



24th November 2023



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

We have been reflecting on the readings from Mass last Sunday when we heard the parable of the 5 Talents. A man had some coins called Talents and he gave them out to his servants according to their abilities. Two of the servants used them wisely and one servant did not make the most of his coin. This parable encourages us to remember that in our lives today, we must make the most of our actual talents and try to do everything to the best of our abilities. In assembly this week we talked about how we must use our talents, that God has given us, to help others and to make our world a better place.

In our Catholic Social Teaching Assembly this week, we talked about the principles that we are focusing on this half term, Option for the Poor and Human Dignity. We thought in particular about people who are Homeless and how we can help them through our actions, raising awareness and our prayers. We have put up a tent in our central prayer space and the children have been considering what it must be like to have to live in a tent without many of life's basic things such as running water, warmth and electricity. They have been writing prayers asking God our Father to bless everyone and keep them safe.

I hope that you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Year 5 and Year 6 Class Mass

Many thanks to the parents and families who came along to our Year 5 and 6 Mass today. It was wonderful to celebrate God's love for our school community, together.

School Uniform

I sincerely appreciate the effort that families are making to ensure that their child is in the correct school uniform. The children have all looked smarter this week. As we enter the colder winter months please remember that your child will need a Holy Cross coat.

Premier League Trophy

We are very excited that the Premier League trophy will be visiting our school on Wednesday. We will start the day with a whole school assembly and the trophy and then every class will have an opportunity to have a photo with it. Our thanks to Mr Clarke who entered us into a competition and it is fantastic that we have won this brilliant opportunity!

After School Club pick up

Please remember that the After School Club closes at 5.30pm. We are noticing that there are an increasing number of children not being collected on time. This then has an impact on staff who are running the club. It is very important that children are collected by 5.30pm and that parents make sure that they are leaving enough time to arrive at school promptly to collect their child. We may need to charge an additional late fee if children are not collected by 5:30pm, on more than one occasion.



Year 4 Cooking

Year 4 Hares have been busy this week. In preparation for our Ancient Egyptian day, they worked in small groups to make Egyptian bread with raisins and it looked and tasted delicious!

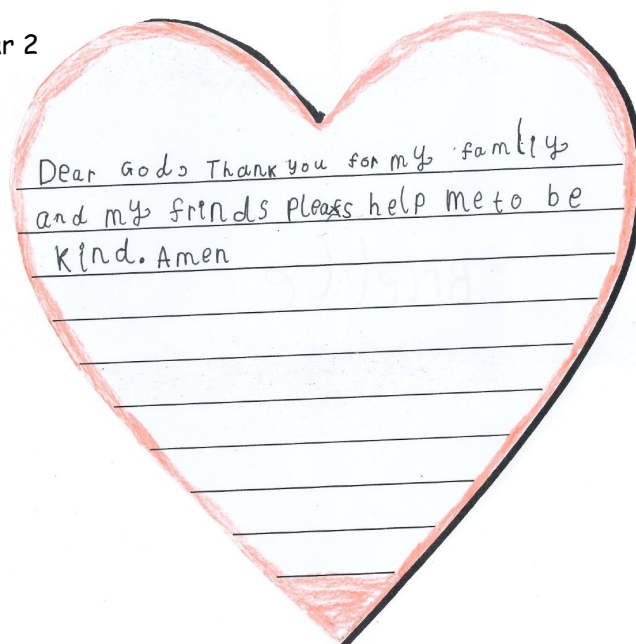


Year 3 PE

In conjunction with their dance, fitness and mental health topics this term, Year 3, had a combined PE lesson, where they danced to a range of Just Dance challenges. All of the children had a fun time, showing great enthusiasm and participation.



A prayer from Brielle in Year 2



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



What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

TIKTOK

AGE RESTRICTION
13+

(certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

While TikTok's "Following" feed only displays videos from users someone follows, "For You" is a stream of clips based on their previously watched content. Most videos on a child's "For You" feed will therefore be light-hearted and amusing, but it could potentially surface something unsuitable. TikTok's guidelines prohibit the sharing of illegal or inappropriate content, but the sheer volume of uploads mean they aren't manually monitored and vetted.

