



19th April 2024



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

### Weekly Reflection

This week our Gospel focus has been Jesus coming to be with the disciples after he has met them on the road to Emmaus. They are of course overwhelmed and delighted to see him and Jesus calms their anxiousness. Jesus appears among them and offers them more reassurance, "Why are you so agitated, and why are these doubts rising in your hearts?" It is a reminder to us to put our trust in God, he knows what we need and we have only to place our faith in him and ask for his love and his help.

Jesus also appears to the disciples and says, 'Peace be with you'. As we begin this new term together let us all have peace in our hearts and our minds and show love and care for each other. This is a term that promises to be full of opportunities for outside learning and hopefully enjoying some lovely warm sunshine.

I would like to wish everyone a lovely weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*

Headteacher

### New statue of Mary

You may remember that we decided to use some of the funds that were raised last year from the sponsored walk to buy a new statue of the Virgin Mary. We have chosen a beautiful statue of Mary with the infant Jesus and she was delivered this week. We will be putting the statue in pride of place at the front of the school in time for our May procession.

### Gospel Garden

We are in the process of clearing and redesigning the old forest school area and creating an outside learning zone that all the children can access during lesson time. We hope to have this ready for the second half of the summer term and will use money that has been raised by the PTA, with your support, for resources and equipment.

### Pick up arrangements

My sincere thanks to everyone for working with us through the new pick up arrangements at the end of the day. Overall it is working well but I kindly ask that you follow the one-way system all the way around the playground, entering via the carpark gate and exiting via the pedestrian gate. If everyone could also keep to the left of the path as they enter and exit the school that will ease the congestion considerably. We are moving 500 people from one part of the school to another in 15 minutes, so do please bear with us and if everyone follows the system it will make life much easier and safer for all.

### Summer Uniform

As the weather begins to warm up we know that children are more likely to lose things such as coats, jumpers, cardigans and water bottles. It is therefore very important that everything is named so that items can be quickly reunited with their owner.

### Stanley Cups

We are seeing an increasing number of Stanley (or Stanley style) cups appearing in school. They are incredibly heavy and there is the potential for them to hurt someone if they fall on a foot or a hand. At this point I am not banning them yet, but I would discourage parents from buying them as they are very expensive and potentially a hazard.



# 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, Ladybirds achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The joint winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Hares and Robins 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	95%
Ladybirds	99%
Dragonflies	96%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	90%
Badgers	92%
Foxes	97%
Hares	98%
Rabbits	97%
Kingfishers	96%
Robins	98%
Eagles	96%
Owls	96%



## Year 1 Trip to Wyvernwood

On Thursday, Year 1 got to travel to the enchanted kingdom of Wyvernwood. They entered the kingdom through a magical portal and got to meet some very exciting characters including fairies, wizards, princesses and even unicorns! They participated in a magical quest searching for treasure for the captain! The children had a great day, and some of the children even fell asleep on the way home!







# HAPPY'S CIRCUS

IS COMING TO HOLY CROSS

5TH SEPTEMBER

ADULT TICKET £10

CHILD TICKET £8

UNDER 1'S FREE (ON THE LAP)

