



1st March 2024



GOSPEL: VALUE: Our Gospel Value the first week after the break is Humility. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

Weekly Reflection

This week we have been continuing on our journey through Lent and thinking of Pope Francis' message, 'Through the Desert God Leads us to Freedom.' Lent is a time when we think of making amends for wrong doings we have done and for seeking forgiveness from others. Lent is a time to fast, giving to others and a time to pray. In the Gospel last Sunday, we had a little glimpse of heaven as we see Jesus transfigured and God's voice reminding us, 'This is my son the beloved, listen to Him'. We continue to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, keeping Him at the centre of our lives.



Wishing all of our families a great weekend.

Happy first day of spring!

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher

Catholic School Inspection

As our parents and families will know, we had our Catholic School Inspection on the 14th and 15th February. I am delighted to let everyone know that we achieved 7 out of 9 Outstanding grades with the remaining 2 being Good. We were graded as Outstanding in all aspects of Leadership. The report and covering letter are available on the school website or if you wish you can collect a hard copy from the school office.

This is a wonderful result for our school and I could not be prouder of our fantastic pupils. My thanks to my hardworking and dedicated staff for all of their efforts and for the commitment of our governors. My thanks also to our families and all members of our school community for all of your support for our school.

Below is a link to the CSI report:

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/page/?title=Catholic+School+Inspection&pid=22>

Parents Evening

It was wonderful to see so many parents and families at the Parent Consultations this week. We enjoyed talking with you about your child's progress and attainment and discussing things that they need to work on. Your child's report will be sent out at the end of term.

Family Mass

We hope to see lots of children and our families at the Family Mass tomorrow evening at 5.30pm. If your child is coming along it would be wonderful if they could wear their school uniform please. We will be joining together with the pupils and families of St Luke's primary school, who also share our parish. It will be wonderful to all celebrate Mass together.

Coats and Uniform Labels

Please check that your child's uniform and especially their coat belongs to your child. All items must be labelled with the children's names so that we can easily identify the owner of missing pieces of uniform. It seems that coats have turned up after months of being lost and it turns out other children have had someone else's coat all this time. If you discover that your child has someone else's uniform please return it to the office as soon as possible.

St David's Cake

Well to St David's house who raised £405 in their cake sale today. Thank you to house captains Pola and Mark for helping to sell cakes after school and thank you for all the cake donations. We are looking forward to St Patrick's cake sale in 2 weeks. Can St Patrick's beat St David's impressive target?



Mixed Ability Rugby

Some of our children have attended SEN mixed ability rugby sessions last year. These are starting again this Saturday the 2nd of March and run alternate weeks. This session is free of charge and open to all abilities. Please contact mixedability@harlowrugby.club if you would like more information or to attend.

Sponsored Climb

Congratulations and well done to Luke and Riley who climbed Cat Bells mountain in half term and raised a whopping £1175 for PACT for Autism.



WE RAISED £1,175
FOR PACT AUTISM
CLIMBING CAT BELLS MOUNTAIN
6MILES, 1,500FT HIGH.
THANKYOU TO YOU ALL THAT
DONATED



FOOD BANK

Please help us collect non-perishable foods for our food bank. The food bank is located in the entrance hall and we hope will support many families within our school community.

DROP-OFF LOCATION:

School Office



Please could you provide New, unused and in date

EYFS – Baby supplies (nappies, wipes, baby bath, baby shampoo, creams and lotions)

Year 1 – Pasta, rice and spaghetti

Year 2 – Cereals, biscuits, crisps/snacks and UHT milk

Year 3 – Tinned food (beans, soup, spaghetti, tinned meat, tinned fruit, tinned vegetables)

Year 4 – Jarred food (cooking sauces, sauces, mayo, jam, honey and condiments)

Year 5 – Coffee, Tea, Sugar, Squash

Year 6 – Toiletries (shampoo, shower gel, conditioner, deodorant, soap, flannels, toothpaste)

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to the winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Grasshoppers achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Owls, also 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	94%
Dragonflies	96%
Grasshoppers	99%
Hedgehogs	96%
Squirrels	90%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	98%
Hares	96%
Rabbits	97%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	95%
Eagles	94%
Owls	99%

World Book Day

BOOK EXCHANGE EDITION!

