



27th June 2025



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

Weekly Reflection.

This week we are reflecting on the feast of St Peter and St Paul, both Jesus's good and trusted friends. I have been listening to the Year 6 children practising their Leavers production (incredible singing) and one of the songs is Goodbye My Friend. It has set me thinking on the importance of friendship and being there for one another. Jesus is our good friend and he sets the perfect example of what a good friend should be. Someone who is kind and loving, supportive and understanding and forgiving and patient.

As friends, we can sometimes fall out and lose our way when people hurt us or we misunderstand something they have said or done. We pray for the blessing of friendship and having people in our lives who we can trust and rely on. We pray for our Year 6 children, who are visiting their new secondary schools. We know that Jesus will be by their side as they meet new people and form new and long-lasting friendships built in love and peace.



Wishing everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Amber Weather Warning

All children must be in the summer uniform next week as the temperatures are to remain high. Please ensure that your child has a hat (they will not be allowed outside without one), a refillable water bottle and sun cream applied at the beginning of every day. The children spend a lot of time outdoors so it is very important that they are safe in the sun.

Football at lunchtime (we will allow it at break with the current rota) will be temporarily suspended in these hot temperatures and we ask the children to sit in the shade as much as possible and not run around. Teachers have been asked not to sit their children on the playground in the hot weather when they are lining up at any point in the day.

End of Year Report

Please look out for an important email on Monday. As we did with the half year report, it will be sent out electronically to your email address. We would welcome any feedback on the report via the school office or Tapestry or Seesaw. We will not be having Parent Consultations for Years R-5 as the detail is in the reports. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher about a specific aspect of the report please contact the school office to make an appointment. We will only hold parent consultation meetings for Year 6 to discuss the SATs results and answer any questions about transition to secondary school.

Important Letter

In previous years, the children have written a comment at the end of their report. We are changing this, this year to an important letter. The idea behind this is that they can be kept as a lovely memory which then builds with your child across their years at primary school.

These will come out to you on Friday in a special envelope in your child's bag.

Proms in the Playground

Please save the date for this new event that we will be having before the end of the summer term. On Wednesday 16th July at 4:30pm our choir will be presenting Proms in the Playground from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. You are welcome to bring some food, chairs and a blanket and come and watch the children. We will have a light refreshment stall too.

Isle of Wight Information Evening for Year 5

Thank you to parents who were able to attend the meeting yesterday. A letter summarising the information will be sent out at the beginning of next week along with the Terms and Conditions.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

Preaching the message of that hope does not disappoint sometimes means swimming against the tide, even in painful situations that appear to be hopeless. Yet, it is precisely at those times when it becomes all the more apparent that our faith and hope do not come from ourselves, but from God.
#Jubilee2025

Year 2's Trip To The Seaside

We want to extend a huge thank you to all our students for making the beach day such a wonderful experience! Their excellent behaviour, enthusiasm, and teamwork turned the day into a joyful adventure full of sandcastles, games, and plenty of laughter. We also want to thank our fantastic parent helpers. Their support and help supervising and simply being there with a smile - made the day safe, smooth, and full of fun. It's moments like these that strengthen our school community and create memories that last a lifetime. We're already looking forward to our next exciting outing!



A vibrant, colorful poster for an International Food Festival. The background is white with various food-related illustrations: a pizza with toppings, a skewer of fried food, a hot dog, and several slices of citrus fruit. At the top, there are orange and yellow triangular bunting flags. The text is centered and uses bold, sans-serif fonts in black and orange. At the bottom, there are stylized illustrations of festival stalls with awnings and a red building.