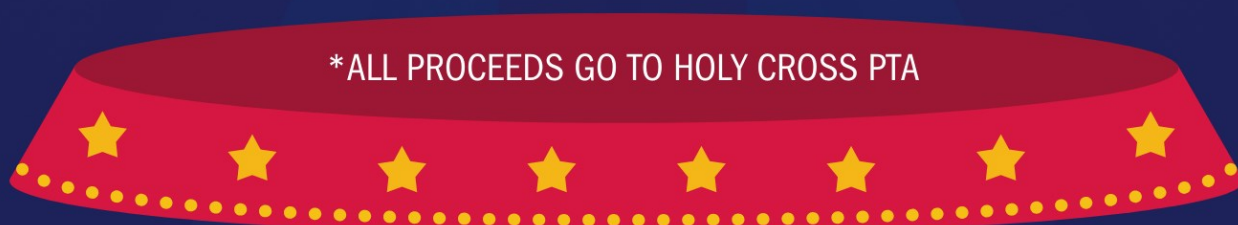
TICKETS AVAILABLE NOW \*

PURCHASE FROM SCHOOL OFFICE

JOIN US FOR LICENSED  
BAR, BBQ, POPCORN,  
SWEETS AND MORE

DOORS OPEN 4PM  
CIRCUS DOORS OPEN 5.30PM  
SHOWTIME 6PM

\*ALL PROCEEDS GO TO HOLY CROSS PTA



# ACL

## COMMUNITY & FAMILY LEARNING

### FAMILY FUN & SUPPORT SESSIONS IN HARLOW

**FREE**

**FAMILY FUN**  
May 1/2 Term

\*Funky Fingers  
\*Art Fun

#### FAMILY SUPPORT

- \*Getting children school ready
- \*Understanding children
- \*Family wellbeing
- \*You & your family's mental health
- \*SEND support
- \*English conversation & role play



SCAN ME



**SCAN / WEBSITE / PHONE  
TO SIGN UP TODAY !**

QUERIES

[aclfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk](mailto:aclfamilylearning@essex.gov.uk)



**'Family Learning'**  
[aclessex.com](http://aclessex.com)



call our friendly team on  
**0345 603 7635**



Essex County Council



GET YOUR TICKETS FOR

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

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





### Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs: Anashe  
 Foxes: Ivy  
 Rabbits: Lucas  
 Robins: Jeanette

Badgers: Jayden  
 Hares: Gracie  
 Kingfishers: Marshall  
 Owls: Olivia

## Gospel Value Awards

### Hope

optimism, newness, resilience, perseverance

"May He enlighten the eyes of your mind, so that you can see what hope His call holds for you" Ephesians 1: 3-6



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

Butterflies: Lexi  
 Dragonflies: Arthur  
 Hedgehogs: Stephanie  
 Badgers: Viktor  
 Hares: Anayah  
 Kingfishers: Aria  
 Eagles: Rhiane

Ladybirds: Ilinca  
 Grasshoppers: Arthur  
 Squirrels: Flynn  
 Foxes: Charlotte  
 Rabbits: Yannick  
 Robins: Ellis  
 Owls: Indie



Based on the gospel for Sunday 21 April, Fourth Sunday of Easter: John 10:11-18

**"Jesus said: I am the good shepherd."**

In the life of Jesus, we can get an understanding of why he used the word 'shepherd' to describe himself. He cared about people, listened to them, gave them food and drink, helped them get better when they were ill, and was willing to give up his life and die for them.

But in 2024, for most people, in the UK at least, the word 'shepherd' is more often used in connection with the word 'pie'.

An everyday word that captures all that Jesus said when he referred to himself as 'the Good Shepherd' is 'parent'. A good parent can be compared very favourably to the description of Jesus, the good shepherd. Like a shepherd, a parent is never off duty. The length is for life, the reason is for love.

CAFOD's Lent appeal this year helped fishing communities in Liberia. It reminded us of those parents caring for their families by trying to feed them not just for today, but for good. How we try to help others should be for life and for love.

God of all people,  
you have given us a reliable  
and caring guide,  
in Jesus, our good shepherd.  
May the message of his good news  
help us to hear his voice  
speaking to us today.  
May we recognise his voice  
in the cry of all those in need.  
Amen.



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

Jesus knows us and loves us. If we remain in Him, we should not fear because every cross will be transformed into resurrection, every sadness into hope, and all mourning into dancing. #Easterseason





Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday is traditionally known as 'Good Shepherd Sunday'. Jesus is the 'Good Shepherd' who can be trusted to guide our lives in the right direction.

Part of a shepherd's job is to look after the sheep, to guide them and help them to stay safe. In the Gospel below, Jesus encourages his disciples to put their trust in him; it is through trusting in Jesus that they will find security and hope.