Do you have any books you
have read way too many times?
So bring them all to the school
on **6th March**

Book sale **Friday 8th March**
from 8.15am to 4pm
ONLY 50p EACH





Mother's Day gift sale

£3 for a wrapped gift

Monday 4th March (years 2, 3, and 4)

Tuesday 5th March (years 5 and 6)

Thursday 7th March (Reception and year 1)

cash or card payments

A decorative illustration at the top of the poster shows two brown branches hanging from the top. From these branches, six Easter eggs are suspended by thin white strings. The eggs are in various colors: red with a white swirl, green with a white swirl, orange with white stripes, orange with white stripes, green with a white swirl, and red with a white swirl.

Easter

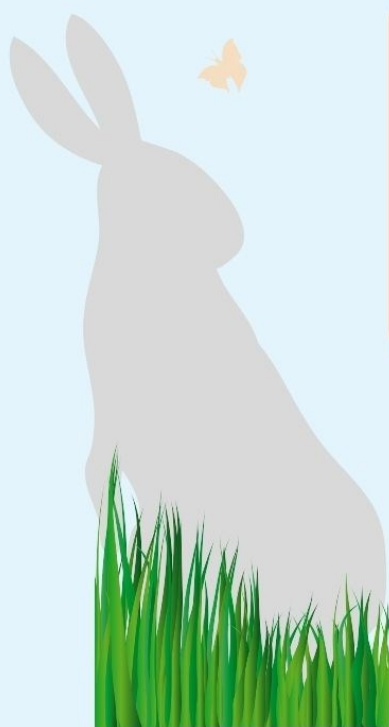
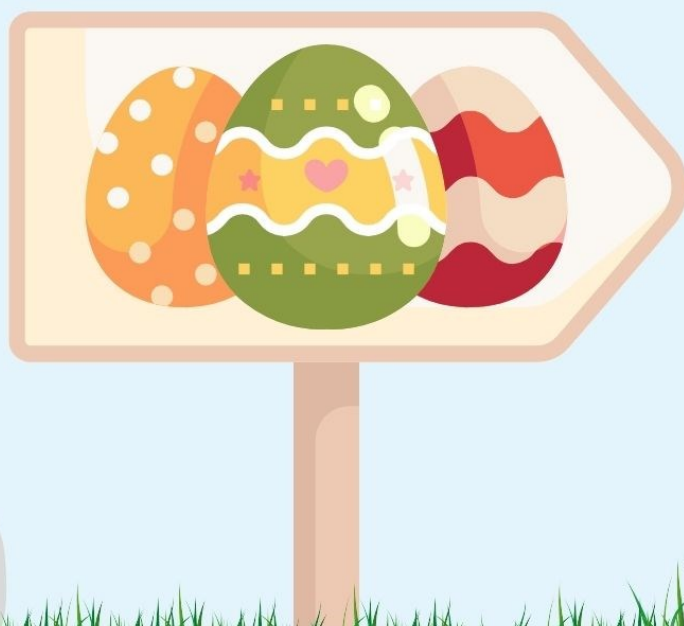
EGG HUNT

Thursday 28th March

A decorative illustration in the middle of the poster shows two white, fluffy clouds. Several small, orange-brown butterflies are scattered around the clouds.

£1 per child

Cash or card payments accepted



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.





Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs: Jemimah

Badgers: Clara

Hares: Riley

Kingfishers: Zion

Eagles: Bryan

Squirrels: Myles

Foxes: Aoife

Rabbits: Freya

Robins: Eliana

Owls: Will

Gospel Value Awards

Compassion

kindness, patience, empathy, helpfulness

Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12



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

Butterflies: Orlagh

Dragonflies: Hudson

Hedgehogs: Diona

Badgers: Afi

Hares: Phoebe

Kingfishers: Ohemaa

Eagles: Emilia

Ladybirds: Temidayo

Grasshoppers: Gwenda

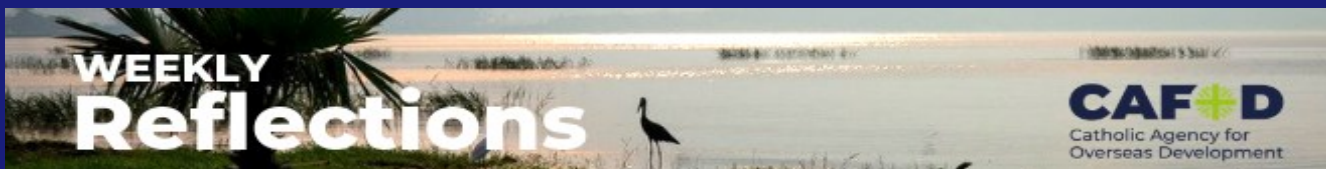
Squirrels: Viktoria

Foxes: Blake

Rabbits: Zachary

Robins: Aurora

Owls: Amelia



Based on the gospel for Sunday 3 March, Third Sunday of Lent: John 2:13-25

"Take all of this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market."

