



28th February 2025



**GOSPEL: VALUE:** Our Gospel Value for next week is Forgiveness. Please reflect on this at home with your child. .

### Weekly Reflection

In the Gospel reading this Sunday we hear Jesus remind the disciples about the need to not judge others but instead to look inward to their own faults. We can take the message from the readings this weekend and think about how we live our own lives and how we treat others. Jesus calls us to pause for a moment and reflect on what we are doing ourselves, before criticising the actions others.



It has been wonderful to welcome everyone back this week after the half term break and to begin this second half of the school year together. The sun is trying hard to shine and warm us and along the path to the playground, we are beginning to see the first signs of spring.

I would like to wish everyone a wonderful weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

### Ash Wednesday Mass

We will be marking the start of our Lenten journey this Wednesday with Ash Wednesday Mass. At the Mass all of the children will receive ashes as a small black mark on their forehead. This is a sign that we are thinking of the suffering that Jesus went through and it shows that we remember that we have Jesus close to our hearts.

### Mid-Year Reports

We will be sending out your child's mid-year school report on Monday. They will now be sent electronically as we are working hard to reduce our paper usage. Should you wish to have a printed paper copy then you are welcome to ask for one at the office. We ask that you send any feedback regarding the report via Tapestry and/ or Seesaw. At Parent Consultation meetings there will be slips available should you wish to write your response.

### Parent Consultations

Parent Consultation bookings have now closed on our system. We are very much looking forward to seeing parents and families next week at the meetings. We will be sending out an electronic, half year questionnaire next week which we would appreciate you completing so that we can gather your thoughts about our school.

### Family Mass-Save the date

We would like to invite extended family members (2 per family) to come along to a special daytime Family mass. We would like to offer grandparents, godparents, aunties, uncles the opportunity to come and celebrate Mass together with the children on Thursday 20th March at 2:00pm for Reception and Key Stage One and on Thursday 27th March for Key Stage 2 pupils. We will be sending out an electronic Forms document next for sign up, please only 2 per family to begin with and we will let you know if we have more spaces.

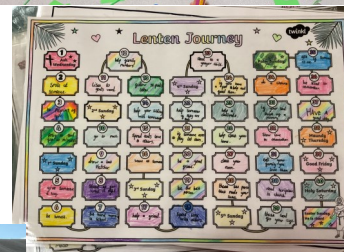
### Stations of the Cross

We would like to invite parents and families to attend the Stations of the Cross on the last day of term, Friday 4th April at 9.30am. This will be led by Year 6 pupils and we will follow afterwards with light refreshments.

### CAFOD Club

On Wednesday CAFOD club went to St Lukes along with St Albans. We shared all of our fundraising and gave them a copy of our Lenten journeys. Together we made snow drops to think about the coming of lent, we put what we will fast from and what nice things we will do on them.

The children were all very well behaved.



### Community Clean, with The Eco Council, School Council and Mini Vinnies

On Thursday some of our children and staff and parent volunteers participated in a community clean to help tidy up our grounds and the local area around the school. This helped improve our surrounding area and for the children to understand the importance of not dropping litter and how it affects our wildlife and environment.

We were amazed by how much we found in such a small area.



### Times Tables Rockstars

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

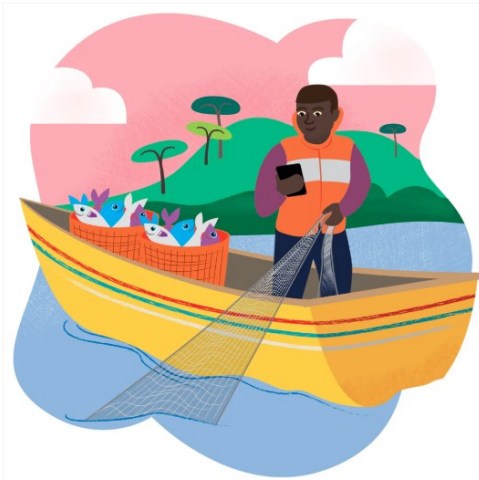
Hedgehogs:	Hudson	Squirrels:	Lucas
Hares:	Nick	Rabbits:	Tilly
Kingfishers:	Hendrix	Robins:	Harry



## CAFOD Club 'Elfridges' Christmas Sale

We raised £523 from the 'Elfridges' Christmas Sale. Thank you to everyone for their kind donations. With these funds we have bought the following

### **Safe at sea** £26.00



This fantastic gift helps fisherfolk stay safe at sea. You can make a real difference by providing essential equipment to fish safely, such as a lifejacket and GPS fish tracker. Fishing communities can fish safely and sustainably with their skills, our tools and training from local experts.