There can be many things that trouble our hearts, but following and trusting in Jesus leads us on life's right and joyful path, freeing us from fears and worries.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from Pope Francis

"It is important to have friends we can trust. But it is essential to trust the Lord, who never lets us down. This is the key to success in life."

### THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024



Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and, as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father."

Adapted from John 10:11-18  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter, Year B

Getting to know Jesus makes life joyful.  
Learn more about this Sunday's Gospel in your local Parish Church: all are very warmly invited.

2024 The Year of Prayer: Family Time Prayer & Share ▶

Good News for Everyone

Jesus, the Good Shepherd, wants us to place our trust in him. When we trust Jesus to lead us, just as a shepherd leads his sheep, he helps us to make the right choices. Jesus fills our lives with goodness, so that we stay close to him and do not go astray.





# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



### 1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd, who is ready to die for his sheep. Anyone who is hired cannot be trusted like the shepherd. They don't own the sheep. Someone who is hired may run away when they see a wolf coming and leave the sheep. Then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep. But the shepherd does not run away. I am the good shepherd. I know each of my sheep, and they know me."

**In this Sunday's Gospel, what did Jesus call himself?**

Which word or words stood out for you in this Sunday's Gospel, and why? Spend a few relaxing moments pondering the picture together. Share any thoughts before moving on.



### Sunday Gospel Gallery

Imagine you are here with Jesus. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

### 2 SHARE & CARE! Growing in Goodness & Love: This Wednesday's Word...

"Put your trust in Jesus. He will fill your plans with meaning and joy.  
Open your hearts trustfully to Jesus!" St. Pope John Paul II

## TRUST



Ask your child what the word 'trust' means to them. Knowing who to trust is really important. A friend who can be trusted is a gift from God! Who does your child really trust and why do they trust them? Ask your child if they can think of a time when they were trusted. Perhaps you can tell your child about those people in your life whom you trust the most, and say why you trust them.



Each of you say how, in the days ahead, you can show your trust in Jesus. Perhaps, rather than worry, pray and offer any concerns to Jesus. How can we show Jesus, and others, that we are people who they can trust? Perhaps we can always try to: tell the truth; choose to do the right thing; be generous with our God-given gifts of time, talent and money; keep our promises.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, you are the Good Shepherd who guides us through life. Please help us always to place our trust in you. Amen.

## FINDING FIVE

N	N	U	R	D	A	W	H	Y	C	T	N
A	J	E	D	A	Y	A	W	S	R	D	
D	H	E	W	R	W	T	U	A	D	O	
R	G	R	S	M	A	T	R	U	O	S	O
E	I	M	H	D	E	T	U	T	R	A	G
H	W	J	E	S	J	A	S	U	S	E	J
P	O	W	P	N	U	S	T	S	R	T	D
E	B	T	H	E	R	J	G	O	O	D	R
H	I	R	E	D	A	W	O	O	D	I	M
S	R	Y	R	D	Y	J	E	S	U	S	E
J	U	S	D	A	W	A	Y	A	H	R	N
N	N	A	H	O	Y	B	W	R	U	D	N

**WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH**

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>HIRED MEN</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>RUN AWAY</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>TRUST JESUS</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>GOOD SHEPHERD</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Cross out the letters **a u f** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

**kanuowt ugotoda saheptherud stheepa**

Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_"

I know each of my \_\_\_\_\_, and they \_\_\_\_\_ me."