We see a different side to Jesus in this gospel passage. Here he is filled with righteous fury when he sees how people are busy making money in his Father's house.

Lawrencia Baidoo who ran training courses for the women in Liberia who clean, store and sell fish, shares her thoughts on this reading:

"I believe that when it comes to the house of God, he doesn't take it for play. He values his temple. If you go to his temple with a dirty heart, or without forgiving somebody... holding grudges against your friend... your heart is not clear and you are not purified."

The money changers and sellers are exploiting pilgrims who come to Jerusalem to worship. They make profit out of people's piety and change the Temple from a place of prayer to one of commerce.

Jesus is outraged. He will not have holiness become just another commodity that is sold.

In our current world of sound bites, social media and short attention spans, we must be careful that we do not approach our faith in the same way.

In the Instrumentum Laboris for last year's Synod, we were reminded: "Mission is not the marketing of a religious product, but the construction of a community in which relationships are a manifestation of God's love and therefore whose very life becomes a proclamation." (#52)

Let us consider then, how we can enter God's house with the right intentions, how we can build community in our lives, and how our relationships with others proclaim God's love for all.

God of wisdom,
help us to build meaningful relationships with one another,
with the earth and with you, so that together we may build a fairer world
and proclaim to all people the greatness of your love.
Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

In this time of #Lent, let us strive not to put ourselves at the centre; rather, let us try to step aside to make room for others, to promote them, and to rejoice in their qualities and successes.





Dear Parents and Carers,

Enthusiasm is one of life's most important ingredients. The word 'enthusiasm' comes from the Greek word 'entheos' which means 'God-filled'. Life really is joyful when we are enthusiastic about the right things.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read how the people had actually lost sight of God by getting caught up in their buying and selling. Jesus' enthusiastic action was a

Wednesday 28th February 2024

protest that things had gone seriously wrong with how they were relating to God; something needed to change.

Lent is a time to renew our own relationship with God and to be filled with a new enthusiasm for God and for life in all its fullness. Enjoy your week together and help spread God's love - with **ENTHUSIASM!**

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from
Pope Francis

"Dear young people, may you always live the faith with enthusiasm."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 3rd March 2024



Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple there he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and money changers sitting at their counters. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The people in the Temple said to Jesus, "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this Temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The people replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple: are you going to raise it up in three days?" Now the Temple Jesus was talking about was his own body. And later when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered what he had told them.

Adapted from John 2:13-25
The 3rd Sunday of Lent, Year B

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

**Good News
for Everyone**

Enthusiasm is an attractive quality. As we become more aware of God's presence in our daily lives, we become happier and more filled with energy and enthusiasm. God wants us to pray: to ask him to fill us with enthusiasm for the right, good and lasting things in life.

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

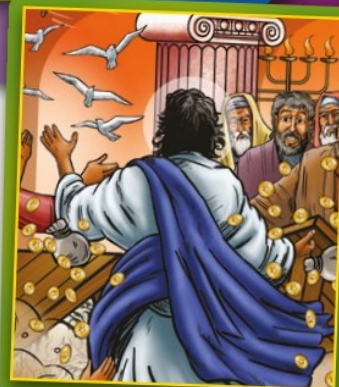


Good News for Families



Listening & Learning Together

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



1 Jesus went to Jerusalem to celebrate the Jewish Passover. Inside the Temple, he saw people selling animals, and among them sat the money changers. So Jesus made a whip and chased them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well. Jesus knocked over the money tables, scattering the coins and said to the pigeon sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market."

What did Jesus do in the Temple? Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? See the Sunday Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

ENTHUSIASM



3 Loving & Growing

"If you are what you should be, you will set the whole world ablaze!" *St Catherine of Siena*

Jesus was a very enthusiastic person. He was passionate for people to worship God in a true and proper way. He saw that many had become so interested in money that they were losing respect for God and for God's ways. Ask your child what the word 'enthusiasm' means to them. Which person or group of people do they know who is enthusiastic and full of energy for doing the right thing? What is your child enthusiastic about? What gives them energy to do good?

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus cleared out the temple.