18
CENSORED

DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Due to TikTok's immense popularity, some young people have unfortunately been influenced by videos challenging them to perform harmful, criminal or even deadly acts. One extreme example was the "blackout" trend, which encouraged users to hold their breath until they passed out from a lack of oxygen. It led to two families filing lawsuits against TikTok over the tragic deaths of their children.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

With around 1.1 billion users globally, the potential for contact from strangers on TikTok is high – especially as accounts created by over-18s (or youngsters using a false date of birth) are set to public by default. This not only means that someone's profile is visible to everyone else on the app; it also lets their videos be suggested to others and enables anyone to comment on them or download them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but users have the option to buy TikTok coins, which can be used to purchase emojis in the app. These emojis are then sent as rewards (retaining their monetary value) to other users for videos they've created. Coin bundles range from £9.99 to an eye-watering £99; TikTok's policy is that they can't be bought by under-18s, but it's possible to bypass this with a fake birthdate.

ADDICTIVE NATURE

TikTok can be addictive, especially for young people: compulsive repeated use can interfere with sleep patterns and be a distraction from other activities. The platform recently introduced default usage time limits of 60 and 100 minutes for new members under 18 (in the UK, children with TikTok average 102 minutes per day on the app), but these restrictions can easily be removed in the settings.

TIKTOK NOW

Introduced in late 2022, the "TikTok Now" feature lets users post a daily video or photo at the exact same time as their friends. Users receive a synchronised notification at a random time of day, giving them three minutes to take a video or real-time photo. This addition can not only be a distraction to young people but could lead to them inadvertently sharing private content such as their location.

Advice for Parents & Carers

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account with their child's and control their settings remotely. Parents can then, for example, turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content); set screen time limits; and manage their child's ability to send messages (and to whom). Children can't alter these settings without parental approval.

MAKE ACCOUNTS PRIVATE

Although under-18s will have their TikTok account set to private by default, bypassing this setting is relatively easy. However, parents have the ability to manually set their child's account to private – meaning that their videos won't be visible to strangers and they won't be able to exchange messages with people who aren't on their friends list.

LIMIT IN-APP SPENDING

If your child is using an iPhone or Android device to access TikTok, you can alter the settings to prevent them from making in-app purchases. We'd recommend that you enable this feature, as it's quite easy for a young person – without realising what they're doing – to spend a significant amount of real money buying TikTok coins so they can unlock more features of the app.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If your child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's crucial to talk about the potential risks in this type of app. For example, ensure they understand not to share any identifying personal information – and that they realise they could be exposed to inappropriate content. Thinking critically about what they see on TikTok can help children become generally more social media savvy.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child might be spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something inappropriate or upsetting that they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the possible signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as are failing to complete homework or regularly not eating meals.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



National
Online
Safety

#WakeUpWednesday

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers, achieving 95% attendance. Well done! The joint winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Badgers, Foxes and Rabbits, attaining 98% 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	88%
Ladybirds	94%
Dragonflies	93%
Grasshoppers	95%
Hedgehogs	92%
Squirrels	92%
Badgers	98%
Foxes	98%
Hares	97%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	94%
Eagles	95%
Owls	97%





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

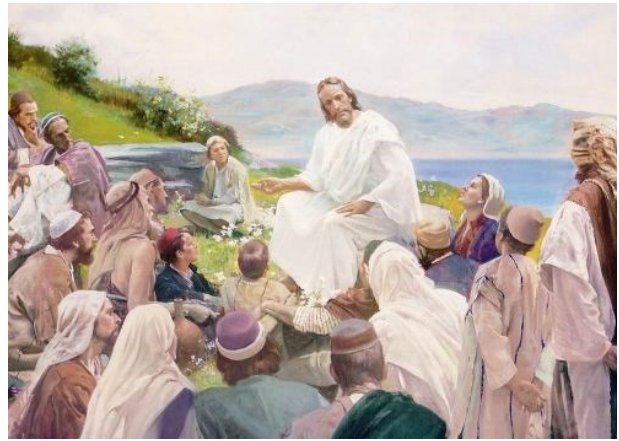
Gospel Value Awards

Love

- - generosity, magnanimity

"Love your enemies." (6:27),

"This is my body given for you." (21:19)



