk 2dys	7
75%	45	1wk 4dys	9
70%	52.5	2wks 1/2dy	10.5
60%	70	2wks 4dys	14
50%	87.5	3wks 2.5dys	17.5

Lost Hours of Education

Maintaining a high school attendance percentage is such an important factor in your child's success in learning.

Your child's attendance percentage is available to view on the Pupil Asset.

The table above shows you what this means in terms of lost hours of learning, this half term.



Based on the gospel for Sunday 22 October, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 22:15-21

"Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God."

Jesus could have been entangled in the snare of the Pharisees and the Herodians, but no, he speaks simply and clearly, "give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God." We are stamped through with God's image and likeness. We belong to God.

When it comes to the state, how many tangles do we get into in our lives? Taxes for the Jewish people seemed harsh and unfair under Rome. Taxes for us might feel a huge burden, especially as the cost of living rises disproportionately.

We read of so many schemes to beat the tax man, yet taxes are our way of contributing to a fund to benefit many others, some who do not have the means to contribute.

The payment of our taxes keeps the government accountable to spend our money wisely. It gives us a voice in government policies, helping to keep the focus on justice and fairness.

We are encouraged to use our voices for the benefit of those who cannot make themselves heard by their own governments. Let us keep striving for more as we "campaign for social justice, so that every man, woman and child can live a full and dignified life."

Just and loving God,
may we give ourselves anew to you daily as we strive to live responsible lives.
May more people be inspired to participate by our commitment to your work
for global justice.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

War does not resolve any problem. It only sows death and destruction, increases hate, multiplies vengeance. War erases the future. I exhort believers to take only one side in the conflict: the side of peace - not in word, but in prayer.



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 22nd October 2023 - The Twenty Ninth 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 22nd October 2023 (Matthew 22:15-21): Giving God His Due

The Pharisees went away to work out between them how to trap Jesus in what he said. And they sent their disciples to him, together with the Herodians, to say, 'Master, we know that you are an honest man and teach the way of God in an honest way, and that you are not afraid of anyone, because a man's rank means nothing to you. Tell us your opinion, then. Is it permissible to pay taxes to Caesar or not?' But Jesus was aware of their malice and replied, 'You hypocrites! Why do you set this trap for me? Let me see the money you pay the tax with.' They handed him a denarius, and he said, 'Whose head is this? Whose name?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. He then said to them, 'Very well, give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar - and to God what belongs to God.'



3 Reflect

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

They must really have thought they had their victim sewn up! If Jesus said he paid the Roman taxes, he recognised the Emperor, not God, as his Lord. If he said he didn't pay, he was a traitor to Rome. Jesus turns the question back on them. First he makes them admit that they themselves recognise Rome as overlord by carrying a Roman coin, for the coin would carry the Emperor's head. Next he puts them a question: what do they consider is due to Caesar? Finally he goes beyond their question, to interrogate their ultimate loyalty: in the last analysis, just what is due to God? At a superficial level this seems a little verbal tussle, in which Jesus outwits his opponents. But the story was remembered and passed on in the Christian community not because of Jesus' cleverness, but because at a deeper level it is a question which Jesus puts to each of us: just where do our loyalties and priorities lie? Money? Respect? Sex? Fame? A good holiday? Comfort? Power? Jesus is not a dictator who imposes his will. He just asks the question and leaves us to give our own answer. To those who question him he gives no easy response, but always replies with another question.

What takes priority in my life? Does God get a look-in? In what way?

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 22nd October 2023



First Reading: *Cyrus, King of Persia, Chosen by God*

Isaiah 45:1. 4-6

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he has taken by his right hand to subdue nations before him and strip the loins of kings, to force gateways before him that their gates be closed no more. 'It is for the sake of my servant Jacob, of Israel my chosen one, that I have called you by your name, conferring a title though you do not know me. I am the Lord, unrivalled; there is no other God besides me. Though you do not know me, I arm you that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that, apart from me, all is nothing.'

