



8th March 2024



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

Weekly Reflection

This weekend we are thinking of all of our mums, grandmas, aunties and godmothers as we celebrate Mothers day. We remember, too, those who have passed away and pray for our missed loved ones this Sunday.

We are thankful to have our blessed Mother Mary walking beside us everyday in our lives. We pray to her for strength, humility and wisdom, as she gives us all her love to get us through the highs and lows of life. We wish all mothers a wonderful Mothers day.



Enjoy the weekend, let us pray for sunshine.

Mrs Kerrell

Headteacher







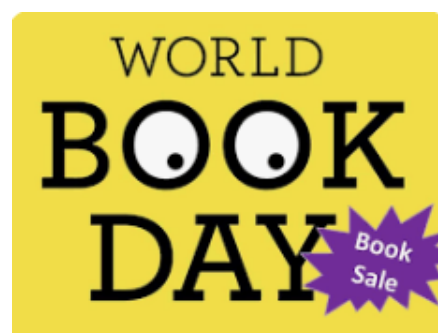
Air Quality Theatre Presentation

On Wednesday Year 5 were visited by a theatre production about air quality.

The theme was on living a greener life and what we can do to make the air we breathe, such as walking or cycling to school.

Book Sale

Thank you to the Friends of Holy Cross for organising the book sale today. They raised £186! Thank you to everyone who donated and bought books. Happy reading!



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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



St. Patrick's House
CAKE SALE
MONDAY 18TH MARCH
cakes will be on sale for 50p

ACL FAMILY LEARNING

ACL FAMILY LEARNING

**FREE!
COURSES**

**FREE ONLINE COURSES
THIS SPRING**



**FREE! ONLINE
COURSES**

- Go To Sleep!
- Setting Boundaries
- Raising Girls
- First Aid Workshop
- Managing Big Emotions
- Getting Teens To Talk
- Mindfulness & relaxation
- Anxiety Coping Techniques for Teens



SCAN ME

FIND OUT MORE



call our friendly team on
03330 321 017



Search 'Family Learning' at
aclessex.com




Essex County Council

FIND OUT MORE




Essex County Council



call our friendly team on
03330 321 017



Search 'Family Learning' at
aclessex.com



Queries
**aclfamilylearnin
g@essex.gov.uk**

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about MONKEY

AGE RESTRICTION
17+

(although the lack of age verification means that someone younger could easily log in with a false date of birth)

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

The app claims to use AI to detect sexual content or activity that violates its policies, along with having a 24/7 moderation team. However, reports in the media continue to indicate that explicit content remains commonplace on Monkey (including sexually graphic or violent material) and is therefore accessible to anybody who uses the app – including those aged under 18.



CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

The obvious risk in accepting random video chat partners is that users cannot know what or who they will see on their next connection. Talking to strangers is, of course, potentially dangerous – especially for children who might be persuaded to meet up with these people offline. The app lets users find each other by location, increasing the chances of a child being matched with a stranger from their local area.



IN-APP SPENDING

While Monkey is free to download, it nevertheless offers in-app purchases promising to unlock access to premium features. For example, users who wish to make use of 'Knock Knock chat' (Monkey's text-based messaging option), rather than the app's Chatroulette-style random video calling feature, will need to pay to be able to do so.



INTRUSIONS ON PRIVACY

According to Monkey's privacy policy, personal information (such as name, profile picture and date of birth), user-contributed content (any photos, texts, videos and screenshots shared) and each user's browser and IP address are collected. That is a considerable amount of data for Monkey to gather on its users – and all of this information is shared with third parties.



Advice for Parents & Carers

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

Even if you're comfortable with your child using Monkey, it's still important to talk about the potential dangers. It's crucial, for instance, that young people recognise the risks that stem from video chatting with strangers; that they understand not to share identifying information (like their street or school name); and that they know what to do if they are exposed to inappropriate content.



RESTRICT IN-APP PURCHASING

If your child is accessing Monkey via an Android device, you can prevent them from making in-app purchases through the device's settings. If you do allow your child to use the site, we'd recommend that you enable this feature: young people have been known to spend significant amounts of money in their desire to unlock more features in apps such as this.



REPORT INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Monkey states in the safety section of its site that "people are given the power" and that, to a large extent, Monkey is "self-governing." If a user is exposed to sexually explicit or inappropriate content on the platform, they can select the 'police' emoji in the top right corner of their screen to submit a report for Monkey's moderation team to review.



SPOT THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Monkey – or that they may have been exposed to inappropriate or distressing content – it's important to watch for potential indications that they've been affected emotionally. They could be unusually irritable or unable to concentrate, for example, or failing to complete their homework or even to eat regular meals.



Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

NOS
National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

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

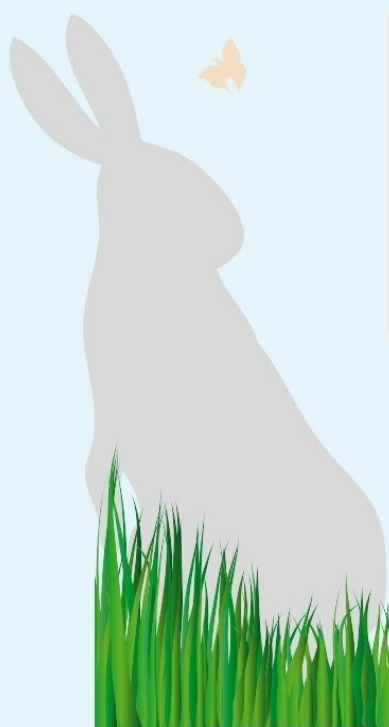
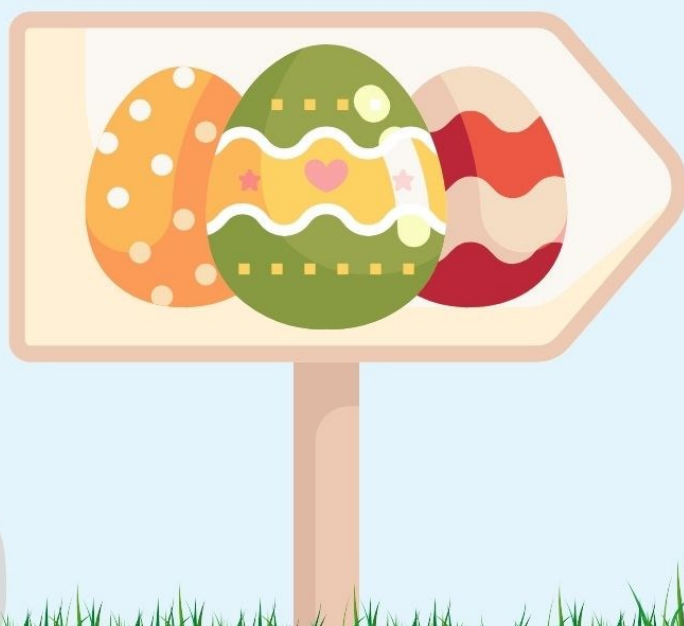
EGG HUNT

Thursday 28th March

A decorative illustration in the middle of the poster shows two white clouds and two small orange butterflies. The butterflies are positioned near the clouds, one on the left and one on the right.

£1 per child

Cash or card payments accepted





Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs: Cristina

Hares: Parker

Kingfishers: Amy

Foxes: Lucas

Rabbits: Livia

Robins: Leah

Gospel Value Awards

Love

joy, commitment, dedication, sacrifice

Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. Matthew 23: 10-12



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

Butterflies: Nojus

Dragonflies: Mia

Hedgehogs: Amara

Badgers: Blousey

Hares: Nathaniel

Kingfishers: Leah

Eagles: Mara

Ladybirds: Jayron-Jace

Grasshoppers: Lucas

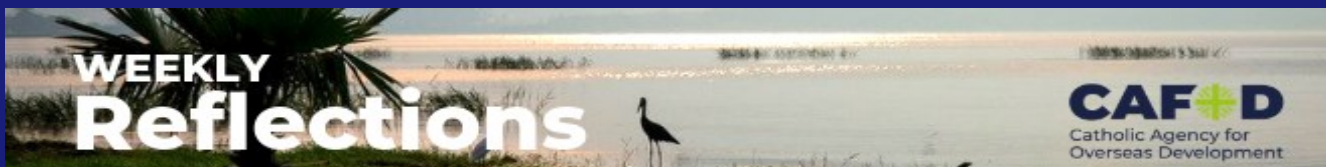
Squirrels: Declan

Foxes: Bali

Rabbits: Filip

Robins: Aroha

Owls: Josie



Based on the gospel for Sunday 10 March, Fourth Sunday of Lent: John 3:14-21

"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son."

This Sunday is Mothering Sunday. As we give thanks for and celebrate those who have cared for us, we are also reminded of God's great love for us.

We are all God's children. As Saint Paul says so beautifully, "We are God's work of art" (Ephesians 2:10). God loves us so much, that he gives his only Son, that we might have eternal life.