### **Group gift: Essentials for families**

£450.00

£450 can buy gifts to support families living in poverty as they battle against deep-rooted inequality to build better lives for themselves and their children.

- **Safe place to call home x2** - this gift can provide legal support to families facing homelessness to ensure that they are never without access to a safe home.
- **Water for a family x2** - this life-saving gift can provide families with a steady supply of clean, safe water for drinking, cooking and cleaning.
- **Healthy mum and baby x2** - this amazing charity gift can help pregnant mothers and newborn babies receive urgent medical treatment and provide extra food for children who are at risk of becoming malnourished.
- **Goat that gives x2** - easy to feed and care for, a goat can provide a family with up to 12 pints of milk a week, that they can either drink or sell, and their dung makes excellent fertiliser.
- **Marvellous moo cow** - a cow can provide a family with milk and manure, as well as ploughing farmland. Extra milk can be sold at market and any calves can be passed on to help another family in need.



These little wrigglers are on a mission to help vulnerable farmers around the world grow more, more and more! The worms create eco-friendly compost for the farmers to use and sell at the market.

### **Therapy through play** £20.00



Having a creative outlet for their energy can be vital to keep children feeling safe, even in the midst of conflict and war. This charity gift can pay for music, art and dance classes providing children the space to deal with their traumatic experiences and a place to relax, make friends, learn something new and have fun!



### **Precious period pads for schools**

£15.00



### ☀ Help Your Child Master Their Emotions ☀

Join our transformative Zones of Regulation sessions, designed to provide you with information to support your child to understand their emotions, & to self regulate.

#### Sign Up!

- Scan the QR code, OR
- Visit our website [acessex.com](https://acessex.com) and type the word '**Zones**' in to the '**Find a course...**' box, OR
- Click [here](#) and type the word '**Zones**'