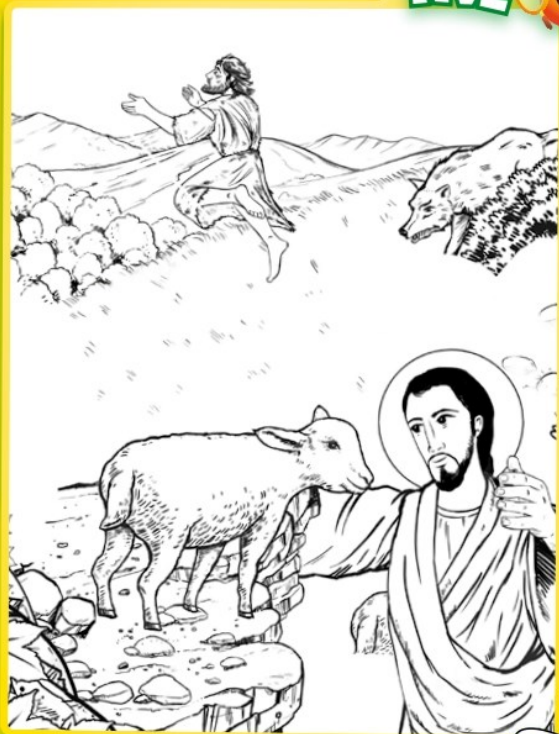
Jesus continues to be our Good Shepherd through the lives of our parents, teachers, priests and others, who show us how to live in a way that pleases God. We can be certain that we will never go wrong by trusting in Jesus.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Find and draw 5 differences, then colour the picture



# 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 21<sup>st</sup> April 2024

##### THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Jesus said, "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd is one who lays down his life for his sheep. The hired man, since he is not the shepherd and the sheep do not belong to him, abandons the sheep and runs away as soon as he sees a wolf coming, and then the wolf attacks and scatters the sheep; this is because he is only a hired man and has no concern for the sheep. I am the good shepherd; I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for my sheep. And there are other sheep I have that are not of this fold, and these I have to lead as well. They too will listen to my voice, and there will be only one flock and one shepherd. The Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me; I lay it down of my own free will, and as it is in my power to lay it down, so it is in my power to take it up again; and this is the command I have been given by my Father."

**Taken from John 10:11-18 The Fourth Sunday of Easter, 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.

Each year on this 4th Sunday of Easter there is a reading from John about the Good Shepherd. To think of ourselves as woolly and cuddly sheep, obedient to the shepherd, would be a mistake. Sheep are renowned as being silly, contradictory creatures, always starting off in the wrong direction, getting themselves into tangles and difficulties. In the Holy Land they are scraggy beasts, pastured on rocky and often dangerous ground, amid boulders and cliffs, threatened by wild animals and marauders. It was not simply a matter of the shepherd sitting on a rock and idly playing his pipe. He needed to be on the alert to save the sheep from hurting themselves. So Jesus as the good shepherd is kept well occupied by our foibles, our stubbornness, our mistakes and our fears. Again, as in this Sunday's other two readings, there is the reassurance of a close relationship with the Father. Jesus knows us intimately, just as he knows the Father. It is questionable whether in real life a shepherd should lay down his life for his sheep. What would happen to the remainder of the flock? But it is an expression of Jesus' whole-hearted devotion to the flock that he shepherds. **What is a shepherd's job with the sheep? How can Jesus act as your shepherd? Who do you think of as shepherds in your life? What do you value most in those who guide you?**

*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 TRUST!**

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 21st April 2024**



**1st Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:8-12**

## Carrying on the Life of Jesus

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Peter said, "Rulers of the people, and elders! If you are questioning us today about an act of kindness to a cripple, and asking us how he was healed, then I am glad to tell you all, and would indeed be glad to tell the whole people of Israel, that it was by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, the one you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by this name and by no other that this man is able to stand up perfectly healthy, here in your presence today. This is the stone rejected by you the builders, but which has proved to be the keystone. For of all the names in the world given to men, this is the only one by which we can be saved."