International Food Festival

Friday

18th July 2025

3pm to 4.30pm

Come along and try some food from
_____ around the world. _____

If you would like to bring dishes please
let Mrs Slater or Mrs Mills know.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies and Grasshoppers achieving 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are Hares 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 Arbor 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	98%
Ladybirds	94%
Dragonflies	93%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	93%
Squirrels	94%
Badgers	91%
Foxes	94%
Hares	97%
Rabbits	95%
Kingfishers	92%
Robins	94%
Eagles	96%
Owls	92%

Gospel Value Awards

Peace

tranquillity, quiet, reflective, grateful

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" John 14:27



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

Butterflies:	Mila	Ladybirds:	Dani
Dragonflies:	Zakary	Grasshoppers:	Cameron-James
Hedgehogs:	Tharani	Squirrels:	Kweku
Badgers:	Filip	Foxes:	Jonny
Hares:	Nicole-Marie	Rabbits:	Mariella
Kingfishers:	Jacob	Robins:	Diana
Eagles:	Albert	Owls:	Ellie

HOLIDAY COURSES

Bikeability Level 1, Level 1 & 2 and 3 and Learn to ride courses

To book, please visit link
essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking
There is a £15 non-refundable booking fee

SAFER
GREENER
HEALTHIER




Essex County Council

Bikeability Summer Courses

During the summer holidays there are various levels of Bikeability courses available as well as their beginner Learn to Ride courses.

The courses are being held in the following locations:

Braintree

Colchester - Learn to Ride, Level 1, Level 1 & 2 and Level 3

Harlow - Holy Cross - Learn to Ride, Level 1, Level 1 & 2 and Level 3

Witham

Please see below the link for parents/ guardians to book Easter half-term holiday courses.

<https://essex.cycleready.co.uk/publicbooking>



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Autumn	Squirrels:	Leroy
Hares:	Hayley	Rabbits:	William
Kingfishers:	Isabella	Robins:	Livia

Police Online Safety Event

An online safety event will be taking place in partnership with Harlow library

This is open to everyone, if you would like to up your knowledge or you are a complete technophobe, come along and learn about keeping yourself and others safe online.

General online
safety

Security settings
on devices

Gaming online
safety

@ HARLOW
TOWN CENTRE
LIBRARY

Saturday
28th June
2025

from 2pm
till 4pm

And other topics
on the day.



**ESSEX
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex



Wednesday 25th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul who did great work for the Church.

Both of these men were Apostles who met with Jesus and were given authority to build Jesus' Church on earth. Jesus established his Church as a reminder of God's love for all people - that includes you and me too.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus asks the disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

Peter realises the truth about Jesus and professes his faith in Jesus as the Christ - the Son of the living God. Jesus then gives Peter the important task of leading the Church.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"The Church is called Catholic or universal because it has spread throughout the entire world, from one end of the earth to the other." St. Cyril of Jerusalem

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 29th June 2025



When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."

Adapted from Matthew 16:13-19
The Feast of Ss Peter and Paul, Year C

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

2025: The Jubilee Year of Hope!

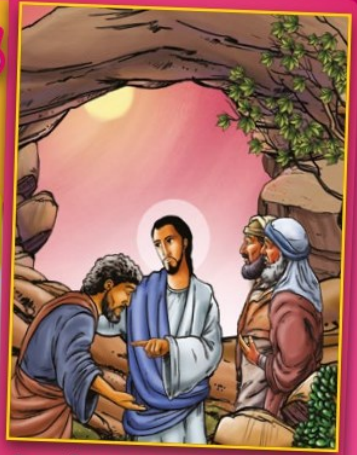
Having Hope
in our Families

If you feel that you have lost contact with the Church (or with God) or would like to find out more, then there's no better time than now to explore or refresh your faith - a warm welcome awaits you. Find out more about the Catholic Church at: cbcew.org.uk



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



Sunday Gospel Gallery

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. What can you see? How do you feel? What does it make you think about?

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

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter spoke up and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon, you are a happy man! Because this was made known to you by my Father in heaven. So from now on you will be called Peter, which means 'rock', and on this rock I will build my Church. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven."

What did Jesus say he would build?

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.

