



12th January 2024



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

### Weekly Reflection

We have been reflecting on the readings from last Sunday's Gospel where we heard the story of the journey of the 3 Kings to Bethlehem to pay homage to Jesus. The arrival of the Kings completes the Nativity scene at the stable and we are comforted by the beauty and serenity of the Holy Family as these great Kings show reverence to Jesus with their special gifts. We are reminded that we all have gifts and that we should share these with everyone around us so that we can bring the light of Jesus into the lives of others.

The Kings travelled on a very long journey but they were guided all the way by the great Star of Bethlehem. We have been reflecting on our lives as a journey and how it can sometimes be a smooth path or a bumpy road. We look to the story of the Kings and we see the Star of Bethlehem; the star can stay with us as a guiding light throughout this year. We must keep the bright shining light in our minds and ask God to help us as we go through the year ahead.



I hope that you all have a great weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*

Headteacher

### After School Club

This is running with great success and we are pleased that the children are positive about the changes that we have made. Please remember that for your child to attend the club that they must be booked in, by 1pm on the same day. Please remember that After School Club finishes at 5.30pm.

### Late Collection

Please read the important letter that Mrs Kerrell has sent out regarding our policy, if children are collected late from school or After School Club.

### Cold Weather

The weather is very cold so please make sure that your child is well wrapped up with the school coat, hats, gloves and a scarf (all named).

### Applications for Reception

The closing date for Reception September 2024 admissions is **15th January**. Please ensure that if you have a child due to start school, in September, that you have applied to Essex County Council. For more information follow the link below:

<https://www.essex.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/primary-school-places>

A Supplementary Information Form will also need to be completed. These are available from the school office.

### Futsal Tournament

Last Friday, eight children from year 4 took part in a futsal tournament at Church Langley school. The games were played in teams of four and futsal encourages lots of touches of the ball and goalkeepers to join with the play.

Team 1: Archie (fantastic saves), Dominik (top defender), Parker and Diala (goal machines!).

Team 2: Kojo (sweeper keeper), Lucas (midfield dynamo), Sid (super goal scorer) and Barry (brilliant dribbler).

Team 1 won their group and were unbeaten and made it to the final, where they lost to the winners Newhall.

Team 2 finished third in their group and then lost narrowly to Church Langley in their final match.

Mr Clarke and Mr Kelly were so impressed with the skills, determination and teamwork on display.

The year 4 children competed against year 5 and 6, which made their achievements even more impressive!



## ATTENDANCE MATTERS




Congratulations to the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies and Hedgehogs 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	98%
	Ladybirds	97%
	Dragonflies	95%
	Grasshoppers	96%
	Hedgehogs	98%
	Squirrels	95%
	Badgers	95%
	Foxes	98%
	Hares	96%
	Rabbits	96%
	Kingfishers	99%
	Robins	95%
	Eagles	98%
	Owls	98%



The background is a light green field filled with various mathematical illustrations. At the top, there are blue diagonal lines and orange dots. On the left, a cylinder is drawn with radius 'r' and height 'h', with the formula  $V = \pi r^2 h$  below it. On the right, a 3D cube is shown with side length 'L', and the formula  $V = Lwh$  is written below it. At the bottom, there are colorful geometric shapes like cubes and hexagons, plus signs, and the quadratic formula  $x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$ .
$$M = \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

Come to our  
Maths workshops and  
enjoy some fun maths  
with your child

**Tuesday 30th January**

Reception and KS1 9am to 10am

KS2 9.30am to 10.30am

After school parent meeting

Reception and KS1 - 3.30pm to 4pm

KS2 - 4.15pm to 4.45pm

NSPCC

# Number Day 2024

IT'S MATHS, BUT NOT AS YOU KNOW IT.



Friday 2 February 2024

#numberday



MATHS CIRCLE



Charitable  
Trust



OXFORD  
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Number Day is supported by Maths Circle, Man Group and Oxford University Press, led by NSPCC.

**EVERY CHILDHOOD IS WORTH FIGHTING FOR**

©NSPCC 2023 National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Registered charity England and Wales 216401, Scotland SC037717 and Jersey 384. Photography by UGC. Children pictured are volunteers. J20230084.



# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

# YOUTUBE

YouTube is a video-sharing social media platform that allows billions of people around the world to watch, share and upload their own videos with a vast range of content – including sport, entertainment, education and lots more. It's a superb space for people to consume content that they're interested in. As a result, this astronomically popular platform has had a huge social impact: influencing online culture on a global scale and creating new celebrities.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

YouTube is free and can be accessed via numerous devices, even without creating a YouTube account. Some content is flagged as 'age-restricted' (requiring the user to be logged into an account with a verified age of 18), but children can still view some mildly inappropriate material. This can include profanity and violence, which some young users may find upsetting.

## CONNECT WITH STRANGERS

YouTube is a social media platform which allows people to interact with other (usually unknown) users. Account holders can leave comments on any video they have access to, as well as messaging other users directly. Connecting with strangers online, of course, can potentially lead to children being exposed to adult language, to cyberbullying and even to encountering online predators.

## SUGGESTED CONTENT

YouTube recommends videos related to what the user has previously watched on their account, aiming to provide content that will interest them. This is intended to be helpful but can also lead to binge-watching and the risk of screen addiction, especially if 'auto-play' is activated. Users without an account are shown popular videos from the last 24 hours, which might not always be suitable for children.

## HIGH VISIBILITY

Content creators can also be put at risk – especially young ones who try to make their online presence as visible as possible. Creating and uploading content exposes children to potential harassment and toxicity from the comments section, along with the possibility of direct messaging from strangers. Videos posted publicly can be watched by anyone in the world.

## TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

YouTube is teeming with trends, challenges and memes that are fun to watch and join in with. Children often find these immensely entertaining and might want to try them out. Most challenges tend to be safe, but many others may harm children through either watching or copying. The painful 'salt and ice challenge', which can cause injuries very quickly, is just one of many such examples.

## SNEAKY SCAMMERS

Popular YouTube channels regularly have scammers posing as a well-known influencer in the comments section, attempting to lure users into clicking on their phishing links. Scammers impersonate YouTubers by adopting their names and profile images, and sometimes offer cash gifts or 'get rich quick' schemes. Children may not realise that these users are not who they claim to be.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### APPLY RESTRICTED MODE

Restricted Mode is an optional setting that prevents YouTube from showing inappropriate content (such as drug and alcohol abuse, graphic violence and sexual situations) to underage viewers. To prevent your child from chancing across age-inappropriate content on the platform, we would recommend enabling Restricted Mode on each device that your child uses to access YouTube.

18

CENSORED

### TRY GOOGLE FAMILY

Creating a Google Family account allows you to monitor what your child is watching, uploading and sharing with other users. It will also display their recently watched videos, searches and recommended videos. In general, a Google Family account gives you an oversight of how your child is using sites like YouTube and helps you ensure they are only accessing appropriate content.

### CHECK PRIVACY SETTINGS

YouTube gives users the option of uploading videos as 'private' or 'unlisted' – so they could be shared exclusively with family and friends, for example. Comments on videos can also be disabled and channels that your child is subscribed to can be hidden. If your child is only uploading videos that are protected as 'private', they are far less likely to receive direct messages from strangers.

### CHECK OTHER PLATFORMS

Influential content creators usually have other social media accounts which they encourage their fans to follow. Having an open discussion about this with your child makes it easier to find out how else they might be following a particular creator online. It also opens up avenues for you to check out that creator's other channels to see what type of content your child is being exposed to.

### MONITOR ENGAGEMENT

YouTube is the online viewing platform of choice for billions of people, many of them children. Younger children will watch different content to older ones, of course, and react to content differently. You may want to keep an eye on how your child interacts with content on YouTube – and, if applicable, with content creators – to understand the types of videos they are interested in.

### LIMIT SPENDING

Although YouTube is free, it does offer some in-app purchases: users can rent and buy TV shows and movies to watch, for example. If you're not comfortable with your child purchasing content online, limit their access to your bank cards and online payment methods. Many parents have discovered to their cost that a child happily devouring a paid-for series quickly leads to an unexpected bill!

## Meet Our Expert

Clare Godwin (a.k.a. Lunawolf) has worked as an editor and journalist in the gaming industry since 2015, providing websites with event coverage, reviews and gaming guides. She is the owner of Lunawolf Gaming and is currently working on various gaming-related projects including game development and writing non-fiction books.



**National Online Safety®**

#WakeUpWednesday





Based on the gospel for Sunday 14 January, Second Sunday in Ordinary Time: John 1:35-42

**"Jesus turned round, saw them following him, and said: What do you want?"**

If Jesus asked us today "What do you want?" I wonder how we might reply. We might say "I want something to strengthen my hope for peace now and in the future, for all children."