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

Dragonflies: Braven

Grasshoppers: Tilly

Hedgehogs: Lottie

Squirrels: Viktoria

Badgers: Freddie

Foxes: Tilly

Hares: Aimee

Rabbits: Hendrix

Kingfishers: Emilie

Robins: Khalisa

Eagles: Ethan

Owls: Daisy



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs: Zara

Badgers: Hayley

Hares: Margaret

Kingfishers: David

Eagles: Iris

Foxes: Bali

Rabbits: Diana & Liana

Robins: Albert

Owls: Demi



The Words of Pope Francis

As young people, you are the joyful hope of the church and of a humanity always on the move. I would like to take you by the hand and walk with you on the path of hope.



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 26th November 2023 - Christ the King

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 26th November 2023 (Matthew 25:31-46): The Last Judgement

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, escorted by all the angels, then he will take his seat on his throne of glory. All the nations will be assembled before him and he will separate men one from another as the shepherd separates sheep from goats. He will place the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. Then the King will say to those on his right hand, "Come, you whom my Father has blessed, take for your heritage the kingdom prepared for you since the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you made me welcome; naked and you clothed me; sick and you visited me; in prison and you came to see me." Then the virtuous will say to him in reply, "Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? When did we see you a stranger and make you welcome; naked and clothe you; sick or in prison and go to see you?" And the King will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you did this to one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it to me." Next he will say to those on his left hand, "Go away from me, with your curse upon you, to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you never gave me food; I was thirsty and you never gave me anything to drink; I was a stranger and you never made me welcome, naked and you never clothed me, sick and in prison and you never visited me." Then it will be their turn to ask, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty, a stranger or naked, sick or in prison, and did not come to your help?" Then he will answer, "I tell you solemnly, in so far as you neglected to do this to one of the least of these, you neglected to do it to me." And they will go away to eternal punishment, and the virtuous to eternal life.'

3 Reflect



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

This is the last of Matthew's great parables. The world is finally divided into 'goodies' and 'baddies'. The great dramatic scene here depicted is that of the Final Judgement of all, but we shall each of us at the moment of death face the judgement of our divine Lord in his glory. This confrontation will be an experience far more awesome and shattering than any description can express, and yet fulfilling and re-assuring. We will know at last in a naked way our own sin and also our own infinite value before the transcendent figure of the Lord. Two striking points are stressed in the parable. Firstly, we will be judged uniquely on our treatment of those in any kind of need. Not first of all on our prayer-life; not on our asceticism; not on penances undertaken; but on our respect for others - how far we look to see what they need and what we can give. The ten commandments of the Old Testament, the eight beatitudes of the New can be summarised in this way: speak the truth, be honest (including financially), honour father and mother (or children), hunger for justice, make peace. The second striking point is the reason for the first: that Christ is in each person. What we do to others, we do to Christ.

What does it mean that Jesus is in all other people, especially the stranger, the sick, the comfortless, even those in prison? How does this teaching of Jesus change my attitude to people I despise or avoid or just ignore?

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.**



WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 26th November 2023



First Reading: *The Loving Shepherd*

Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17

The Lord says this: I am going to look after my flock myself and keep all of it in view. As a shepherd keeps all his flock in view when he stands up in the middle of his scattered sheep, so shall I keep my sheep in view. I shall rescue them from wherever they have been scattered during the mist and darkness. I myself will pasture my sheep, I myself will show them where to rest - it is the Lord who speaks. I shall look for the lost one, bring back the stray, bandage the wounded and make the weak strong. I shall watch over the fat and healthy. I shall be a true shepherd to them. As for you, my sheep, the Lord says this: I will judge between sheep and sheep, between rams and he-goats.