These final weeks of Lent present us with an opportunity to stop and think if there are any unhelpful things that we need to clear out from our lives, so that we can grow in our enthusiasm for God. To help us to do this, perhaps we can: each night before we go to sleep, say sorry to God for anything that we may have done wrong (examine our conscience) and ask God to forgive us; avoid any temptation to be greedy, but rather give cheerfully to charity; be enthusiastic to say our family prayers together, asking for help to grow in goodness and in our love for God.



Dear Lord Jesus, please fill us with **enthusiasm** to love you, to serve you, and to help others to know you too. Amen.



A E P H D P J M M L S P
C L E A R E D O A D A A
V P A S S O V E R E J S
M M V U H S O E K W E T
O E S W C S O J E S S D
N T C T Z L H V T H U N
E S A L F A T H E R S O
Y F P T E K R A M R P M
S R E H T A F C P R O P
Y L N C O T R H L N S D
A S D H O U S E E E A P
E S U O H H A Y D W D S

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

- ☒ **PASSOVER** ☒
- ☐ **TEMPLE** ☐
- ☐ **MARKET** ☐
- ☐ **MONEY** ☐
- ☐ **JESUS** ☐
- ☐ **CLEARED** ☐
- ☐ **FATHER'S** ☐
- ☐ **HOUSE** ☐

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

Cross out the letters **o d l** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

tulronding omdarkelt loherde Tadokle

Jesus said, " _____ all this out of _____ and stop
_____ my Father's house into a _____."

This week we celebrate the Feast of St David. He was an enthusiastic teacher and preacher and is the Patron Saint of Wales. Find out more about St David in the children's section at: wednesdayword.org (see the 'SAINTS FACTFILES' tab).

Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture



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





Encountering Christ

The Wednesday Prayer Custom for Homes, Schools & Parishes

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.



Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present. Read the Gospel, 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 3rd March 2024

THE CLEANSING OF THE TEMPLE

Just before the Jewish Passover Jesus went up to Jerusalem, and in the Temple he found people selling cattle and sheep and pigeons, and the money changers sitting at their counters there. Making a whip out of some cord, he drove them all out of the Temple, cattle and sheep as well, scattered the money changers' coins, knocked their tables over and said to the pigeon-sellers, "Take all this out of here and stop turning my Father's house into a market." Then his disciples remembered the words of scripture: Zeal for your house will devour me. The Jews intervened and said, "What sign can you show us to justify what you have done?" Jesus answered, "Destroy this sanctuary, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews replied, "It has taken forty-six years to build this sanctuary: are you going to raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the sanctuary that was his body, and when Jesus rose from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the words he had said. During his stay in Jerusalem for the Passover many believed in his name when they saw the signs that he gave, but Jesus knew them all and did not trust himself to them; he never needed evidence about any man; he could tell what a man had in him.

Taken from John 2:13-25 The Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

2

REFLECT

After reading the Gospel, did any words stand out? If they did, ponder or discuss them before proceeding with the reflection.

According to John, this scene took place at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, on the first of Jesus' four visits to Jerusalem. At each subsequent visit the Temple authorities lay in wait for Jesus, increasingly keen to eliminate him, but unable to do so till his Hour had come. The other gospels place both this incident and all other scenes of Jesus in Jerusalem as the final climax of Jesus' ministry. Whichever is correct, the incident is the basic cause of Jesus' arrest and his tortured death. By his action Jesus had demonstrated that the worship carried out in the Temple had become vain in God's eyes owing to its lack of integrity and must be superseded. To the Temple authorities this was intolerable, and he must be removed. Again, Jesus demanded a complete reversal of standards. His puzzling saying about building the Temple anew in his body was at last understood by his disciples after his resurrection when they realised it meant the Temple that was his Body, the Church. The material building which had been the centre of worship was no longer important. Henceforth all worship would take place in any place, but within the Christian community. The community - or the Church - was now the place of sanctification and of prayer to God. **What does it mean to think of the Church as Jesus' Body? What does it mean to you to be a member of Christ's Body, the Church?**

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

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, hope, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, joy, forgiveness, hope or something else.

4

PRAY FOR FAMILIES

This Wednesday's word for our school families is ENTHUSIASM!

After praying for your loved ones, please remember to pray for our present and future Church, particularly for the families connected to our schools. 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.