Parents throughout the world are doing their best to give their children the opportunities they need for the future.

Cynthia in Liberia sells fish that her partner James catches. But there was a time when James was not catching enough fish to feed the family or to sell. Things were very difficult, as Cynthia explains:

"I was determined not to let my son go hungry. I couldn't bear it, so I asked to borrow food. I took out loans... I asked him to trust us. It will get better. There were days when we didn't eat anything. I felt terrible. But we had to keep going."

During this time Cynthia watched others braiding hair and learned to do it herself so that she could earn some money.

Things are easier for James and Cynthia now. James has a GPS fish finder which helps him find the best fishing spots and make his way home safely with an even bigger catch. Cynthia is able to sell this for a profit. Eventually, when she has saved enough, she wants to open her own beautician business.

"I feel very proud of what we've achieved. I look at the past and see how far we have come. We have got over so many difficult challenges from before. We have overcome so much together."

Prayer

God our Father,

grant that all your children may know what it is to feel loved and cherished.

We give thanks for mothers

throughout the world

who give everything for their children despite the challenges they face.

Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

We are invited during #Lent to stop for a moment. We should pause in prayer, in order to welcome the Word of God, and to pause like the Good Samaritan in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbour are a single love.

THE Wednesday WORD



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 10th March 2024
NICODEMUS

Jesus said to Nicodemus: "The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God".

Taken from John 3:14-21 The Fourth 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.

After Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus comes this reflection on Nicodemus' visit. Is it Jesus' reflection or the evangelist's? The text does not make it clear. Throughout the gospel of John people are coming to Jesus and judging themselves by their reactions to Jesus. The Father judges no one, but has given all judgment to the Son. In his turn the Son does not judge, but we judge ourselves by our reaction to him. So at the wedding at Cana the disciples believe in him and see his glory. In the Temple the Jews refuse belief and are condemned. Then comes Nicodemus in secret and in fear. At this point he is sitting on the fence, afraid of the Pharisees - but by the time of the burial he has decided for Jesus. After Nicodemus the Samaritan woman approaches Jesus. Cheeky and unbelieving at first, she is won over by Jesus' playful persistence. And so on - the Jews on one side, the man healed at the Pool of Bethzatha on the other: the Jews on one side, the man blind from birth on the other. The decision is ours too.

When confronted by Jesus, do we come to the light so that our deeds may be known, or do we shun the light?

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 SELF GIVING!

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.

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 17th March 2024



1st Reading: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16. 19-23

The Broken Covenant

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy. Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, "Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation." And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: 'Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, 'The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up.'"

In the first readings for Sundays in Lent we have worked through the promising but tragic history of Israel. It is a history of promises by God, of broken promises and fresh starts by Israel. We have seen this in the stories of the covenant with Noah, of Abraham's obedient trust, and of the commands given to Moses to keep Israel faithful to the Lord. Now we come to the story of great disaster, inevitably brought on by Israel's repeated failure and infidelity. There is an underlying theme to this history of Israel: fidelity brings prosperity and healing punishment is the inevitable consequence of desertion of the Lord. In this final chapter of Chronicles the historian looks back at the ultimate catastrophe of Exile in Babylon, and the return of a renewed Israel to the Holy City. Even then the promised blessing of God would seem long delayed. God's people were an oppressed little community, huddled round Jerusalem, harassed by their neighbours and dominated by one foreign power after another. After some years they did summon up energy and resources to rebuild the Temple, but they continued to yearn for the decisive intervention of God which would enable them to serve their Lord in freedom and total dedication. **Do you always show fidelity to the Lord?**



2nd Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

The Grace of God

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ - it is through grace that you have been saved - and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus. This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The Letter to the Ephesians is usually considered to be an early commentary on Paul rather than from the Apostle's own hand. The Letter reflects on the salvation won by Christ. After the record in the first reading of the repeated failures of Israel, the message (twice repeated) that salvation is by grace alone, is particularly apt. Grace here means not a substance poured into our souls to provide some sort of salvific energy, but is the unmerited favour and choice by God. It is a personal relationship rather than something material. God has smiled on each of us and invited us into his friendship. In the light of this gift of friendship we are strengthened and encouraged to serve him, so that this gift of his friendship becomes an ever stronger and more important element in our lives. God shows us his love and we respond. He shows us even greater love: the greatest gift of all is his Son and his salvation, the new life won for us by Christ.

How do you respond to this abounding love of God?

“ God has smiled on each of us and invited us into his friendship. ”

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 read about the 'light' that has come into the world. Pope Francis reminds us, "Jesus is the light who brightens the darkness." Letting Jesus' light shine in our lives provides a secure foundation for our lives and for the lives of our children too.

