



22nd March 2024

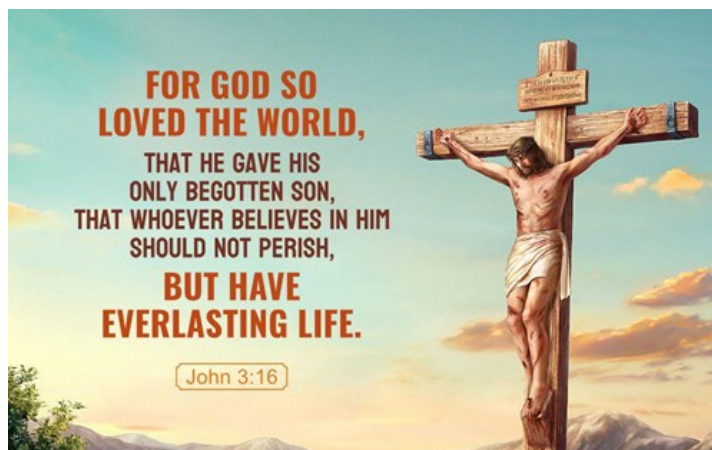


**GOSPEL: VALUE:** Our Gospel Value the first week after the break is Simplicity. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

### Weekly Reflection

In our Monday Assembly this week we thought about Jesus and how he placed all his trust in God. He knows that he is to face a terrible ordeal but he does not know what is to come. In the Gospel of Palm Sunday this weekend, we see Jesus praised and adored by the crowd as he enters Jerusalem on a donkey.

We know as we begin Holy Week that the crowd are quick to turn on him and that he ultimately faces and endures a painful death. It is good to be together for Holy Week next week. We will be working with the children to support them with walking in the footsteps of Jesus so that we can understand what he faced and ultimately the sacrifice that he made for us.



This has been a very busy week at school and we have had lots of children out on trips to enhance their learning and develop confidence and self esteem. It was wonderful to accompany the choir to Voice in a Million at Wembley on Wednesday. It was amazing to see the children sing their hearts out and have fun. My thanks to all the staff who accompanied the children ( it was a very late night!) and to Mrs Slater and Mrs Mills for their hard work preparing the choir.

I hope that you will join us for the different events next week: the Year 4 and 5 Passion Play and Year 6 Stations of the Cross.

I wish everyone a restful weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*

Headteacher



## Reports

We will be sending out your child's end of term report next Wednesday. Please complete the reply slip and return to the office as soon as possible.

## Summer Uniform

When we return to school after the Easter break pupils can wear Summer uniform. Children may continue to wear Winter uniform, however they must not wear a combination of the two. Please ensure all uniform is labelled.

## PE Kit Reminder

Please remember after the East break, all children, with the exception of Year 6, must have the new P.E. kit (introduced September 2023).

Click on the link below for the full uniform list.

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/attachments/download.asp?file=1096&type=pdf>

## Earrings

This is a reminder that strictly no earrings are permitted to be worn in school.

## Food Bank

The school food bank is running low on toiletries. If you are able to contribute any toothbrushes, toothpaste, shower gel, etc it would much appreciated and help support families within our community.

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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





### St. Patrick's Day Irish Dancing

On St. Patrick's day, some of our pupils, who dance with the Barrett-Semple Morris school of Irish Dancing visited Abbots care home, Alexander House Care home and Tye Green Lodge care home in Harlow. Dancing from 10.30am until 3pm in the homes to entertain the residents. They were so well behaved and loved every minute of it and seeing the smiles and joy on everyone's face, was priceless!

Well done Luisa, Aoife, Tilly, Blousey, Orlagh, Maisie, Sian and Olivia.