There are so many sad and dangerous events happening around our world. CAFOD reports on them regularly, and tells us how help and hope is being given. Encouraging as these reports are, many of us might be thinking, like John Laurie in "Dad's Army" we're all doomed!

Colin Parkes wrote: "Goodness is not gone from the world because one good person has died. Meaning has not gone from life, because one who meant so much is no longer present. The loss of one trusted person need not undermine trust in all of those who remain."

Even so, holding on to hope is not an easy thing to do, but if we believe in the message of Jesus, we have to do it.

God of all people,  
may our belief and trust  
in the message of Jesus  
help to strengthen our hope  
when we reflect on the troubles  
in our world.  
Amen.



### **The Words of Pope Francis**

One word in particular resounds in two principle Christian feasts. That word is "peace". Peace is primarily a gift of God, but it is also a responsibility incumbent upon all of us.

## Encountering Christ

*Prayerfully preparing for Sunday Mass with special prayers for our school families*

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.



### Read

The Gospel for Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024  
**THE FIRST DISCIPLES**

As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God." Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, "What do you want?" They answered, "Rabbi," - which means Teacher - "where do you live?" "Come and see," he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" - which means the Christ - and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas" - meaning Rock.

*Taken from John 1:35-42 The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B*



### Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering the Gospel, continue by reading this reflection

This year the ordinary Sunday gospel readings are taken from Mark, and this provides us with a full picture of that gospel. But Mark is the shortest of the gospels, and is not quite long enough, so just occasionally a reading from John slips in to enrich our understanding of the meaning of Jesus' words and actions. Today's story is about the call of the first disciples and takes place in the Jordan valley, where John was baptising. The first two to be called are disciples of John, so they had already joined his group who were waiting for the Messiah. They were ready when John pointed him out. It is striking that Jesus first calls them to be with him, and that they remain with him for a time. In our call to follow Christ, first comes prayer and getting to know him, before we can actively work for Christ and bring others to share his joy. Only after this repose with the Lord do the disciples sprint off in their enthusiasm and bring others to join in the benefits they have received from that tranquillity and refreshment which comes from keeping company with Jesus.

Do I spend enough time simply being with Jesus? What is God calling you to do?

*Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB*

## THE Wednesday WORD PARISH VERSION



### 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. Thank God for any insight you may have received.

Then ask God to bless you with a spiritual gift to help you act on any resolution you have made. Perhaps: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy or something else.



### Remember

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for the Church and particularly for families connected to your parish school.

You may want to conclude this special weekly time with a simple prayer such as: St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church, pray for us. Mary, Star of Evangelisation, pray for us. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024



## 1

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3-10. 19

### The Call of Samuel

Samuel was lying in the sanctuary of the Lord where the ark of God was, when the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" He answered, "Here I am." Then he ran to Eli and said, "Here I am, since you called me." Eli said, "I did not call. Go back and lie down." So he went and lay down. Once again the Lord called, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, since you called me." He replied, "I did not call you, my son; go back and lie down." Samuel had as yet no knowledge of the Lord and the word of the Lord had not yet been revealed to him. Once again the Lord called, the third time. He got up and went to Eli and said, "Here I am, since you called me." Eli then understood that it was the Lord who was calling the boy, and he said to Samuel, "Go and lie down, and if someone calls say, 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.'" So Samuel went and lay down in his place. The Lord then came and stood by, calling as he had done before, "Samuel! Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening." Samuel grew up and the Lord was with him and let no word of his fall to the ground.

In the readings of Sundays 'in Ordinary Time' the first reading normally links with the gospel reading, and this is a superb example of such a link: the call of Samuel and his response prepare for the call of the first disciples of Jesus. The call of the young boy Samuel into the Lord's service is always a favourite story. It is easy to imagine the boy lying, dozing on his mat in the half-darkness, hearing the voice murmur 'Shmuel' (the Hebrew form of his name). Was it really a call, was it the old prophet calling, or was it just the wind in the pillars of the Temple? Samuel has all the directness, willingness and simplicity of a child, the sort of qualities needed for the Kingdom of God. Similarly, we too may find it hard to know whether an 'inspiration' is really the call of God or our own imagination. Prayer and advice help in discerning the genuine call from a madcap scheme! Others may know us better than we know ourselves, and God's call is always fitted to our true nature.

