



10th November 2023



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

We have been reflecting on the readings from Mass last Sunday and how Jesus reminds us of the importance of following His example not because it makes us look better in the eyes of others but because it is the right way to behave. Also, that if you are entrusted with a role by God that you must fulfil it in the best way that you can because you want to help others and not because it will make you look good. This closely links to our Gospel Value of Humility and the roles that we have in school such as Prefects, Chaplains, Eco Council, School Council and Mini Vinnies. We talked in assembly about the important responsibility that these roles carry and the difference that our children with these roles make to our school community.

We have focused this week on Remembrance and thinking about the sacrifice that service men, women and animals have made in the World Wars to allow us to have our freedom. We also are thinking of those caught up in conflict in Israel and The Ukraine. We were delighted that children who are Rainbows, Brownies, Cubs, Beavers, Scouts and Guides wore their uniforms to school today as a mark of respect. Our Year 6 pupils walked to the War Memorial at Potter Street and laid a wreath on behalf of the school.

I hope that you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Family Mass

We hope to see lots of our families at the Family Mass tomorrow evening at Holy Cross Church at 5.30pm. It will be a wonderful opportunity for our school and parish communities to come together to celebrate Mass. If your child is coming along they must wear their school uniform please. We hope to see you there.

Parent Consultations

Thank you to parents who were able to come along to meet their child's class teacher this week. This is a very important way that we communicate with you and share how your child is getting on at school. We would also like to offer you the opportunity to share your thoughts and feelings on our school. Please follow the link below to complete the online questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/e/AOLPYE7iF9>

School Uniform

The weather has turned very cold this week and your child will now need a coat for school. Please remember that children must wear a Holy Cross coat. There are second hand school coats available from the uniform shop.

Lost Property

We have an incredible amount of lost property. We will be bagging up anything that has not been collected after school today and recycling it. Please make sure that you collect any missing items by the end of the day. Please remember to name all items of uniform and property.



REMEMBRANCE DAY

LEST WE FORGET
YEAR 6 LAY A WREATH AT THE
WAR MEMROIAL



REMEMBRANCE DAY

LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBERENCE PRAYERS BY
HECTOR, ENOCH, ANNALIESA,
KEZIAH AND AIMEE

Almighty and eternal God,
Hear our prayers and protect our brave
troops who sacrificed themselves to protect
us. Please protect the dead as they
march into heaven. Bless our gallant
soldiers and those who who are
working towards world peace. We
pray for the soldiers and the
people who are suffering conflict.
We pray for their safety.

Amen

REMEMBRANCE DAY

LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBRANCE PRAYERS BY
HECTOR, ENOCH, ANNALIESA,
KEZIAH AND AIMEE

10.11.20

Our father,
We pray that everyone who died
during conflict are at peace
and we thank all of those
that have been brave
to protect us. Amen.



Prayer for Remembrance

Dear God,

We remember all those who have died
or been injured in all of the many wars.
We pray that they will enter the gates of
heaven in peace, and that the world should
become a better place for all, with you
peace, harmony and love. Please bless us to this day.

Amen

A Prayer for Remembrance day

Dear God,

We thank you for all the soldiers
that fought for our country.
Help us to be peacemakers in our
world to day. We remember those
who stood for love and truth.
Bless our fallen soldiers and those
who are still working towards pe-
ace and justice in this
world.

Amen.

REMEMBRANCE
D.A.Y



Father
Thank you for all the
people that sacrificed for
our peace. I pray we will
have a better future and
that you will protect every
everyone in war and conflict.
Thank you for all our
Service men and women.
Amen.
Keziah





Holy Cross School Council will be collecting parcels for Operation Christmas Child from
6th— 20th November 2023

A leaflet will be sent home with your child via class which will provide all instructions of what you can put in a shoe box and labels for the age and gender of the child.

Additional labels will be in the School office

For more information on Operation Christmas Child and what to put in a shoe box, please click on the following link:

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/>



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Ladybirds and Grasshoppers, achieving 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Kingfishers, 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.