*You are invited to attend*

*Year 4 and 5  
Passion of Christ Play  
on*

*Monday 25th March at 9.15am  
and*

*Tuesday 26th March at 2pm  
in the school hall*

*Year 6  
Stations of the Cross service  
on*

*Wednesday 27th March  
at 1.30pm  
in Holy Cross Church*



GET YOUR TICKETS FOR

# ***ADVENTURE ISLAND*** ***SOUTHEND ON SEA***

£15 PER PERSON FOR A DAY  
TICKET AVAILABLE FROM  
HOLY CROSS SCHOOL  
OFFICE





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

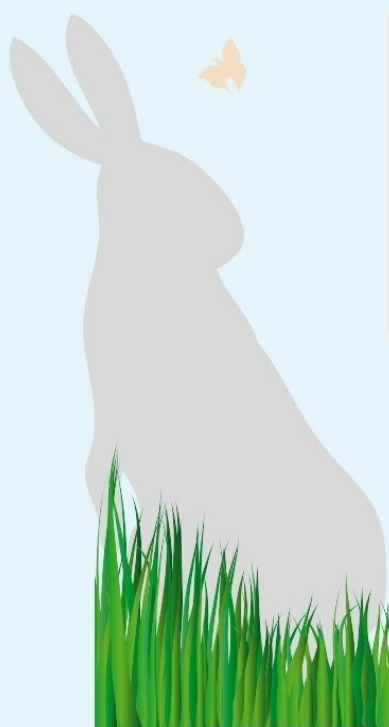
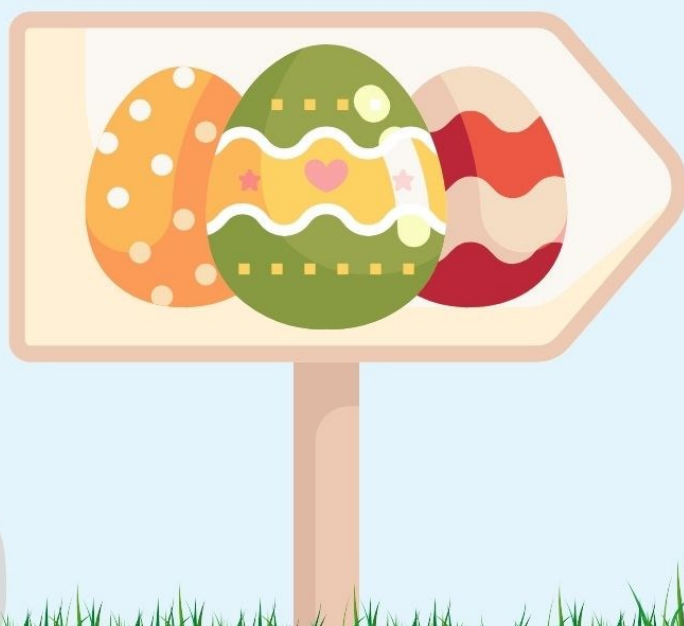
# EGG HUNT

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



ACL have a number of FREE sessions, which may benefit your families this April. They are split into two sections, Family Support and Family Fun. Their website is <https://aclessex.com/community-family-learning/>



**ACL**

## FAMILY LEARNING

**SESSIONS TO SUPPORT YOU & YOUR FAMILY**

**FREE**

- Managing Big Emotions
- Mindfulness & Relaxation
- Raising Girls
- SEND Support For Parents & Carers
- Setting Boundaries
- Supporting Children & Teens With Anxiety
- Supporting You & Your Family
- Understanding Children
- Understanding Neurodiverse Children

**MENTAL HEALTH**

**aclessex.com**  
 & type 'FL' in the Find a course box to view the sessions listed

**03330 321 017**

Email queries to: **aclfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk**

**ACL** Essex County Council



**ACL**

## FAMILY LEARNING

**FREE! FAMILY SESSIONS THIS APRIL**

**FREE**

Easter Crafts  
Spring Crafts  
Slime  
Easter Egg Challenge

From your local Family & Community Learning Team

**FREE FAMILY FUN FOR EVERYBUNNY!**

**aclessex.com**  
 & type 'FL' in the Find a course box

**03330 321 017**

Email queries to: **aclfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk**

**ACL** Essex County Council



# WHAT'S ON THIS SPRING?



## Storytime

**Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Apr | 10.30am | Ages 2.5 - 5 | Free**

Enjoy a story, songs and some colouring or craft. We can welcome up to 12 children at a time and will read the story several times if needed and provide activities whilst you wait. For ages 2.5 - 5



## Kids Craft - Make your own Victorian Police Lamp

**Tue 2<sup>nd</sup> | Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> & Thu 4<sup>th</sup> Apr**

**10am - 2pm | Ages 4+ | £1 per child**

Make your own Victorian Police Lamp, the centre turns to block or reveal the light!



## Kids Craft - Fingerprint Fun

**Tue 9<sup>th</sup> | Wed 10<sup>th</sup> & Thu 11<sup>th</sup> Apr**

**10am - 2pm | Ages 4+ | £1 per child**

Discover why the police take fingerprints then use yours to make some artwork.