This Gospel also reminds us that God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us. Jesus' great act of love,

Wednesday 06th March 2024

of self-giving, on the cross, has paved the way for us to share in the true richness of God's love in this life, and also in the life to come.

See overleaf to enjoy a very special time together this evening, exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **SELF-GIVING**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from
Pope Francis

"Jesus leads us to go out from ourselves more and more, to give ourselves and to serve others."

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 10th March 2024



Nicodemus, a teacher of the law, came to Jesus one night. Jesus said to him, "The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. Everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear their actions should be exposed; but whoever lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what they do is done in God."

Adapted from John 3:14-21
The 4th Sunday of Lent, Year B

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

Good News
for Everyone

God wants us to live like Jesus, to be 'self-giving', which is the opposite of being 'selfish'. To be 'self-giving' is to be aware of others' needs or interests, and to put their needs before our own. Let's bring peace and joy into our community by sharing God's love, through our self-giving.

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 Nicodemus, a teacher of the law, came to Jesus one night. Jesus said to him, "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have everlasting life. God did not send his Son to condemn the world, but to save it and everyone who believes in him is saved. The light of the world has come, but many people turn away from it and prefer darkness. But those who live by the truth are drawn into the light, so that it can be clearly seen that what they do comes from their life with God."

Why did God send Jesus into the world? Which word stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? See the Sunday Gospel picture opposite. What does it make you think about?

2 Wednesday's Word is ...

SELF-GIVING



3

Loving & Growing

"Love each other as Jesus has loved us. He has given nothing less than his life for us."

St Teresa of Calcutta

It's our self-giving which helps to make the world a much better place. Ask your child what 'self-giving' means to them. Who are the most self-giving people that your child knows - that is, people who put others' needs first? In what ways are those people self-giving? Ask your child if they can remember the last time when they shared something or gave something up to help make someone else happy.

"It is in giving that we receive."

St Francis of Assisi

We all have gifts that we can give. How can we be self-giving, even in little ways, at home, at school or in the community in this coming week? Perhaps we can: offer to help out at school or around the house before we're asked; give someone a smile or a friendly word to help cheer them up; be polite, resist pushing in, and let others go first instead; take time to offer praise where we can; be first to reach out and make friends again after an argument; give up some of our leisure or play time to be with God in prayer.



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for **giving** your life for us. Thank you too for all the kind people in our community who show us your way of love and **self-giving**. Amen.



WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	GOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	LOVED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	WORLD	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	MUCH	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	GAVE	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	JESUS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ONLY	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SON	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture



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

Suboni gauvieb wobrudli libovedu

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "God _____ the _____ so much that he _____ his only _____."

This Sunday's Gospel reminds us that our daily lives are full of choices between good and bad - between light and dark (to be selfish or to be self-giving). As Easter approaches, let's choose to do the right thing - to 'live in the light' through being self-giving, just like Jesus.

This week I will try my best to ...

Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



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...

Afi, Rhianne, Nikoleta, Olivier, Ronnie, Grace, Erin,
Harry & Diona



Headteacher Award:

Golden Awards:

- Butterflies: Zedekiah, for a great effort with writing - forming letters beautifully.
Ladybirds: Charles, for working so well during choosing time.
Dragonflies: Amelia, for being a caring friend.
Grasshoppers: ThankGod, for writing a beautiful prayer for his sisters.
Hedgehogs: Arribella, for excellent effort with her presentation skills in all areas of learning
Squirrels: Amelia, for always doing the right thing.
Badgers: Afi, for always trying so hard in all areas of learning.
Foxes: Joel, for having a great attitude towards his learning this week.
Hares: Gracie, for her excellent writing about a myth.
Rabbits: Luke, for a fantastic opening to his myth.
Kingfishers: Jemie, for working hard in all subjects, this week.
Robins: Erin, for excellent effort and understanding in maths.
Eagles: Miles, for making excellent progress in maths.
Owls: Layla, for being enthusiastic about her after school learning (booster sessions).

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

All clubs are 15:15 to 16:15

Monday 11th March

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy
lunchtime

Robins swimming

KS1 Football

Tuesday 12th March

Reception reading zone
9:00

Wednesday 13th March

Reception reading zone 9:00

KS1 Karate

Thursday 14th March

Reception reading zone
9:00

Hedgehogs library visit
10:00

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy
lunchtime

KS2 Karate

KS2 Football

Friday 15th March

KS2 Assembly 9:00

Year 6 Crucial Crew

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 David's**