Is this really an appropriate reading for the Feast of Christ the King? All about sheep? Shouldn't it be about crowns, medals, processions and majesty? No, it should not! Christ's kingship is modelled on God's kingship or, rather, Jesus came to show us what God's kingship is. 'The kingship of God has come upon you', was his first proclamation. In the British countryside we can usually leave the sheep to graze on their own. In the hilly country of Palestine there is always a shepherd to look after them, to stop them wandering over a cliff or stave off attack from wild animals. Sheep are silly creatures; they can be guaranteed to wander, wide-eyed and gormless, in front of a passing car and then run the wrong way. We are silly creatures too, and do just the same. We need God's care to keep us on the right path. Jesus as the Good Shepherd cherishes us, guards us, heals us, calms our fears, and even gives his life for us. That is what his kingship is.

What does it mean to you to proclaim the kingship of Christ? How may we model our lives on that kingship?

Second Reading: *King Jesus Presents the Kingdom*

1 Corinthians 15:20-26.28

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of all who have fallen asleep. Death came through one man and in the same way the resurrection of the dead has come through one man. Just as all men die in Adam, so all men will be brought to life in Christ; but all of them in their proper order: Christ as the first-fruits and then, after the coming of Christ, those who belong to him. After that will come the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, having done away with every sovereignty, authority and power. For he must be king until he has put all his enemies under his feet, and the last of the enemies to be destroyed is death. And when everything is subjected to him, then the Son himself will be subject in his turn to the One who subjected all things to him, so that God may be all in all.

What will happen at the end of the world? How will the world be brought to an end? We simply do not know, and it is not the sort of thing the Bible needs to teach us. For us Christians three things are certain - and this is what Paul teaches us here in vivid picture-language. Firstly, God's sovereignty will extend over the whole of creation in peace and harmony. Secondly, this will be through Christ's work of mediation, for Christ is Lord of the Church, which is his Body. When Paul says 'he has put all his enemies under his feet', he is quoting a messianic Psalm about the priest-king of Jerusalem, frequently applied to Jesus, the new priest-king of creation. Thirdly, Christ is the first-fruits of the resurrection: where he has led the way, we are to follow.

How would you explain the resurrection of the dead? What words and images would you use?

“Where he has led the way,
we are to follow.”

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...

Tilly, Mia & Oba



Headteacher Award:

Aoife, Kayla, River, Bali, Ciaran, Olivia, Lucas, Dylan, Ollie, Maya, Eddie, Edward, Elissa, Nikoleta, Cooper & Olivia, for their beautiful reading and offertory procession at family Mass.

Golden Awards:

- Dragonflies: Grace, for working so hard in her writing
- Grasshoppers: Luca, for always being helpful and thinking of others
- Hedgehogs: Amanda, for helping others with their reading and learning
- Squirrels: Kayla, for working hard on her acrostic poem
- Badgers: Luka, for great enthusiasm during our visit to Harlow town.
- Foxes: Charlotte, for fantastic effort in every lesson
- Hares: Oliver, for his wonderful work bout direct speech
- Rabbits: Dominik, for always trying his hardest with his spellings and homework
- Kingfishers: Aria, for all her hard work in maths, especially times tables!
- Robins: Nayt, for always putting 100% effort in all his work and taking pride in his presentation
- Eagles: Rhianne, for always having a positive and enthusiastic attitude to learning
- Owls: Josie, for a working hard in all lessons

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

All clubs are 15:15 to 16:15

Monday 27th November

Owls swimming

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy
Lunchtime

Space club

Year 1 Football

Year 2 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

Years 1 & 2 Gymnastics

Tuesday 28th November

Years 3 to 6 Geography
club, lunchtime

Years 3 to 6 Basketball
club

Years 1 and 2 Dance club

Years 3 to 6 Spanish club

Wednesday 29th November

KS1 Karate

Thursday 30th November

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy
lunchtime

KS2 Karate

Year 1 Storytelling club,
lunchtime

Year 2 Storytelling club,
lunchtime

Years 3 and 4 Football

Years 5 and 6 Football

Friday 1st December

KS2 assembly 9:00

KS1 assembly 2:30

Years 3 to 6 Dodgeball

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St George'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