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	90%
Ladybirds	98%
Dragonflies	92%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	94%
Badgers	86%
Foxes	93%
Hares	90%
Rabbits	93%
Kingfishers	99%
Robins	92%
Eagles	91%
Owls	95%



Holy Cross Family Mass

**We would like to invite Pupils, Parents, Staff and Governors
To a special Family Mass lead by the children of Holy Cross primary School.**
(all of our families are very welcome)

On Saturday 11th November at 5.30pm.

We would like all of the children attending to come in their school uniform.

Pupils will be asked in advance to take part in the Mass including readings, Prayers of the Faithful and the Offertory Procession.



VINTAGE CLOTHES & CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE



DONATIONS NEEDED ASAP

MUST BE IN GREAT CONDITION

(NO STAINS OR HOLES)

PLEASE BRING YOUR DONATIONS TO

THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY

TUESDAY 28TH NOVEMBER

SALE ON FRIDAY 1ST DECEMBER
FROM 2PM- 4PM

7 Top Tips for Supporting Children to EXPRESS THEMSELVES SAFELY ONLINE

The past year has left many children feeling uncertain and worried. So Children's Mental Health Week 2021 has adopted the theme of 'express yourself'. It's not necessarily about being the best – but instead encouraging young people to relish the joy of being 'in the moment' and loving what they do. So whether they're into music, art, photography, film, drama or dance, here are our top tips for helping your child to express themselves safely online.

1 Celebrate their Identity

Celebrating who children are and reminding them of their uniqueness has a huge impact on their confidence and self-esteem. This week, remind them of what you love about them. You could revisit some photos and videos on your phone or computer of special times you've shared. Chat about the importance of finding time to do what they love: underline that it's an important part of who they are.

3 Support Their Interests

Some children seem to know instinctively what interests them and what they enjoy doing; others can be less decisive about hobbies. Spend some time this week sharing their interests and doing something connected to it together. You could make a short Lego film to post on your Instagram, a vlog about baking that you share with relatives, or just play with them on their favourite video game.

5 Enable Emotional Expression

Children sometimes need help in articulating how they're feeling and in beginning to understand how to manage their emotions. A safe, healthy way for your child to explore their feelings is to let them conduct an activity – like listening to a story, or creating some art – and discuss with them afterwards how it made them feel. There are lots of stories available on YouTube, while Audible is streaming children's audiobooks free of charge while schools are closed. YouTube also has a plethora of fun art tutorials (if you log in on an adult's account, remember to adjust your settings first to block inappropriate content and stop potentially unsuitable material auto-playing).

6 Let Them Stay Connected

The online world is a fantastic space for staying in contact with those who we can't be with right now. Young people are often very comfortable using social media to express themselves and stay connected by sharing their ideas, thoughts and feelings with friends. But bear in mind that most social media platforms require a child to be at least 13 before they should access it (WhatsApp is 16). Remind your child that, while it's OK to express who we are on social media, they should still always think before posting – and that their self-worth is never measured by their number of likes, friends or followers.

2 Promote Their Passions

It's different for all of us, but every child has something which ignites their passions and brings them joy. Perhaps they love music and you could introduce them to a music-making app? Or if they enjoy taking photos or making videos, use this week to set a photography or video competition at home, with some fun categories.

4 Help Them Help Others

Some children love to express themselves through activities which help others. Perhaps your local area's Facebook group has a community project that your family could get involved with – even as a one-off; it doesn't have to be a long-term commitment. Depending on your child's age, you could introduce them to online fundraising (such as sites like JustGiving, for example) and how it can make a difference to less fortunate people.

7 Coach 'Safe Sharing'

As part of expressing themselves, your child may want to share something online that they've created – like a funny video, a sketch, a meme or a dance. If they're too young to have their own social media, you could use your own account to share it with selected people who you trust. Emphasise the importance of only sharing content with people that your child knows well, like family and friends. This type of conversation is also useful for introducing young people to the risks and challenges that can come when expressing ourselves to a wider online audience of strangers.