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

"Dear brothers and sisters, the Church is a family where we love and are loved." *Pope Francis*

CHURCH



Ask your child what the word 'church' means to them. The word 'Church' is the name given to the community of Christian believers. The word 'Catholic' means 'universal' - the Church is for everyone. 'Church' can also be used to name the building where we meet to worship God together. Each of you share a memorable experience that you have had of Church (perhaps attending: a Wedding, a Baptism, Holy Communion or something else).



A church building is a holy place, where many people can meet and experience the peace within. Each of you say what you think attracts people to Church. Perhaps it is: the community; worshipping and hearing God's Word; the stillness and silence; being strengthened spiritually; Holy Communion; something else? Come along together to meet and greet your church family this Sunday and celebrate this great feast together. All are warmly invited.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for establishing the Church to support, strengthen and guide us as we journey through life together. Amen.

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	JESUS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	SON	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	PETER	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ROCK	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	BUILD	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHURCH	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	KEYS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	HEAVEN	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

Cross out the letters **a m s** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

busilmad Cahurmchs Paseterm sromcak

You will be called _____, which means 'rock', and on this _____ I will _____ my _____."



This Sunday, we celebrate the feast of St Peter and St Paul. Each year, Missio, one the Pope's official charities, helps us to celebrate this special feast day through their 'Day of Many Colours'. More at: missiontogether.org.uk

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Wednesday 25th June 2025

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 29th June 2025

PETER THE ROCK

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi he put this question to his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say he is John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." "But you," he said, "who do you say I am?" Then Simon Peter spoke up, "You are the Christ," he said, "the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven."

Taken from Matthew 16:13-19 The Feast of Saint Peter and Saint Paul

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.

This is one of the very rare saints-days to displace the Sunday celebration of the Resurrection of the Lord, which shows its importance. In a way it is still a Feast of the Lord, for it is the feast of the Church. Peter is to be the Rock foundation of Jesus' own people, for that is what we are. Christ has called us together as his own people, and he has promised that he will always be present in this Church, 'when two or three are gathered together in my name'. So Christ is present even in an ordinary household trying to live together with Christ at their centre. Here Jesus makes the promise to Peter that what he binds on earth will be bound in heaven; his decisions will hold firm in the eyes of God. Later Jesus makes the same promise to the community itself. So Peter is the spokesman for the Christian community, voicing the decisions of the Church. At his last meeting with his disciples the risen Christ promises to be with them 'till the end of the ages'; the bishops, as the successors of the apostles, are the channels of Christ's presence among us now. So today is the celebration of Christ among us, his people. **How do you celebrate day by day this wonderful presence of Christ in our midst?**

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 CHURCH!

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

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS †

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of **Sunday 29th June 2025**



1st Reading: Acts 12:1-11

Peter's Narrow Escape

King Herod started persecuting certain members of the Church. He beheaded James the brother of John, and when he saw that this pleased the Jews he decided to arrest Peter as well. This was during the days of Unleavened Bread, and he put Peter in prison, assigning four squads of four soldiers each to guard him in turns. Herod meant to try Peter in public after the end of Passover week. All the time Peter was under guard the Church prayed to God for him unremittently. On the night before Herod was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with double chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. Then suddenly the angel of the Lord stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. "Get up!" he said "Hurry!" - and the chains fell from his hands. The angel then said, "Put on your belt and sandals." After he had done this, the angel next said, "Wrap your cloak round you and follow me." Peter followed him, but had no idea that what the angel did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. They passed through two guard posts one after the other, and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the angel left him. It was only then that Peter came to himself. "Now I know it is all true," he said. "The Lord really did send his angel and has saved me from Herod and from all that the Jewish people were so certain would happen to me."



This story is delightfully told: Peter is like a sleepy child, woken in the middle of the night. There are perhaps too many escapes from prison in the Book of Acts; Luke obviously enjoys this kind of story, and so would his audience. However, such narratives demonstrate the special protection which God exercises over the infant Church. Once James, the leader of the Jerusalem Church, had been executed, if Peter had gone too, the community would have been dangerously bereft. The presence of the angel signifies this special protection and divine intervention to ensure the continuance of the Church. Peter has already been leading the Church (he has introduced the centurion Cornelius, the first gentile convert) and he still has to take a leading part at the Council of Jerusalem, thereby ensuring the liberty of gentile Christians from observance of the full Jewish Law. After that Peter disappears from the scene. The tradition is strong that he was martyred in Rome, but we do not know where his apostolic role took him. Paul tells us that, while he himself was entrusted with the mission to the gentiles, Peter was entrusted with the mission to the Jews. The Jewish Christians were an important group among the first generations of Christians.

What do stories like this in the Acts of the Apostles tell us about the special place Peter occupied in the early Church?



2nd Reading: 2 Timothy 4:6-8. 17-18

Paul in the Evening of his Life

My life is already being poured away as a libation, and the time has come for me to be gone. I have fought the good fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; all there is to come now is the crown of righteousness reserved for me, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his Appearing. The Lord stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the whole message might be proclaimed for all the pagans to hear; and so I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from all evil attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.



The Second Letter to Timothy was probably written in Paul's name, rather than being directly authored by him. As Paul frequently does, this passage uses the images of sport, so popular in the ancient world: the arena, the race-track and the winner's crown. Paul gives full expression to his consciousness of the Lord's power to save, and also to his longing for the completion of his own life in the Lord, balanced (as always) by his eagerness to do the Lord's work in his mission here and now. This longing is at the heart of every Christian. Despite a human fear of death, we know that in the end we will be welcomed into the Lord's embrace. The early Christians saw this 'Appearing' of the Lord in terms of a royal procession in the clouds, signalling the end of the world, but what we look forward to is not so much the dissolution of the universe but to a personal meeting with the Lord. This meeting will be awesome and daunting because we will be brought face to face with ourselves and see ourselves as we truly are - including all those faults and failures which we refuse to admit even to ourselves, yet conscious of the overwhelming comfort of forgiveness in the divine love.

What will it be like at the Lord's 'Appearing'? Is it something for which you too long?

« We will be welcomed into the Lord's embrace. »

The Wednesday Word Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God

**The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph**

Happy Birthday this week to...

Medeina, Kaleb, Hartley,
Elizabeth, Ireoluwa & Erin



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Alan, for fantastic sportsmanship and participation in all of Sports week.
Ladybirds: Adem, for great participation in Sports day.
Dragonflies: Marco, for great participation in Sports day.
Grasshoppers: Reuel, for excellent participation in Sports week.
Hedgehogs: Tobi, for excellent effort and sportsmanship during Sports week.
Squirrels: Alexander, for trying hard in his learning.
Badgers: Edie, for excellent effort on Sports day.
Foxes: Memphis, for modelling excellent 'sportsmanship'.
Hares: Enoch, for working hard in all lessons.
Rabbits: Ivy, for showing great sportswomanship in Sports week.
Kingfishers: Anayah, for showing fantastic sportswomanship during Sports week.
Robins: Jaden, for his amazing attitude in Sports week.
Eagles: Ellis, for super effort and great sportsmanship during Sports week.
Owls: Zion, for great effort and enthusiasm at Sports Day.
Middy: Zakary, for his exemplary behaviour and manners at lunchtime.

House Points

Congratulations to the winning
house this week, St Patrick's

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

Clubs and boosters are run from 15:15 - 16:15

Monday 30th June

Rabbits swimming

Year 3 & 4 Outdoor games club

Y 1 Phonics booster

Y1 Forest club

Football club

Y1 & 2 Multi-sports club

Tuesday 1st July

Year 1 reading zone - 9:00

Year 6 production - 14:00

Wednesday 2nd July

Year 1 reading zone - 14:45 - 15:00

Strike football club 15:15 - 16:30

Rock Steady concert - 14:15

Year 6 production - 18:00

Thursday 23rd July

Year 1 reading zone - 9:00

CAFOD - Years 4 to 6

Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Year 2 Forest club

Strike football club 15:15 - 16:30

Friday 4th July

KS2 Celebration assembly 9:00

Year 5 Greek day

KS1 Celebration 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