## Kids Craft - Mini Maypoles and Streamers

**Tue 28<sup>th</sup> | Wed 29<sup>th</sup> & Thu 30<sup>th</sup> May**

**10am - 2pm | Ages 4+ | £1 per child**

It's May! Make some colourful decorations to welcome the summer.

**Don't miss our Free Easter Museum Trail 1<sup>st</sup> Apr - 24<sup>th</sup> May | Anytime**

**Bishop's Stortford  
Museum  
Activities**

Please note: all children must be accompanied by an adult when attending our Museum activities



### Times Tables Rockstars

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

Squirrels:	Andreas	Foxes:	Yohane
Badgers:	Blousey	Rabbits:	Jayden
Hares:	Ciaran	Robins:	Amber
Kingfishers:	Tehilah	Owls:	Josie
Eagles:	Nathan		

## Gospel Value Awards

### Forgiveness

reconciliation, sorry, empathy, respect

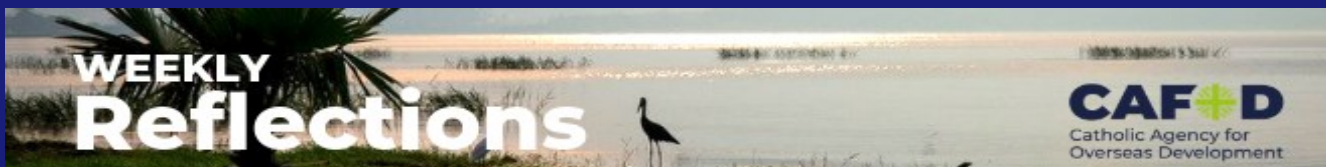
"Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13



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

Butterflies:	Cameron-James	Ladybirds:	Holly
Dragonflies:	Gray	Grasshoppers:	Noah
Hedgehogs:	Gerald	Squirrels:	Georgie
Badgers:	Adam	Foxes:	Elsie
Hares:	Kenna-Kah	Rabbits:	Adaora
Kingfishers:	David	Robins:	Luisa
Eagles:	Ava	Owls:	Naomi





Based on the gospels for Sunday 24 March, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord: Mark 11:1-10 and Mark 14:1-15:47

**"And those who went before and those who followed cried out, 'Hosanna!'"**

On Palm Sunday we hear two gospels. First, Jesus' triumphant arrival into Jerusalem. Second, his arrest, condemnation and death on the cross.

Outwardly these two stories might not have much in common. But in both of them the crowd has an important role to play in God's plan. In the first they shout 'Hosanna' - praising Christ, and asking God to save them. This shows the Jewish authorities just how important a figure Jesus has become. In the second, they shout 'Crucify him!', forcing Pilate to release Barabbas instead.

One voice, raised in opposition or support, does not always make much difference. But together, many voices, united in one cry, can change the minds of those who hold power, whether for good or evil.

Last year over 70,000 Catholics in England and Wales signed a letter in solidarity with small-scale farmer Salina from Bangladesh who is fighting for the right to use and save her own seeds. CAFOD campaigners took the letter to the World Bank to call on them to stop pushing policies that increase corporate control over seeds and limit the choices of farmers like Salina.

Let us remember the difference we can make when we band together. Let us raise our voices and make them heard, as we speak out for what we know to be right. Let us add our voices to those of our brothers and sisters throughout the world who are calling for change and an end to poverty and injustice.

Lord God,  
grant us the courage  
to raise our voices  
to call for change  
and a fairer world  
for all your people.  
Amen.



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

With the help of the Holy Spirit, each of us can sow seeds of hope and peace, in our own small way and particular state of life.

# 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 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024

##### JESUS ENTERS JERUSALEM

#### *The Gospel for the Procession at the Beginning of Palm Sunday Mass*

When they were approaching Jerusalem, in sight of Bethphage and Bethany, close by the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go off to the village facing you, and as soon as you enter it you will find a tethered colt that no one has yet ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone says to you, 'What are you doing?' say, 'The Master needs it and will send it back here directly.'" They went off and found a colt tethered near a door in the open street. As they untied it, some men standing there said, "What are you doing, untying that colt?" They gave the answer Jesus had told them, and the men let them go. Then they took the colt to Jesus and threw their cloaks on its back, and he sat on it. Many people spread their cloaks on the road, others greenery which they had cut in the fields. And those who went in front and those who followed were all shouting, "Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessings on the coming kingdom of our father David! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"

Taken from Mark 11:1-10 *Palm Sunday of the Lords Passion, 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.

The procession of palms is joyful and sad at the same time. It is the triumphant entry of the Messiah as King into his holy city. The crowds were celebrating and singing the psalm for the festival as they entered the city, not knowing that they were in fact welcoming the Messiah who ushers in the Kingship of God. Often in Mark the actors in the story do not realise the full significance of their actions, as when the Roman soldiers later mock Jesus as King, not knowing that that is what he truly is. As Christians we believe that the Kingship of God was brought to fulfilment by the death and resurrection of Jesus. The drama, which begins with this entry into Jerusalem, ends with the story of the empty tomb. John tells us that it was only afterwards, when Jesus had risen from the dead, that the disciples realised the significance of the event. The resurrection at last made sense of everything, showed everything in a new light. John also tells us that this was the humble king of the prophecy, riding not on a triumphant war-horse but on a humble donkey.

As someone watching the drama of Holy Week unfold, how will you journey with the Lord in these days?

*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 PRAISE!

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 24th March 2024**



1st Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

## The Song of the Servant

The Lord has given me a disciple's tongue. So that I may know how to reply to the wearied he provides me with speech. Each morning he wakes me to hear, to listen like a disciple. The Lord has opened my ear. For my part, I made no resistance, neither did I turn away. I offered my back to those who struck me, my cheeks to those who tore at my beard; I did not cover my face against insult and spittle. The Lord comes to my help, so that I am untouched by the insults. So, too, I set my face like flint; I know I shall not be shamed.



In the Book of Isaiah there are four songs, of which this is the third, sung by a mysterious Servant of the Lord. It is not clear who this Servant is, but he is totally dedicated to the service of the Lord, a disciple who listens devotedly. Through suffering, this Servant brings to fulfilment the salvation which the Lord intends for Israel and for the world. Jesus saw himself in terms of this Servant, and the four songs feature throughout the liturgy of Holy Week.

**As Christians we read the "I" who is the Servant as Jesus. Read the reading again slowly to help you share more deeply in the Passion of the Lord.**



2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

## Raised High through Suffering

His state was divine, yet Christ Jesus did not cling to his equality with God but emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are, and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross. But God raised him high and gave him the name which is above all other names, so that all beings in the heavens, on earth and in the underworld, should bend the knee at the name of Jesus and that every tongue should acclaim Jesus Christ as Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



This hymn was probably not written by Paul himself, but is likely to have been a very early Christian hymn taken up by Paul into his letter to the Church in Philippi. It celebrates the triumph of Jesus through his selflessness. The assertions at the end are staggering. The hymn claims for Jesus the titles and the worship which are due only to God. What is more, this acknowledgement of Jesus' authority does not detract from the glory of God, but is precisely 'to the glory of God the Father'. This is perhaps the fullest statement in Paul of the divine glory of Jesus, a glory won by his humiliation in death.

**Why is humility important? How do we follow Jesus, the humble servant?**



## The triumph of Jesus through his selflessness.



**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**



**Wednesday**  
**20<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

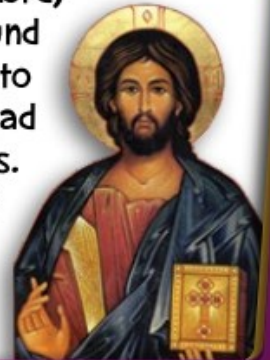


**Good News  
for Families**

**1**

## Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

When Jesus and his disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, they came to the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of his disciples into the nearby village to collect a donkey. He said to them, "If anyone stops you, tell them that it is for the Lord, and that the donkey will be returned." So the disciples set off and found the donkey. When they untied it from its post, some people said to them, "What are you doing?" The disciples answered just as Jesus had told them, and the people let the disciples take the donkey to Jesus. Then Jesus rode into Jerusalem. People were spreading their cloaks and palm branches on the road in front of him. They praised God, shouting: "Hosanna! Blessings on him who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heavens!"



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Mark 11:1-10 (Passion/Palm Sunday)

Which words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why?  
Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **PRaise**.



To colour the picture for this Sunday's Gospel, please see the back page.







**"God is full of love: to him be praise forever!"** Pope Francis

Why were the people shouting? This coming Sunday is known as Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord. It is the start of Holy Week. Palms will be handed out in Church in remembrance of the welcome and great praise that the people gave to Jesus when he entered Jerusalem. As we grow in our knowledge and love of Jesus, it's natural to want to praise God. Ask your child what the word 'praise' means to them. Ask who regularly praises them and lets them know how good they've been. How does your child feel when they receive praise? Does your child praise anyone - and why? How does your child feel when they praise someone? It may help to share an example of someone you feel deserves praise.

**"Praise God always, no matter the time of day."** St Benedict

In this Sunday's Gospel, the people praised Jesus. There are many things for which we can praise God (e.g. a loving family, good friends, caring teachers and for always having a good friend - Jesus - who loves us and never forgets us). Praising God brings happiness; it's what we were made for. How can we praise God this week? Perhaps we can: think of all the good things that we have received from God (like the beauty of nature and all creation, for our homes and for each other) and say a quiet prayer of thanks and praise; regularly pray the 'Glory Be' - a simple prayer of praise (see bottom of page).



Dear Lord Jesus, as Holy Week approaches, we thank and **praise** you for giving your life for us, so that one day we too may know the joys of heaven. Amen.



WEDNESDAY  
WORDSEARCH

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

**JERUSALEM**  
**JESUS**

**RIDING**  
**DONKEY**

**PEOPLE**  
**PRAISING**

**WAVING**  
**PALMS**

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

J	O	E	G	N	I	S	I	A	R	P	L
E	E	D	E	A	U	D	G	B	D	P	A
R	L	J	P	S	J	K	E	Y	A	R	P
L	P	A	E	P	E	R	S	M	L	A	P
O	O	J	O	R	S	K	I	E	Y	I	A
E	E	D	P	B	U	S	K	D	G	S	R
G	P	A	L	K	S	S	G	N	I	I	K
N	P	B	E	G	K	W	A	V	I	N	G
I	A	Y	E	K	N	O	D	L	W	G	G
V	L	J	E	R	U	S	A	L	E	M	E
A	M	A	B	R	I	D	I	N	G	M	D
W	S	G	D	O	N	K	E	Y	K	A	W

nubacme prucaibsd Luborcd hicmub

They \_\_\_\_\_ God, shouting: "Hosanna! Blessings on \_\_\_\_\_ who comes in the \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_!"

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

### A Great Prayer to Praise God!

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.

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....  
.....



Happy Birthday this week to...

Tadhg, Micah, Amy, Viktor, Chloe, Piper, Kayla & Andreas



### Golden Awards:

- Butterflies: Orlagh, for fantastic writing about an animal.
- Ladybirds: Bekah, for improving her concentration during phonics.
- Dragonflies: Braven, trying his best in all of his learning.
- Grasshoppers: Salem, for his amazing story plan in English.
- Hedgehogs: Olivia, for her super understanding of stewardship and showing how we can care for God's world.
- Squirrels: Millie, for displaying excellent understanding on lifecycles.
- Badgers: Rosie, for showing great enthusiasm during our D.T. topic of cooking.
- Foxes: Summer, for a great attitude towards her learning this week.
- Hares: Oliver, for his super fractions work on mixed numbers.
- Rabbits: Axel, for being a kind and caring member of the class.
- Kingfishers: Emilie, for her perseverance in maths this week.
- Robins: Evie, for her fantastic contributions to our class act of collective worship.
- Eagles: Dovydas, for working so hard with his reading comprehension - Well done.
- Owls: Grace, for excellent understanding of relative pronouns and clauses.

### Menu week 2

## Diary Dates

All clubs and boosters are 15:15 to 16:15

#### Monday 25th March

Passion of Christ (Years 4 & 5) 9:15 - 10:15

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy lunchtime

Robins swimming

Rock Steady concert 14:30

KS1 Football

#### Tuesday 26th March

Passion of Christ (Years 4 & 5) 14:00 - 15:00

#### Wednesday 27th March

Stations of the Cross (Year 6) 13:30 - 14:30

#### Thursday 28th March

Easter egg hunt

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy lunchtime

**School finishes at 13:30**

#### Friday 29th March

Good Friday

School Closed

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)

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

### House Points

**Congratulations to the winning house this week, St Andrew**