Meet Our Expert

Anna Bateman is passionate about placing prevention at the heart of every school, integrating mental wellbeing within the curriculum, school culture and systems. She is also a member of the advisory group for the Department for Education, advising them on their mental health green paper.



About Children's Mental Health Week

Around three children in every primary school class has a mental health problem. Many more struggle with challenges from bullying to bereavement. Now in its seventh year, Children's Mental Health Week shines a spotlight on the importance of young people's mental health – and it's never seemed more relevant than it does in 2021.

Find out more at www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk



Gospel Value Awards

Simplicity

- non-attachment to wealth, live simply

"You cannot serve God and wealth." (16:13,

"Do not worry about your life." (12:22)



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

Dragonflies:	Jacob	Grasshoppers:	Salem
Hedgehogs:	Anashe	Squirrels:	Jan
Badgers:	Isla	Foxes:	Yohane
Hares:	Oliver	Rabbits:	Jayden
Kingfishers:	Ire	Robins:	Teodora
Eagles:	Zoe	Owls:	Kiera



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Elaeh	Foxes:	Thea
Badgers:	Adam	Rabbits:	Blake
Hares:	Erin	Robins:	Jeremy
Kingfishers:	Hector	Owls:	Grace
Eagles:	Filip		

Holy Cross

CHRISTMAS

programme

5th December at 2pm
Reception and Year 1 Nativity

6th December at 2pm and 6pm
Reception and Year 1 Nativity

7th December
Christmas Jumper day and Panto

8th December at 9am
KS2 Festival of Light

8th December at 2pm
KS1 Festival of Light

12th December
KS1 Christmas lunch

12th December at 6pm
Year 2 and Choir Christmas Concert

13th December at 6pm
Year 3 Christmas Concert

14th December
KS2 Christmas Lunch

18th December
Class Christmas Parties



Holy Cross Catholic Primary Academy Calendar Competition 2023

Our Eco Council are running a Calendar Competition. Each class will have an Eco theme and we are asking the children to do a piece of art work in the style of the Artist given to each year group. (Please let the artwork be done by the children)

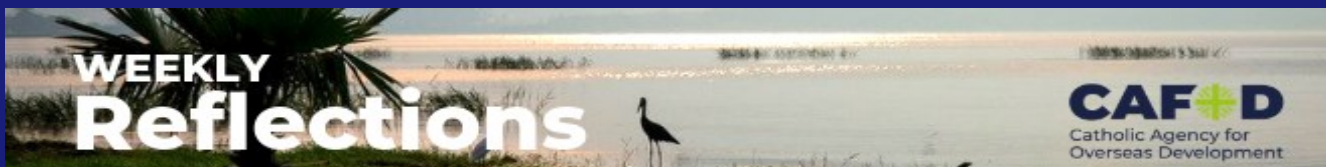
All winning art work will feature in this year's school calendar, a winner will be selected from each class.

Year Group	Topic	In the style of (Artist)
Ladybirds and Butterflies	Sea/ under the sea	Kerry Darlington
Dragonflies and Grasshoppers	Water is precious	Katsushika Hokusai
Squirrels and Hedgehogs	Antarctica	Vincent Van Gogh
Badgers and Foxes	Local environment and community	Laurence Stephen Lowry
Hares and Rabbits	The Rain Forest	Andy Warhol
Robins and Kingfishers	The Ozone and Space	Wassily Kandinsky
Eagle and Owls	Rivers	Claude Monet

Art work needs to be sent in to school by Monday 13th November.

Calendars can be ordered from the office, at a cost of 4.50 each or 2 for £8.00, by cash or card.

The calendars will be available to collect from Monday 5th December.



Based on the gospel for Sunday 12 November, Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time: Matthew 25:1-13

"The foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps."

In this parable, Jesus tells the story of ten bridesmaids who are waiting for the arrival of the bridegroom. When the bridegroom arrives, the wise ones, who had spare oil, are ready to greet him with their lamps lit. While the foolish ones are left in the dark.