**SCAN ME**

**COMMUNITY &  
FAMILY LEARNING**

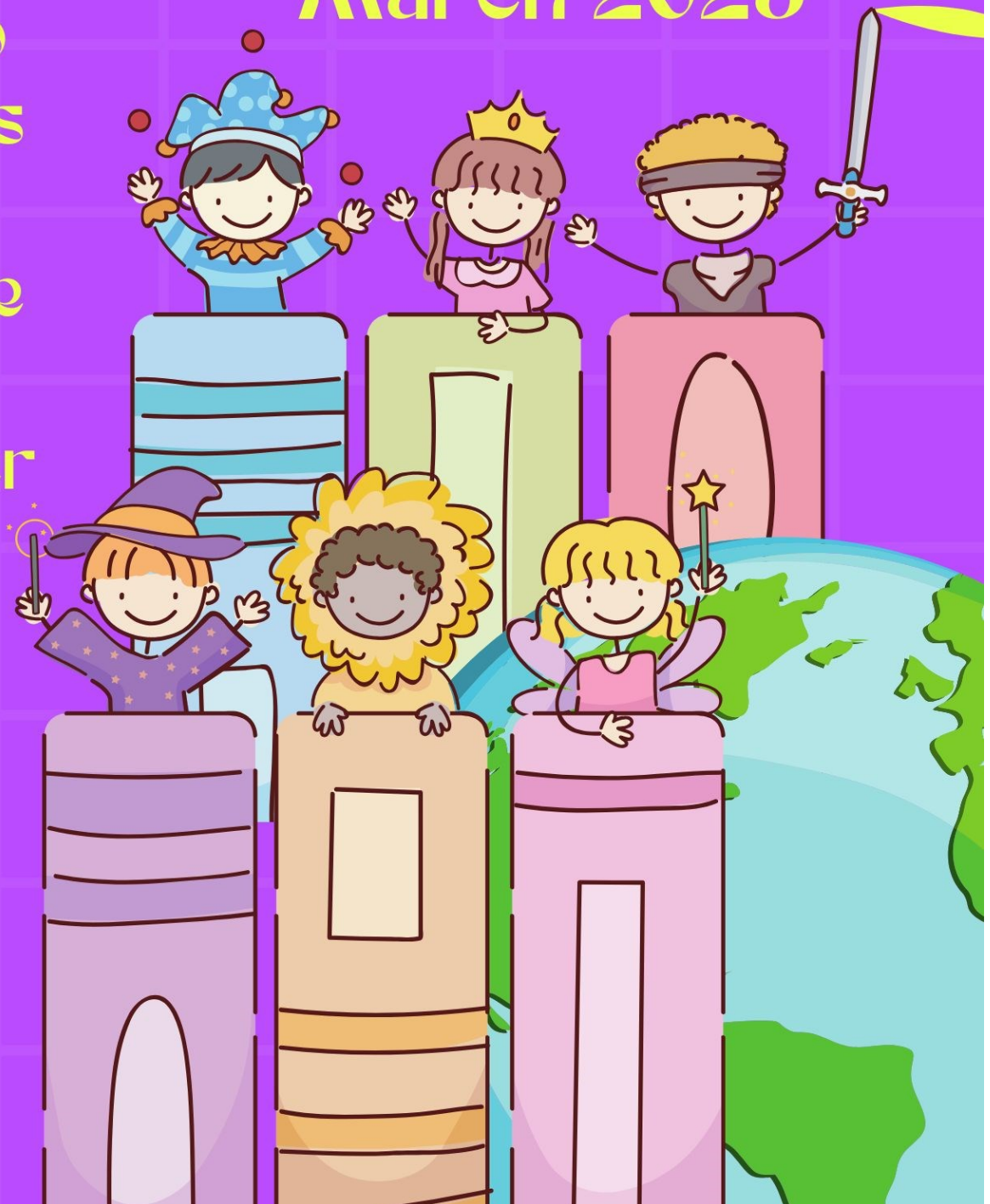


# World Book

Day

Friday 7th  
March 2025

Come to  
school as  
your  
Favourite  
book  
character



# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Hedgehogs achieving 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award, are Rabbits 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	94%
Ladybirds	95%
Dragonflies	94%
Grasshoppers	95%
Hedgehogs	99%
Squirrels	98%
Badgers	97%
Foxes	94%
Hares	93%
Rabbits	99%
Kingfishers	96%
Robins	94%
Eagles	97%
Owls	96%

## Gospel Value Awards

### Humility

trust and faith in our Lord God our Father

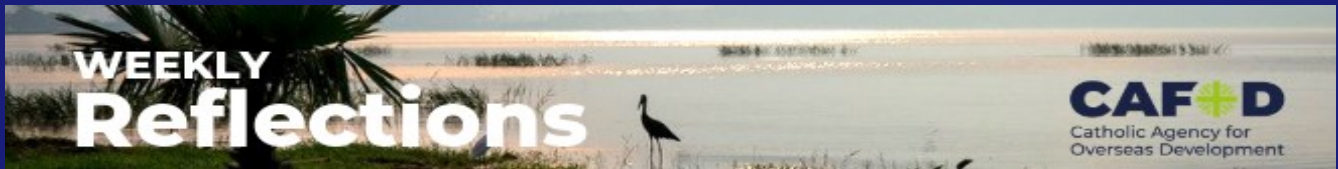
"Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour" Psalm 24:4



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

Butterflies: Archie  
Dragonflies: Zakary  
Hedgehogs: Basil  
Badgers: Grace  
Hares: Eddie  
Kingfishers: Freya  
Eagles: Ella

Ladybirds: Anna  
Grasshoppers: Reuel-Nathan  
Squirrels: Mina  
Foxes: Benjamin  
Rabbits: Maya  
Robins: Sid  
Owls: Ohemaa



Based on the gospel for Sunday 2 March, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 6: 39-45

**"Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye?"**

Hypocrisy - telling people what to do and not following the right path oneself - always resulted in a stern warning from Jesus. Often it was the Pharisees who provoked Jesus' wrath for hypocritical behaviour and condemnation of their neighbour. This time it is the disciples to whom he issues a strong warning and, in speaking to them, he speaks also to us. He condemns those who accuse others of sins that they themselves are guilty of committing.