How can you discern the genuine call of God?

## 2

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13-15. 17-20

### The Body Belongs to Christ

The body is not meant for fornication; it is for the Lord, and the Lord for the body. God who raised the Lord from the dead, will by his power raise us up too. You know, surely, that your bodies are members making up the body of Christ; anyone who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him. Keep away from fornication. All the other sins are committed outside the body; but to fornicate is to sin against your own body. Your body, you know, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you since you received him from God. You are not your own property; you have been bought and paid for. That is why you should use your body for the glory of God.

This is the first of six consecutive Sunday readings from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians. The Christian community at Corinth was a troublesome lot, and seems to have lacked any resident human guide. They relied on the Holy Spirit, backed up by several letters from Paul. Here we have Paul's most forceful argument for sexual self-control: as Christ lives in us by his Spirit, all our bodily members are Christ's, and Christ is involved in every movement of them. This should give us a wonderful reverence for our bodies, knowing that we involve Christ in all our body's activities. The most powerful expression of this comes in verse 16 (omitted in the public reading, perhaps as being too pointed): "anyone who attaches himself to a prostitute is one body with her, since the two become one flesh". This drives the lesson home: Christ, too, becomes involved with the prostitute. Christ is involved in a wonderful way in the sexual act of procreation, giving a couple the inestimable privilege and joy of sharing in God's work of creation. But Christ is also abused by a Christian's abuse of sex.

In what ways can we show right reverence for our body, the Temple of the Holy Spirit?

**This should give us a wonderful reverence for our bodies.**

**The Wednesday Word** Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**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**





Dear Parents and Carers,

January is traditionally the month of beginnings – a time for making a **NEW START**.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about the two disciples of John the Baptist making a new start. They may not have known what John meant when he said 'Look, there is the Lamb of God,' but they knew what he wanted them to do: they had to start afresh and get close to Jesus.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Once John's disciples got to know Jesus, they couldn't wait to tell their friends and share their joy with them. We too are filled with this same joy when we get close to Jesus and share the good news.

Regardless of our past, God is always ready to help us to begin again. God invites each one of us to 'Come and See' – to make a **NEW START** with Him, each and every day.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from  
Pope Francis

*"Let us allow God's constant help to make us new people."*

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2024



As John stood with two of his disciples, Jesus passed, and John stared hard at him and said, "Look, there is the lamb of God." Hearing this, the two disciples followed Jesus. Jesus turned round, saw them following and said, "What do you want?" They answered, "Rabbi," – which means Teacher – "where do you live?" "Come and see," he replied; so they went and saw where he lived, and stayed with him the rest of that day. It was about the tenth hour. One of these two (who became followers of Jesus after hearing what John had said) was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. Early next morning, Andrew met his brother and said to him, "We have found the Messiah," – which means the Christ – and he took Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked hard at him and said, "You are Simon son of John; you are to be called Cephas," – meaning Rock.

Adapted from John 1:35-42  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

Everyone can learn more about this Gospel  
in church: all are very warmly invited.

**2024**  
The Year  
of Prayer

**The Wednesday Word - it's Good News for Families**

Pope Francis has declared 2024 as a special Year of Prayer. In this very special year, why not as a New Year's resolution, resolve to join in with *The Wednesday Word* Family Time each week (see overleaf)? Families who regularly pray together find they grow closer and experience the joy that Jesus brings: 'Come & See'.

Connecting Home, School & Parish through Sunday's Gospel [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org)





# Good News for Families



## Listening & Learning Together

Jesus said, "Where two or three gather in my name, I shall be there with them."



1

One day, John the Baptist was standing with two of his followers when Jesus walked by. John looked at Jesus and said, "Look, there is the Lamb of God, the one who has come to save us." On hearing this, the two men went after Jesus. Jesus turned and said, "What are you looking for?" They answered, "Where do you live?" Jesus said, "Come and see." So they went and stayed with him for the rest of the day. One of these two men was Andrew, and early next morning he took his brother, Simon, to meet Jesus. Jesus looked hard at Simon and said, "Simon, you will now be called Cephas" (a name which means Rock).

**What did Jesus reply when the men asked him where he lived?** Which word or words stood out for you in the Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about?