As practical people, we may side with the wise women in this story. Surely anyone would make sure they are prepared for every eventuality?

But maybe this is not so simple. The wise women had enough oil to share. Surely, even in times of poor judgement or lack of preparation, human beings should not be left to "suffer the consequences."

Social justice seeks inclusivity and the idea that no one should be left behind. In society, this would mean not pointing the finger of blame, but instead ensuring that marginalised and vulnerable people are not excluded and have shared and equal access to resources.

The wise bridesmaids remind us of the need for a long-term perspective and being prepared for all eventualities. This is why CAFOD provides long-term support to equip people with the skills, tools and opportunities to live with dignity, support their families and give back to their communities. It is why CAFOD supports communities to adapt to our changing climate and protect themselves from natural disasters. And why CAFOD campaigns call for the change needed to create a just and equitable society.

Just and loving God,
may we be inspired to use our talents and opportunities to the
benefit of all. We pray that our hearts remain open to embodying
your sense of justice and compassion in the world.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Let's pray together for the people suffering due to war. Yes, they're suffering a lot. Children, the sick and elderly are suffering; many young people are dying. Let's not forget Ukraine. Let's think of the people of Palestine and Israel, that the Lord might bring them a just peace.



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 19th November 2023 - The Thirty Third 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

The Gospel for Sunday 19th November 2023 (Matthew 25:14-15.19-21): A Story about Talents

Jesus spoke this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a man on his way abroad who summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to a third one; each in proportion to his ability. Then he set out. Now a long time after, the master of those servants came back and went through his accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents came forward bringing five more. "Sir," he said, "you entrusted me with five talents; here are five more that I have made." His master said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things; I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness."



3 Reflect

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

It is encouraging to think of all the talents which friends and neighbours have and which I don't have. It is all part of the gifts of the Spirit, which Paul sees as making up the whole Body of Christ. Everyone has a special contribution to make. As for me, it is extraordinary that God created me with all my twists, defects, fears and failures and it is precisely because of those boils, sores, abscesses that God loves me, helps me and guides me to work out my salvation. And it is just possible that there may be friends who can think that God has given me talents which make a tiny contribution to the happiness and goodness of the world. In the longer version of this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus mentions a man with just one talent who hides it in the ground: the master calls him "wicked and lazy" and has him thrown out. Why is he so severely treated? This is surely someone who resolutely turns his (or her) back on the goodness she (or he) has received and refuses to work with it for the Lord's purposes or for anyone else's. Such a talent goes to waste and merely rusts and corrupts. If I know anyone like that, it is just worth asking whether, with infinite and patient kindness, I can help that person to release their talent and bring it to blossom.

Just think for a moment: what is your best talent? Is it a gift, skill or humour which brings joy and happiness to those around you? Are you like the man who buried his talent in the ground, or do you use this skill or gift or wisdom to bring joy to others?

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 19th November 2023



First Reading: *A Woman about the House*

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

A perfect wife - who can find her? She is far beyond the price of pearls. Her husband's heart has confidence in her; from her he will derive no little profit. Advantage and not hurt she brings him all the days of her life. She is always busy with wool and with flax; she does her work with eager hands. She sets her hands to the distaff; her fingers grasp the spindle. She holds out her hand to the poor; she opens her arms to the needy. Charm is deceitful, and beauty empty; the woman who is wise is the one to praise. Give her a share in what her hands have worked for, and let her works tell her praises at the city gates.

The gospel parable is about a man who is an astute administrator, and this first reading delicately pairs it with a woman who is a shrewd businesswoman, running her household and her cottage industry capably, wisely and generously in reverence for the Lord. The Bible is often felt to be unduly male-oriented (an accusation often made also against the Church), but this was the normal state of society in biblical times. Nevertheless, a succession of remarkable women appear in the pages of the Old Testament; they are real partners to their husbands, and they often provide the motive force in the pursuit of the fulfilment of God's promises. In the New Testament too, besides Mary and Jesus' female followers in the gospels, we see Jesus valuing women. Particularly the playful scenes between Jesus and the Samaritan woman and the Canaanite (or Syro-Phoenician) woman spring to mind. In Paul's letters and apostolate women play important roles, even leadership roles, working with Paul to establish his communities – women like Chloe, Phoebe, Junia. Indeed, the first convert to Christianity in Europe was a woman, Lydia.