This passage of Isaiah must have been written at the very end of the exile in Babylon (586-538 BC), as Cyrus, King of Persia, was approaching to take over that city and decree that the captives, Jews and other nations, should be sent home to their own countries. Because of this, the Jews saw Cyrus as God's own envoy. It must have finally confirmed them in their new understanding, reached by being sunk into the hostile and alien civilisation of Babylon, that their God, the Lord, was God not just of Israel but of the whole world. Before the exile, of course, they were convinced that the Lord was their own special God and protector, but what of other nations? Confronted with the alien and materialistic gods of Babylon, they realised that God, their own intimate and loving Lord, was the God not just of Israel but of the whole world, the whole universe, the creator of light and darkness. If no other lesson was learnt from the exile, this was a major advance in understanding of God and his ways.

Do we have other gods which we worship? Do we accept the Lord as key to every door in the universe, even the door of our own hearts?

Second Reading: *Paul Greet the Church in Thessalonika*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5

From Paul, Silvanus and Timothy, to the Church in Thessalonika which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ; wishing you grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. We always mention you in our prayers and thank God for you all, and constantly remember before God our Father how you have shown your faith in action, worked for love and persevered through hope, in our Lord Jesus Christ. We know, brothers, that God loves you and that you have been chosen, because when we brought the Good News to you, it came to you not only as words, but as power and as the Holy Spirit and as utter conviction.

“There is always more to learn about our faith.”

This Sunday we start reading First Thessalonians, the earliest of all Paul's letters. It is read for the next five Sundays. Paul moved so rapidly round the new Christian communities which he established that he could never instruct them fully when they were first founded: indeed there is always more to learn about our faith. So Paul needed to keep in touch, answering questions, solving difficulties, showing his 'concern for all the Churches'. Paul's 'letters' are real letters, each responding to a different set of circumstances. Each of them begins with a warm greeting, 'grace and peace'. 'Grace' is God's affectionate and powerful smile, drawing us into God's loving protection, and empowering us to live and work for him. Then, with his thoughtful courtesy, Paul encourages the community with praise for their achievements in Christ (where possible - the Galatians get no compliments, for they have let Paul down badly). In this letter he praises the faith of the Thessalonians, their love and their firm hope, and also the effectiveness in their lives of the power of the Spirit. It never does any harm to look for the best in people, and show that their efforts have been recognised!

How do you show your faith in action and work for love?

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...

Elsie, Roxanne, Grace, Gerald, Lillian, Cameron, Pola & Charlee

Happy Birthday in half term to...

Krzysztof, Jayron Jace, David, Alexander, Nihin, Rosie, Naomi, Eloise & Lyla



Golden Awards:

- Dragonflies: Keziah, for always contributing such fantastic ideas
- Grasshoppers: Oliwier, for always putting a lot of effort into all his work
- Hedgehogs: Lottie, for excellent concentration and participation during our history day
- Squirrels: Georgie, for working hard in maths
- Badgers: Eva, for great perseverance in maths
- Foxes: Maya, for being a great friend and always trying hard
- Hares: Sofia, for her amazing homework about the river Nile
- Rabbits: Priscilla, for creating an image in her beautifully written poem
- Kingfishers: Edward, for fantastic artwork
- Robins: Elliot, for his excellent effort in contributing to our class discussions
- Eagles: Helith, for having an amazing attitude towards all learning
- Owls: Natalie, for excellent work in maths

New menu week 1

Diary Dates

All clubs are 3:15 to 4:15

Monday 30th October

Owls swimming

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy
Lunchtime

Year 1 Football

Year 2 Football

Years 5 & 6 Computing
club

Years 1 & 2 Gymnastics

Years 3 to 6
International club

Years 3 to 6 French club

Years 1 & 2 Scrapbook club

Years 3 to 6 CAFOD
Enterprise club

Years 3 to 6 Boccia

Tuesday 31st October

Year 2 Reading Zone

Years 3 to 6 Basketball club

Years 3 to 6 Geography club

Years 1 and 2 Dance club

Years 3 to 6 Spanish club

Wednesday 1st November

Year 2 Reading Zone

KS1 Karate

Thursday 2nd November

Year 2 Reading Zone

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy
lunchtime

KS2 Karate

Years 3 and 4 Football

Years 5 and 6 Football

Year 1 Storytelling club,
lunchtime

Year 2 Storytelling club,
lunchtime

Friday 3rd November

KS2 assembly 9:00

KS1 assembly 14:30

Years 3 to 6 Dodgeball

School Disco

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

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

House Points

Congratulations to the
winning house St Andrew's