2

## Wednesday's Words are ...

## NEW START



3

## Loving & Growing

"After meeting Jesus, the two disciples immediately noticed something new in their hearts." Pope Francis

John's followers made a new start after discovering Jesus. This new year presents an opportunity for us to make a new start. Each of you say what is the best thing that you've ever started. What did you like about it? Ask your child if they have made any new starts in 2024. It may help your child if you mention any new starts or resolutions which you have made for 2024 and tell them how it's going for you. How does your new start help you or others?

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin." St Teresa of Calcutta

As we begin this new year, are there any new starts that we can make with our family, friends or with God? Perhaps we can: always try to help around the home before having to be asked; remember to start each morning with a prayer and thank God for each new day and for each other; make a new start with church; be peacemakers and try to make friends with someone we've fallen out with. You may like to choose something new to start together that will strengthen your family.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help me to be always ready to make a **new start** with you and with others as we start this new year. Amen.

**FINDING FIVE**

J W R G O D L C R S P C  
S S E E M W A J M I O A  
S J W R H G R E L M G E  
Z D E M D A L C E O R W  
N J M S E N R P R N M J  
E C E H U P A S S E D P  
D N O M I S N G P S E J  
M F E E S S D L L H W E  
C O M E L U R M A R L S  
P G D W C M E B M A L U  
C R M H A R W R B P G S  
G R P J D O G W M L O C

## WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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



JESUS PASSED



LAMB GOD



COME SEE

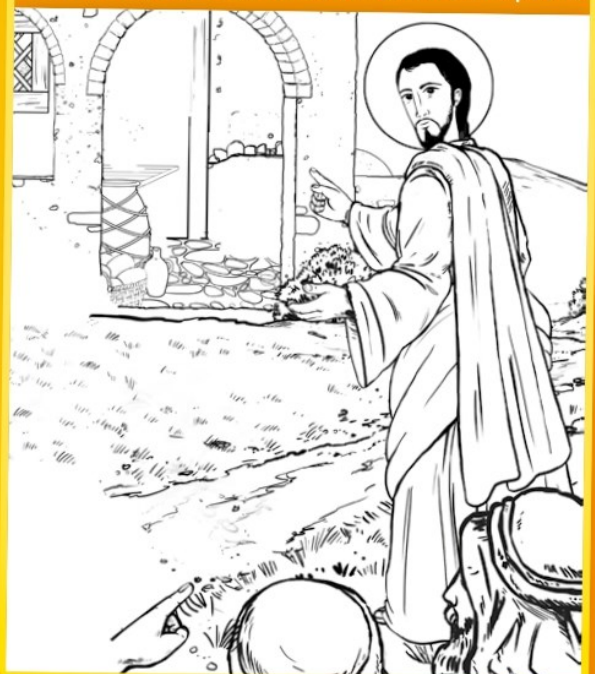


ANDREW SIMON



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

Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture



Cross out the letters **u i z** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**Luzamib Lizooku usazive zonieu**

John said, "\_\_\_\_\_, there is the \_\_\_\_\_ of God,  
the \_\_\_\_\_ who has come to \_\_\_\_\_ us."

We can be sure that our efforts will be rewarded when we take time to make a new start with Jesus. Spending time with Jesus (through prayer) helps us become the best we can be.



This week I will try my best to ...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

**Share the Good News**

Print and complete the leaflet with your child & **SHARE A DIGITAL COPY** with your friends

A Free Weekly Gift for Everyone





Happy Birthday this week to...

Hendrix, Stevie, Sebastian, Zora, Liam,  
Jayden, Millie, Gwenda & Filip



Essex County Council  
Libraries

Essex Library Service

**Winter  
Reading Challenge**

Saturday  
25 November  
to Saturday  
3 February

TRAVEL  
1251.90

Travel around the world with Lyra this  
winter and meet lots of new animal friends!  
Collect your booklet from any Essex library.

QR code

@essexlibraries

Penguin logo

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

All clubs are 15:15 to 16:15

Monday 15th January

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy  
lunchtime

Kingfishers swimming

KS1 Football

Tuesday 16th January

Year 6 reading zone 9:00

KS2 Bootcamp

Wednesday 17th January

Year 6 reading zone 9:00

KS1 Karate

KS2 Basketball

Thursday 18th January

Year 6 reading zone 9:00

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy  
lunchtime

KS2 Karate

KS2 Football

Friday 19th January

KS2 Assembly 9:00

KS1 Assembly 14:30

Dodgeball

House Points

Congratulations to the winning  
house this week, St Patrick's

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

*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](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)