What gifts do I have that (like the gifts of the woman in Proverbs) give praise to the Lord?

Second Reading: *A Thief in the Night*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

You will not be expecting us to write anything to you, brothers, about 'times and seasons', since you know very well that the Day of the Lord is going to come like a thief in the night. It is when people are saying, 'How quiet and peaceful it is,' that the worst suddenly happens, as suddenly as labour pains come on a pregnant woman; and there will be no way for anybody to evade it. But it is not as if you live in the dark, my brothers, for that Day to overtake you like a thief. No, you are all sons of light and sons of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as everyone else does, but stay wide awake and sober.

Paul had obviously taught the new Christians at Thessalonika that Christ had conquered death, so that death had no more grasp on Christians. So they were puzzled that Christians nevertheless died. Paul explains in his letter to them that Christians who have died will be the first to rise up and join the returning Christ in his triumphant procession. Only after them will come those who are still alive. However, Paul's principal stress is on the unpredictability of the Day of the Lord, that final day when the Lord will set right all injustice. It makes little difference whether I imagine meeting the Lord on the great Day of the Final Judgement, or meeting with the Lord personally at my own death. I know that it is very unlikely that I will be ready ("If only I had just a little more time to prepare!" is my constant excuse) and that I will not be in a fit state to face the glorious, pure wonder of divine love. The Day will come as unexpectedly as a thief in the night or the pains of childbirth, with that same finality and inescapability.

How may I best prepare for the coming of the Day of the Lord?

“That final day when the Lord will set right all injustice.”

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...

Frankie, Layla, Riley, Jacob, Skyla, Hermione, Thankgod & Archie



Golden Awards:

- Dragonflies:** Cali, for working really hard with her writing
- Grasshoppers:** Melina, for being helpful and thoughtful towards others
- Hedgehogs:** Arnas, for an amazing effort in maths
- Squirrels:** Aidan, for always trying hard
- Badgers:** Rufus, having such a fantastic attitude to learning
- Foxes:** Sebastian, for fantastic discussions in class especially R.E.
- Hares:** Lucas, for his excellent maths work about area
- Rabbits:** Filip, for his incredible poster on Hope for our class act of worship
Rose, for always trying her hardest especially in maths
- Kingfishers:** Sean, for working hard in all lessons this week
- Robins:** Leah, for excellent contributions to our class discussions
- Eagles:** Phoebe, for always having an excellent and mature attitude to her learning in every subject
- Owls:** Olivia, for always working hard in class

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

All clubs are 3:15 to 4:15

<u>Monday 13th November</u>	<u>Tuesday 14th November</u>	<u>Wednesday 15th November</u>	<u>Thursday 16th November</u>	<u>Friday 17th November</u>
Anti Bullying Week	Year 1 Reading Zone	Year 1 Reading Zone	Year 1 Reading Zone	KS2 assembly 9:00
Multi Faith Week	Badgers town centre trip	Individual school photographs	Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy lunchtime	KS1 assembly 2:30
Foxes town centre trip	Years 3 to 6 Geography club, lunchtime	KS1 Karate	KS2 Karate	Years 3 to 6 Dodgeball
Owls swimming	Years 3 to 6 Basketball club		Year 1 Storytelling club, lunchtime	
Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy Lunchtime	Years 1 and 2 Dance club		Year 2 Storytelling club, lunchtime	
Year 1 Football	Years 3 to 6 Spanish club		Years 3 and 4 Football	
Year 2 Football			Years 5 and 6 Football	
Years 5 & 6 Computing club				
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				

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St David's

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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