Share the Prayer! Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends : wednesdayword.org

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 3rd March 2024



1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17 (shorter form)

The Ten Commandments

God spoke all these words. He said, "I am the Lord your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. You shall have no gods except me. You shall not utter the name of the Lord your God to misuse it, for the Lord will not leave unpunished the man who utters his name to misuse it. Remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy. Honour your father and your mother so that you may have a long life in the land that the Lord your God has given to you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or his servant, man or woman, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is his."

The Ten Commandments are not harsh rules, but an invitation to Israel, showing them how to be God's people: if you wish to keep close to God, you must behave in a way compatible with God's own nature. They come in an order which may surprise us perhaps, opposite to the priorities of the modern materialistic world: for God comes first, then they deal with the value of persons; the value of things and possessions comes only at the end. We need to think of the commandments not as prohibitions but as expressing positive values. So 'keep holy the Sabbath day' implies freedom of worship and freedom for leisure. 'Honour your parents' includes not only obedience of children, but real parental care for children and of adult children for aged parents, as well as other family values. 'No adultery' means fostering the marriage bond and continually deepening it. 'No false witness' includes the right to free speech, and giving others a good reputation, free of slander - no brainwashing or distortion by the media. Many of these laws occur in other ancient law-codes, but in Israel they have a special meaning, for here they are the guidelines for living under divine protection and in the company of the Lord.

How do these Ten Commandments help you to live more closely day by day with the Lord?



2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

The Scandal of the Cross

While the Jews demand miracles and the Greeks look for wisdom, here are we preaching a crucified Christ; to the Jews an obstacle that they cannot get over, to the pagans madness, but to those who have been called, whether they are Jews or Greeks, a Christ who is the power and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

This reading is all about power and wisdom: 'the Jews demand miracles (works of power) and the Greeks look for wisdom'. These are two measures of success in the normal terms of our modern materialistic society. Power comes in the form of wealth, authority, command, being the boss. Wisdom results in the respect and reputation we accord to particular people: he or she is someone who makes the right decisions. But where do we find 'power' and 'wisdom' in the crucified Christ? He was a prisoner, powerless, horribly tortured, mocked and derided. He commanded nobody. Surely there is nothing we can respect about a tortured prisoner? God's standards are different, and we heard them in the form of the commandments in the first reading. It was these standards that brought Jesus to the situation of the Passion, for these were the standards he had sought to live out and show to people by his way of living and acting. This way was the Kingship of God which he came to proclaim and to spread. In the first reading we heard the demanding, positive standards for membership of God's people. Now in this second reading we receive strength and comfort from the reassurance of the model of Christ.

Where do you find your source of true wisdom and strength?

We receive strength and comfort from the reassurance of the model of Christ.

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**

Happy Birthday this week to...

Blane, Ollie, Attila, Raysa, Marshall & Emilie



Headteacher Award:

Luke and Riley, for their fantastic achievement in raising £1175 for PACT for Autism by climbing Cat Bells mountain.

Golden Awards:

- Butterflies: Jude, for making a huge effort with his handwriting.
Ladybirds: Dillon, for his positive attitude and enthusiasm for learning.
Dragonflies: Chloe, for working hard on her writing and maths.
Grasshoppers: Brody, for being a superstar and making great progress.
Hedgehogs: Olivia, for an outstanding effort in R.E.
Squirrels: Andreas, for an amazing effort in all areas.
Badgers: Nicole-Marie, for great effort in her handwriting.
Foxes: James, for fantastic attitude in his learning, especially in R.E.
Hares: Eryk, for his excellent maths work on perimeter.
Rabbits: Sid, for his amazing resilience in his spellings!
Kingfishers: Violet, for always being an excellent role model and a pleasure to teach.
Robins: Teodora, for her amazing contributions in our R.E. lessons.
Eagles: Charlie, for amazing R.E. work - well done!
Owls: Samuel, for perseverance.

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

All clubs are 15:15 to 16:15

Monday 4th March

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy lunchtime
Robins swimming
KS1 Football

Tuesday 5th March

Year 1 reading zone 9:00

Wednesday 6th March

Year 1 reading zone 9:00
Year 5 Air Pollution workshop
KS1 Karate

Thursday 7th March

Year 1 reading zone 9:00
Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy lunchtime
PTA meeting 2:00
KS2 Karate
KS2 Football

Friday 8th March

Non uniform World Book Day costumes
Book sale
KS2 Assembly 9:00
KS1 Assembly 14:30

Please download our News & Events App for dates for the year. Details are available on the schools website under News & Events at www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs A Kerrell'.

House Points

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