For Jesus the heart was the centre of compassion, as it must be for us. As Pope Francis writes in his latest encyclical *Dilexit Nos*: "Living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another ... all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart." #2

We must have a heart large enough to encompass all the injustices we see around us and be prepared to do something about them. Our compassion and help must be generous and freely given. As we approach the season of Lent, may we learn to be liberal with our charity, both in judgement and practically at home and abroad, to show we truly follow the call of Jesus without counting the cost.

Give me a heart, O God, large enough to see as you see the suffering of others and to work to spread your love and compassion for all. Amen.



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

Be courageous witnesses of the love of God our Father, who wants us all to be brothers and sisters. Let us set out together to be artisans of a new era of peace, justice and fraternity.



# 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025

##### JUDGING OTHERS

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. "There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit; people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out from what fills his heart.'

**Taken from Luke 6:39-45 The Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C**

### 2

#### Reflect

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

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

Matthew gathered together the teaching of Jesus on the basic requirements of Christian morality into the Sermon on the Mount; that formed a sort of manifesto for the Kingdom of Heaven, starting with the eight Beatitudes. Luke gathers many of the same teachings into his 'Sermon on the Plain', starting with four Beatitudes. This has provided the gospel readings for the last three Sundays. Matthew, writing for Christians of Jewish origin, stressed Jesus' teaching on law, and how Jesus made it more interior and often more demanding. Luke, always aware of the needs of the poor, stresses more our social obligations. As he draws to a conclusion, he gives us two of Jesus' warnings, expressed in the vivid language and with the fierce exaggeration and wit that is so characteristic of Jesus' teachings. The first, the splinter and the log, warns us to use the same standards in judging ourselves as we use in judging others. The second, the sound and rotten fruit, is perhaps a double warning. You can judge people only by their actions. More profoundly, it is also a challenge: don't flatter yourself on your achievements until you are good through and through, until the store of goodness in your heart is really overflowing.

Is it ever helpful to point out people's faults?

*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, patience, humility, joy, forgiveness, self-control, courage, generosity, faith or something else.

### 4

#### Pray for Families

**This Wednesday's word for our school families is ACTION !**

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.**

**The Jubilee  
Year of Hope**

**Share the Prayer:** Why not forward a digital copy of this Parish Version to your friends? Also, to see a sample of your primary school's *Family Version*, visit: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org)



# WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 2nd March 2025**



## 1

**1st Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7**

### **The Test of Speech**

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the trees grow is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

.....

The wise sage of Jerusalem collected many proverbs and pithy sayings. Most of them are severely practical, as in this short reading. Here he presents us with four images of testing someone by their speech. He does not deny that there are other ways of proving a person's worth and generosity, but these four aspects of testing by speech are as clear as any. This reading is chosen to introduce the sayings of the gospel reading on discerning people by their fruits. There is no way of telling what people are, except by how they act.

In fact, the Book of Sirach is rather a favourite with Luke. He takes at least two of his sayings and transforms them into parables to illustrate two of his special emphases in Jesus' teaching. Luke is the evangelist of prayer, and a saying on a widow's earnest prayers (Sirach 35:14) illustrates the need to persevere in prayer in Luke 18:1-8 (the Parable of the Unjust Judge), and the Rich Fool (Sirach 11:19) is used to illustrate the acute dangers of hoarding wealth in Luke 12:16-21.

**Which is the most testing of the criteria in this reading?**

## 2

**2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:54-58**

### **Christ's Victory over Death**

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

.....

For most people, death is terror: the one thing certain about life is that it will end in death. For Paul, death is a triumph which he awaits eagerly, longing to be fully united with Christ and to share fully in Christ's victory. This Christian attitude, totally at variance with the views of those who do not know Christ, and with our natural human instincts, is the reason why the Church has given the last four Sundays to meditation on the transformation that will take place at Christian death. Paul is so convinced of the overwhelming power of Christ and his victory over sin that there is no hesitation: this mortal body will put on immortality. Quite how this will be is still not entirely clear: Paul says it is foolish even to ask what sort of body the dead will have. But he insists that there is continuity: the seed that dies is transformed, but 'each kind of seed has its own kind of body'; the risen person is in continuity with the person in this life. There are no conditions attached, no threat or fear of hell, being cast into outer darkness 'where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth', as in so many of Matthew's parables.

**Why does Paul never mention the word 'hell' or consider it?**

**For Paul, death is a triumph which he awaits eagerly, longing to be fully united with 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**

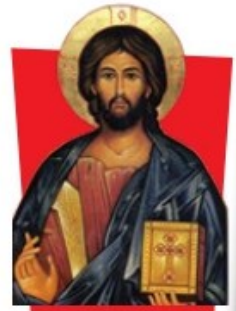


**Wednesday**  
**26<sup>th</sup> February**

**Good News for Families**  
**TOGETHER TIME** 

# **1** Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. "Why do you observe the splinter in your friend's eye and never notice the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your friend, 'Friend, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye,' when you cannot see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your friend's eye. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces. You cannot pick figs or grapes from brambles. A good person does good things out of the good stored up in their heart; a bad person does bad things out of the badness in their heart. Your words show what is in your heart."



From the Gospel of Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 Cf. Luke 6:39-45 (the 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ord Time, Year C)

Which words stood out for you in this Gospel, and why? What does the picture make you think about? Now enjoy exploring this Wednesday's word, which is **ACTION**.



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







**"We must live the faith, not only with our words,  
but with our actions."** Pope Francis

What did Jesus say 'a good person' does? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is using parables – short stories – to teach us important lessons. Just as good fruit is a sign of a good tree, so our words and actions show what is truly inside our heart. Ask your child what the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words' means to them. Tell your child about a time when someone was a really good friend or neighbour to you because of something they did. Then ask your child if they can remember a time when someone was really good to them.

**"Actions speak louder than words; let your words  
teach and your actions speak."** St Anthony of Padua

This Gospel also reminds us not to criticise others' actions but rather to look at our own actions and try to grow in goodness. Decide on some kind of action that you could take to show your love for God and others. Perhaps you can: visit a person who may need your help; try to be humble and truthful about any of your own faults; say sorry to one another for anything you have done wrong; help around the home more; offer to help out with a voluntary project; resist being quick to criticise; always try to look for the good in others; remember to be understanding, compassionate, caring and speak kindly of others.

Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be good friends to our family, our neighbours and all who we meet through our words and actions. Amen.

# WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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



**JESUS  
PARABLES**

**SPLINTER  
PLANK**

**TREE  
FRUIT**

**GOOD  
HEART**



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

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

Cross out the  
letters

**u m w**

in the 4 jumbled  
words to find  
4 real words.

thuminwgs stuwormed hemarwtu gumowod

"A \_\_\_\_\_ person does good \_\_\_\_\_ out  
of the good \_\_\_\_\_ up in their \_\_\_\_\_."

This week let's remember to keep any  
promises and to show our love in action  
by setting a good example for our friends  
– showing them good and right things.

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

Violet, Braven, Blane, Ollie,  
Raysa & Marshall



### Golden Awards

Butterflies:	Million, for writing his name beautifully.
Ladybirds:	Kenzo, for trying hard with his writing.
Dragonflies:	Eduard, for trying so hard with his phonic assessment.
Grasshoppers:	Lilah, for being an excellent role model to her peers.
Hedgehogs:	Gray, for focusing hard on editing his work.
Squirrels:	All of Squirrels, for creating excellent shape poems in English.
Badgers:	Amara, for super work on length and perimeter.
Foxes:	Georgie, for her commitment to learning in maths.
Hares:	Kiera, for a fantastic information poster on Tu Bishvat.
Rabbits:	Samuel, for being supportive, kind and caring to his peers.
Kingfishers:	Axel, for his fantastic contributions and work during Multi Faith day.
Robins:	Adaora, for her tremendous attitude to our Multi Faith day about Judaism.
Eagles:	Jeanette, for producing a fantastic Kenning poem around the character of Grimmy Nick.
Owls:	Stevie, for working hard in all subjects.

### House Points

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

### Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

**All clubs and boosters are run from 15:15 - 16:15**

#### Monday 3rd March

St David's non  
uniform only  
Robins swimming  
Boosters - All years

#### Tuesday 4th March

Parent/teacher  
consultations 9:00 - 12:00  
Boosters - Year 6

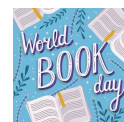
#### Wednesday 5th March

Ash Wednesday Mass 9:15  
Booster - Year 6  
Karate - Years 2 & 3

#### Thursday 6th March

Parent/teacher  
consultations 15:30 - 19:00  
Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6  
No CAFOD Club

#### Friday 8th March



World Book Day - dress as  
a book character

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)