The Acts of the Apostles shows that the Church carries on the life of Jesus. Under the leadership and power of the Spirit the Church represents the Risen Christ in the world of the first century and of today. So Peter and Paul work the same sorts of miracles as Jesus did, as signs and works of power. They heal people, raise the dead, forgive sins and spread the Good News of the sovereignty of God, just as Jesus did. In less spectacular ways the life of the Church community still continues the work of Jesus. Peter explains that all this is done 'in the name of Jesus'. The name signifies the power of a person. So we are baptised in, or even into, the name of Jesus, and in this way take on his personality and his power in the Spirit. We become the company of Jesus. It is in his name or power that we hope. In the early years of the Church, Christians were known as those over whom the name of Jesus had been pronounced, that is, those who have entered under Jesus' patronage and who trust in his name.

**What does it mean to be a part of "the company of Jesus"?**



**2nd Reading: 1 John 3:1-2**

## Sharing the Heritage of Jesus

Think of the love that the Father has lavished on us, by letting us be called God's children; and that is what we are. Because the world refused to acknowledge him, therefore it does not acknowledge us. My dear people, we are already the children of God but what we are to be in the future has not yet been revealed; all we know is, that when it is revealed we shall be like him because we shall see him as he really is.



From beginning to end this first letter of John is a meditation on Christian love and its implications. The innermost motivation of all Christian activity is the awareness that we have been raised to the sonship of God and to be co-heirs of God with Jesus. This is a new sort of 'sonship', for both women and men have been raised to it, whereas in the world of the apostles only sons (not daughters) could inherit. This 'sonship' enables us to call God 'Father'. When Paul speaks of this, he uses the Aramaic word 'Abba' as a sort of talisman and guarantee that we can pray 'Father', using the same address as Jesus himself used. 'Abba' is not a children's word like 'Daddy', as has sometimes been supposed, but is the expression of a warm and responsible adult relationship. Just as Jesus' sonship to the Father consisted in doing perfectly the Father's will and being about the Father's business in his whole life, so the Christian, spurred on by this relationship, is drawn to a heartfelt obedience to God. This must be a challenge for us.

**Do we always act as children of the Father, being truly his representatives in the world, striving to bring his will to completion in all that we do?**

„...striving to bring his will to completion in all that we do.“

**The Wednesday Word** Encountering Christ: 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...

Nicole-Marie, Maya, Adele, Roman, Axel & Albie



### Golden Awards:

- Butterflies: Piper, for a fantastic recall of doubles to 10!
- Ladybirds: Marco, for great work finding the dominoes that showed doubles.
- Dragonflies: Autumn, for working so hard and taking great pride in all of her work.
- Grasshoppers: Zoe, for her excellent work in science, learning all the parts of a flower.
- Hedgehogs: Hugo, for a continued effort and positive attitude towards his maths learning.
- Squirrels: Layla, for excellent effort and contribution during our chaplaincy gardening.
- Badgers: Dominic, for always being so kind and lovely to everyone.
- Foxes: Maisie, for having a great attitude in class and being a great friend to all.
- Hares: Jalyann, for her excellent PSHE work.
- Rabbits: Priscilla, for having a great attitude in and out of the classroom.
- Kingfishers: Ire, for her fantastic R.E. work this week.
- Robins: Aniyah, for fantastic effort across all subjects
- Eagles: Hadassar, for fantastic effort in reading comprehension
- Owls: Ronnie, for trying her best during maths

### House Points

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

New menu week 2

## Diary Dates

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

#### Monday 21st April

Years 3 to 6 Chaplaincy  
lunchtime  
Hares swimming  
Years 2 & 3 Bike  
confidence club  
KS1 Drawing club  
Years 3 & 4 Fitness club  
KS2 Gardening club  
Years 3 to 5 Kwik  
cricket club

#### Tuesday 23rd April

St George's cake sale  
Non uniform—St George's  
house only  
Art club lunchtime

#### Wednesday 24th April

KS1 Environment club lunchtime  
KS1 Karate

#### Thursday 25th April

Years 1 to 2 Chaplaincy  
lunchtime  
Year 1 Maths Games club  
lunchtime  
KS2 Karate

#### Friday 26th April

KS2 Assembly 9:00  
KS1 Assembly 14:30

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read '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](http://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk)