

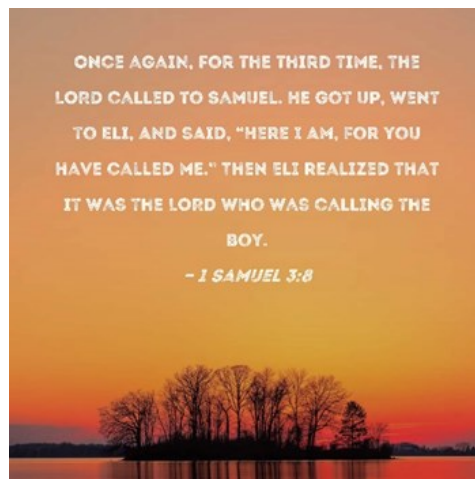


19th January 2024



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

We have been reflecting on the readings from last Sunday and God's call to Samuel. We thought in assembly about how we have to listen intently for God's quiet call of our name and that when God calls to us we have to respond that we are ready. This week, the children have considered how they can serve others by being the best that they can be in their friendships, in their family lives and in how they look after God's world.



Ms Dodd introduced our language of the half term at assembly on Thursday which is Polish. We loved having some of our children teaching us greetings and saying the Our Father in Polish and we will all be trying to speak Polish every day around school. We will focus on a different language each half term as we celebrate all of our cultures and nationalities at Holy Cross.

I hope that you all have a great weekend.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Prayer

Pope Francis has declared that 2024 is a Year of Prayer. Our Chaplains are thinking about how we can share and say prayers across our school and they have been visiting lots of the classes this week to support with the Classroom Acts of Worship. The children have also been buddying up and sharing their Prayer Journals and RE work with children in another class (please see the photos on the website).

We have a new Prayer and Liturgy Directory and there are prayers that the children should know by a certain age. We have uploaded this information to the website to support parents with prayer at home.

We also have a brand-new school prayer (thank you Ms Dodd) which we have shared with the children today and we will be saying this every day in class and in assemblies. It is always wonderful when the children share with us prayers that they have written at home.

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). If it is very cold at the start of the day the children will come straight in.

Late Collection

A letter went home last Friday explaining that we would be charging a late pick up fee if children are collected late after school or from After School Club. This will come into effect on Monday and will be £1 per minute. We urge you to book your child into After School Club if you believe that you will not be on time to collect them at the end of the day. It is not possible or reasonable for parents to expect staff to supervise their child if they are not collected on time, as teachers and office staff are on to other tasks at the end of the school day.

Parking

A letter was sent out yesterday regarding parking in the Passmores Academy car park. We have received a letter from the Executive Principle of Passmores expressing his concern over our parents parking without permission and then the behaviour of some parents when they were challenged. Some parents have been abusive and threatening and this does not put our school in a good light nor is it acceptable behaviour in front of children. Please do not park in the Passmores Academy car park as this is trespassing and we have parking available a short walk away in Nichols Field. Click on the link for the location of Nichols Field:

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=800&type=pdf>

Language of the half term

This half term is

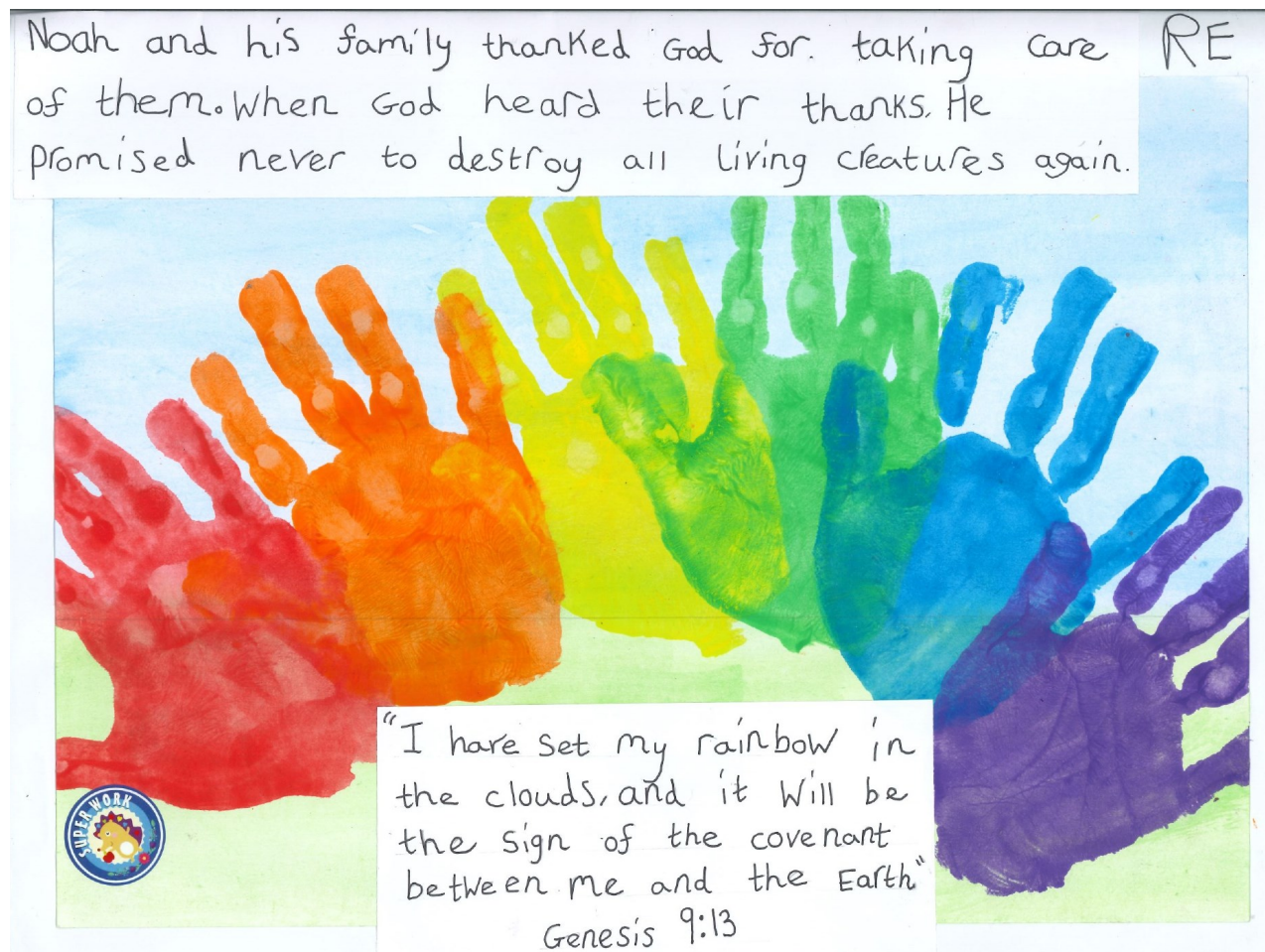
POLISH

**Why not help your child to
learn interesting facts about
Poland and their language.**

**Children that can give their
teacher interesting information will
receive house points in class**



Below is some beautiful R.E. work from Lottie in Year 2.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the joint winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Hedgehogs achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Rabbits, 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	96%
Ladybirds	96%
Dragonflies	95%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	99%
Squirrels	95%
Badgers	91%
Foxes	98%
Hares	97%
Rabbits	99%
Kingfishers	92%
Robins	96%
Eagles	96%
Owls	95%


LOOSE CHANGE CHALLENGE

The PTA is challenging each class from Reception to Year 6 to fill up bottles with change from

1st February to 1st May.

A fun challenge for the whole class to join together and help to raise funds for the school. There will be a prize for KS1 and KS2 classes who collect the most bottles with change.



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 right, there are colorful geometric shapes like hexagons and octagons. On the left, there's a diagram of a cylinder with radius 'r' and height 'h', and the formula $V = \pi r^2 h$ below it. On the right, there's a 3D rectangular prism with dimensions 'l', 'w', and 'h', and the formula $V = Lwh$ below it. At the bottom, there's a diagram of a sphere with radius 'r' and the formula $V = \frac{4}{3}\pi r^3$ below it. Various plus and minus signs are scattered throughout. The main text is centered in a white box.
$$M = \left(\frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

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

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

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.



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Zara	Squirrels:	
Badgers:	Jayden	Foxes:	James
Hares:	Sofia	Rabbits:	Filip
Kingfishers:	Leah	Robins:	Eliana
Eagles:		Owls:	Ronnie

Gospel Value Awards

Peace

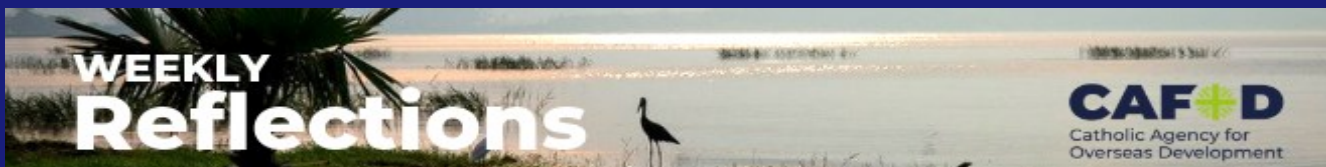
- tranquillity, quiet, reflective, grateful



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" John 14:27

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

Dragonflies:	Yohanna-Nicole	Grasshoppers:	Melina
Hedgehogs:	Raysa	Squirrels:	Layla
Badgers:	Aidan	Foxes:	Ivy
Hares:	Vienna-Baye	Rabbits:	Keaton
Kingfishers:	Ella	Robins:	Jeanette
Eagles:	Jake	Owls:	Olivia



Based on the gospel for Sunday 21 January, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 1:14-20

"Follow me and I will make you fishers of men."

In today's Gospel, Jesus invites us to come and follow him. He asks us to leave behind all of our material possessions and earthly desires to love and serve him.

Reading this passage, I thought about how many times my parents have called for me while I sat scrolling on my phone. I thought about how many times I've ignored their calls or asked to delay their requests. How often do I ignore or delay when it comes to answering God's call?

Jesus asks us to surrender everything we have to grow in friendship with him. This message uniquely resonates with today's materialistic culture. Too often we forget that this world is temporary and that we are called to eternal life in Heaven. We've grown attached to the distractions of this world and forgotten the blessings that await us.

Imitating the disciples, let us joyfully respond to God's call and grow in communion with him. As we follow him, we are asked to love our neighbour, to treat others as we would wish to be treated and to stand up for justice in our world. One way we can do this is by supporting CAFOD's work, helping those in most need around the world.

Lord God, help me to desire you. Help me to hear your voice and choose to follow you. I ask for the courage to live for you and not for this world. Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

The #WordofGod is a gift addressed to everyone. We can never restrict its field of action, for beyond all our calculations, it springs forth in a spontaneous, unforeseen, and unpredictable way, in the ways and times that the Holy Spirit knows.

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.

1 Read

The Gospel for Sunday 21st January 2024
THE CALL OF THE DISCIPLES

After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake - for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men." And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

Taken from Mark 1:14-20 The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

2 Reflect

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

What is going on? We had last Sunday the story of the first two disciples joining Jesus. One of them was Andrew, the other unnamed. Now we get another story, in another place, of other first disciples being called. So the Church underlines, two weeks running, the importance of Jesus' new community. The first thing he does is call disciples. He can't do everything on his own, and that is the point of the Church. He calls disciples to make a new people, a new Israel - old, young, middle-aged: we all have our part to fill in Jesus' play. Tired old people, busy parents, lively youngsters - each of us can make a unique contribution, especially since Jesus has chosen us himself. An odd choice, some of us! What did he want ME to do in the new family of Jesus? The two different versions of the calling of the disciples show that at least two different people told this story. When two people tell the same story, there are bound to be variations. The place didn't matter, or the order in which the disciples were called. The point of the story was the call, the response and the companionship, the working together with the Lord.

Do you enjoy more being on your own or linking up with others? What is Jesus calling you to do?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

THE Wednesday WORD

PARISH VERSION



3 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.

4 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 21st January 2024



1

1st Reading: *Jonah 3:1-5.10*

Nineveh Changes its Ways

The word of the Lord was addressed to Jonah: "Up!" he said. "Go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach to them as I told you to." Jonah set out and went to Nineveh in obedience to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was a city great beyond compare: it took three days to cross it. Jonah went on into the city, making a day's journey. He preached in these words, "Only forty days more and Nineveh is going to be destroyed." And the people of Nineveh believed in God; they proclaimed a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest to the least. God saw their efforts to renounce their evil behaviour. And God relented: he did not inflict on them the disaster which he had threatened.

The story of Jonah (whale and all) does not even pretend to be historical. For one thing, it takes about ten minutes to walk across the ruins of Nineveh - not three days! The story is a joke by Jews against Jews who think they alone can be saved: Jonah the Jew tries to run away from God, whereas the gentiles at Nineveh repent as soon as they hear God's message - even the animals wear sackcloth! This is like the story about St Peter showing Protestants round heaven: Peter points to a high wall: "Hush! The Catholics are behind there. They think they are the only people here!" This reading is chosen to pair with the call of the disciples because of the immediacy of their response: the Ninevites and the disciples take the message to heart without hesitation.

Have there been any times in your life when, like Jonah, you too have run away from God or judged others harshly?

2

2nd Reading: *1 Corinthians 7:29-31*

This Passing World

Brothers: our time is growing short. Those who have wives should live as though they had none, and those who mourn should live as though they had nothing to mourn for; those who are enjoying life should live as though there were nothing to laugh about; those whose life is buying things should live as though they had nothing of their own; and those who have to deal with the world should not become engrossed in it. I say this because the world as we know it is passing away.

The earliest Christians were very aware that the Resurrection of Christ ushered in the last period of the world. With the fulfilment of God's promises in Jesus' death and resurrection everything important had happened. They believed that the end was imminent, and it was urgent for everyone to get ready. What must we think of this attitude two thousand years later? Yes, it is urgent for every individual to respond to God's call, and there is no time to lose. Every decision counts, every step along the path leads in one direction or the other, closer to God or further away. However, this is an instance where we must consider the message of the Bible as a whole, where one teaching balances another. "The Kingdom of God is close at hand!" does not mean that the world will end tomorrow. Matthew's gospel is quite clear that there is time before the last judgment to practise good works of prayer and generosity. At the last supper Jesus teaches that his disciples have a task to do in the world, guided by the Holy Spirit. So Paul is not teaching here that Christians should 'down tools' and sit waiting for the end, but that we must not absorb the values of those around us who think that the supermarket, the sports centre and the holiday cottage are the only realities worth thinking about; for us the Kingdom and its values are paramount.

What does it mean to say that for Christians "the world as we know it is passing away"?

"There is time before the last judgment to practise good works of prayer and generosity."

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,

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear about Jesus starting to gather together the first Christian community.

Christian communities (just like families) are never perfect – even Jesus' closest disciples weren't always the ideal set of people. However, everyone works better with others in community.

Our schools and parish communities were founded to be places of love, friendship, security and inclusiveness.

Wednesday 17th January 2024

People in the past answered Jesus' call to form our Catholic school communities which now welcome and support us and our children. Now it's our turn to continue the work, to build on and develop the warm and loving community of our school – together.

Enjoy a very special time together this evening, hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **COMMUNITY**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from
Pope Francis

"Dear brothers and sisters, be an active presence in the community."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 21st January 2024



After John had been arrested, Jesus went into Galilee. There he proclaimed the Good News from God. "The time has come," he said, "and the kingdom of God is close at hand. Repent, and believe the Good News." As he was walking along by the Sea of Galilee he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net in the lake – for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, "Follow me and I will make you into fishers of men." And at once they left their nets and followed him. Going on a little further, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John; they too were in their boat, mending their nets. He called them at once and, leaving their father Zebedee in the boat with the men he employed, they went after him.

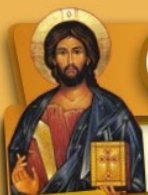
Adapted from Mark 1:14-20
The 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

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

Good News
for Everyone

When we read the Gospels, we see that Jesus forms a community which receives his word, follows it, shares in his journey and becomes his family. Jesus came for everyone and with him we, and our children, will never be on our own.

To find out more about the Catholic Faith, see: wednesdayword.org and cbcw.org.uk



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, as Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two fishermen, Simon and his brother Andrew. They were fishing and Jesus called to them, "Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men: from now on you will be gathering people instead of fish." At once they left their nets and followed him. Further along the shore Jesus saw two more fishermen, James and his brother John; they were with their father and were mending their fishing nets. "Follow me," called Jesus. At once they left their father and followed him.

What did Jesus say the fishermen would be gathering from now on? Which word stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about?

2

Wednesday's Word is ...

COMMUNITY



3 Loving & Growing

"Whatever gifts and talents we are given by God are to be shared with the entire community." *St Baldwin of Canterbury*

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus starts to form a community. Ask your child what the word 'community' means to them. Which communities do they belong to (e.g. family, clubs, brownies, football, etc.)? Another word we could use for our school is 'community'. What does your child enjoy most about their school community? Can they remember who made them feel really welcome when they started school?

"The family is a community of love where each of us learns to relate to others and to the world around us." *Pope Francis*

Each of you name at least one thing that other family members are good at, which could help strengthen the family community. Without our own unique contribution to our community, something valuable will be missing. How can we also use our gifts for the good of the different communities we belong to? Perhaps we can: join a school team; welcome new people into our community; volunteer to use a gift or skill to help out with a project; join with others to support an online fundraising event.



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for our school and parish communities. Please help me say 'Yes' to you, and enrich the communities to which I belong. Amen.



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

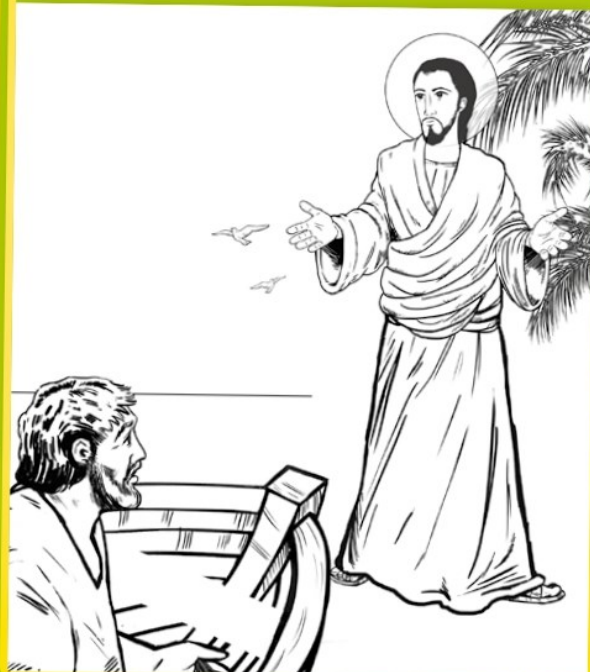
WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- ☒ GALILEE
- ☐ FISHERMEN
- ☐ LEFT NETS
- ☐ FOLLOWED JESUS
- ☐ GATHERING PEOPLE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture



Cross out the letters **b l p** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

malbkep flipsherbs Cobmelp Jebslusp

_____ called to them, "_____, follow me
and I will _____ you _____ of men."

In this Sunday's Gospel, we hear Jesus calling the fishermen to follow him. Today, Jesus calls people, like you and me, to help him - to build his community - a community built on love.



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...

Leonardo, Harvey & Edward



Golden Awards:

- Butterflies: Zuriel, for having such a happy and positive attitude to all learning
- Ladybirds: Zakary, for being a fantastic independent learner
- Dragonflies: Nathan, for trying very hard in all subjects and group discussions
- Grasshoppers: Alexander, for a fantastic start to 2024
- Hedgehogs: Lillian, for an excellent effort during our work on adjectives
- Squirrels: Javonte-Blu, for his fantastic alliteration in English
- Badgers: Kiera, for always having a fantastic attitude to learning
- Foxes: Elsie, for great participation and effort during all lessons
- Hares: Riley, for being extremely helpful in class and during lunchtimes
- Rabbits: Caiden, for coming back to school with a mature attitude to learning
- Kingfishers: Sean, for his perseverance in maths
- Robins: Luisa, for her very good effort and understanding in R.E.
- Eagles: Iris, for always having an excellent attitude to learning
- Owls: Demi, for an excellent attitude to his work

House Points

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

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

All clubs are 15:15 to 16:15

Monday 22nd January

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy lunchtime

Kingfishers swimming

KS1 Football

Tuesday 23rd January

Year 5 reading zone 9:00

Wednesday 24th January

Year 5 reading zone 9:00

KS1 Karate

Thursday 25th January

Year 5 reading zone 9:00

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy lunchtime

KS2 Karate

KS2 Football

Friday 26th January

KS2 Assembly 9:00

KS1 Assembly 14:30

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