



12th September 2025



# Newsletter

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

## Weekly Reflection.

We have been reflecting on the importance of being together as a school family as we complete our first full week of the new school year.

It was wonderful to be together for our first Mass of the school year this afternoon, celebrating the Feast of Holy Cross. They sang beautifully and the Year 6 children who were readers, read with clarity and confidence. Well done to everyone.



Have a wonderful weekend

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

## Clubs

Clubs will be starting on Monday 29th September and details will be sent out today. Mrs Slater will then send notifications out if your child has applied to do a club and has a place; please don't assume they have the place until it is confirmed. Remember that if your child is signing up for a club for the whole term that they must come to each session.

## Morning Drop Off and Afternoon Pick Up

We ask that parents (especially Reception parents) line up in the morning behind the cones. This ensures that the children have a clear pathway through to the school at the start of the day. At the end of the day we ask that Reception parents wait behind the line on the playground, for your child to be sent to you, by the class teacher.

## Parking

Disappointingly we have already had already had phone calls from our neighbours about parking. Please see the additional letter Mrs Kerrell is sending today with regard to the parking situation.



## **Healthy Snack**

As parents and Carers know, we have a healthy snack policy at Holy Cross. Children may bring fruit and or vegetables to school for their snack and we would encourage parents to get reluctant fruit or vegetable eaters to enjoy these foods at home. This is in line with the Essex Healthy Schools guidance. If your child does not have the correct snack they may be hungry in the middle of the morning.

## **Uniform**

It has been good to see the children looking very smart in their school uniforms this week. Please remember that if your child is wearing the winter uniform and has a shirt or blouse that they must wear a tie. Hair accessories must be Holy Cross colours only, not pink, blue, purple or orange etc.

Earrings and jewellery are not permitted and if your child is wearing clear, flat plastic spacers, they must be removed for PE.

It is very important that your child now comes to school with a waterproof coat, as we have had a few end of day collections when it has been raining.

## **Important roles in school**

Well done to the children who have put themselves forward for all of the different roles in school including: House Captains, Sports Captains, Mini Vinnies, Play Leaders, Peer Mediators, School Councillors, Eco Councillors, Chaplains and Cafod Club.

It is brilliant to see so many children involved and active in so many aspects of our Catholic school life and I am very proud of all of these children. The children will be presented with their badges next week and we hope they will wear them with pride.

## **Year 6 Prefects**

All of our Year 6 pupils are being considered this half term for the role of PREFECT at Holy Cross. It is important that our Year 6 pupils are the shining examples to the younger pupils and love out our Gospel Values in all aspects of school life. We hope to be able to award them all with their special badge in a special assembly before Half Term on Friday 17th October (save the date). Year 6 parents are warmly invited to attend.

## **Celebration Assembly**

We will have our first Celebration Assemblies of the year next Friday. Please look out for an Arbor In App message to let you know if your child is receiving an award.

## **Secondary School Applications for September 2026**

The new secondary school admissions opened today, for parents of current Year 6 children to apply for a secondary school (Year 7) place for September 2026.

The closing date for applications is 31 October 2025. Any applications made after this date will be treated as late applications and will only be allocated once all other applications have been processed.

Applications can be made online via [www.essex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.essex.gov.uk/admissions).

Parents applying for St Mark's must also complete and return the gold Supplementary Information Form. This is in the pack sent home earlier this week, following Year 6's visit to St Mark's.

## Year 6 visit to St Marks

On Monday, 8th September, Year 6 embarked on an exciting taster morning at St Mark's. During this immersive experience, we participated in a series of lessons designed to provide a glimpse into the vibrant life of secondary school.

To commence our day, we embarked on a guided tour of the school grounds, which was both enlightening and engaging. We then had an opportunity to take part in a variety of lessons. Eagles class delved into a History lesson, where they explored the intricate concept of timelines, before moving to a PE lesson where they practised their skills in playing table tennis.

Meanwhile, the Owls class enjoyed an English lesson focused on the whimsical world of nonsense poems, followed by a Music lesson, where they learned to play African drums.

We concluded our morning with a delightful lunch in the bustling canteen. The children thoroughly enjoyed their day, relishing the opportunity to reconnect with many of our former pupils.



## Food Bank

The school food bank is looking very sparse following the Summer holiday. We would appreciate any donations you are able to make.

Please leave anything you are able to donate in the box in reception.

# 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)

# BOYS FOOTBALL TRIALS

## YEAR 5 & 6



**Think you've got the skills?  
Come and show us what you  
can do on the pitch!**

**Date: Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
12-1pm**

**Where? - School field**

**With? - Mr Clarke & Miss Cargill**



**We are looking for...**

- Team players
- Enthusiasm & effort -
- Determination to improve





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# Setting Boundaries Online Course

Empower your parenting journey with our 'Setting Boundaries' course. Learn the importance of clear, consistent limits and how they contribute to a child's sense of security and well-being.

**Date: 16/09/2025 to 23/09/2025**  
**(more dates available online)**

**Time: 10:00am - 12:00pm**

Scan the QR code, or  
Visit our website [acessex.com](https://acessex.com)  
and type "BOUNDARIES" in  
the 'Find a course..' box



[acessex.com](https://acessex.com)

0345 603 7635



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# Managing Big Emotions Online Course

Develop an understanding of emotional expression and how to manage big emotions in young people.

**Dates:** 30/10/25 19:00-21:00, 25/11/25 13:00 - 15:00  
more dates available online

Scan the QR code, or  
Visit our website  
[aclessex.com](https://aclessex.com) and type  
"BIG EMOTIONS" in the  
'Find a course...' box



**aclessex.com**

**0345 603 7635**



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# Positive Parenting Online Course

This course is designed to support you to understand your children and provide parenting support. It covers boundaries, communication skills, understanding feelings and emotions and most importantly how to have fun as a family.

**Date** - 11 September to 16 October 2025  
**more dates available online**

**Time:** 12:45am - 15:15pm



Scan the QR code, or  
Visit our website  
[aclessex.com](https://aclessex.com) and type  
'POSITIVE PARENTING' in the  
'Search Courses...' box



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## Support your Child Attend and Enjoy School

This adults only course, will provide time for you to share experiences and learn tips and ideas to help **SECONDARY** children to attend and enjoy school.



**ONLINE**

**Date:** Dates available

**Time:** Please check on website

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://aclessex.com) and type 'SUPPORT SCHOOL CHILD' in to the 'Find a course...' box



**[aclessex.com](https://aclessex.com)**

**0345 603 7635**



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# Understand Anxiety for SEND Children Online Course

Looking at anxiety, the causes of anxiety and how to support your child or young person.

**Date:** Various - check website

**Time:** check website

Scan the QR code, or Visit our website [aclessex.com](https://aclessex.com) and type 'UNDERSTAND ANXIETY' in the 'Find a course...' box



[aclessex.com](https://aclessex.com)

0345 603 7635



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# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Dragonflies achieving a fantastic **100%** attendance. Well done! The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Foxes, also attaining **100%** 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 **8.55am**.

**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.

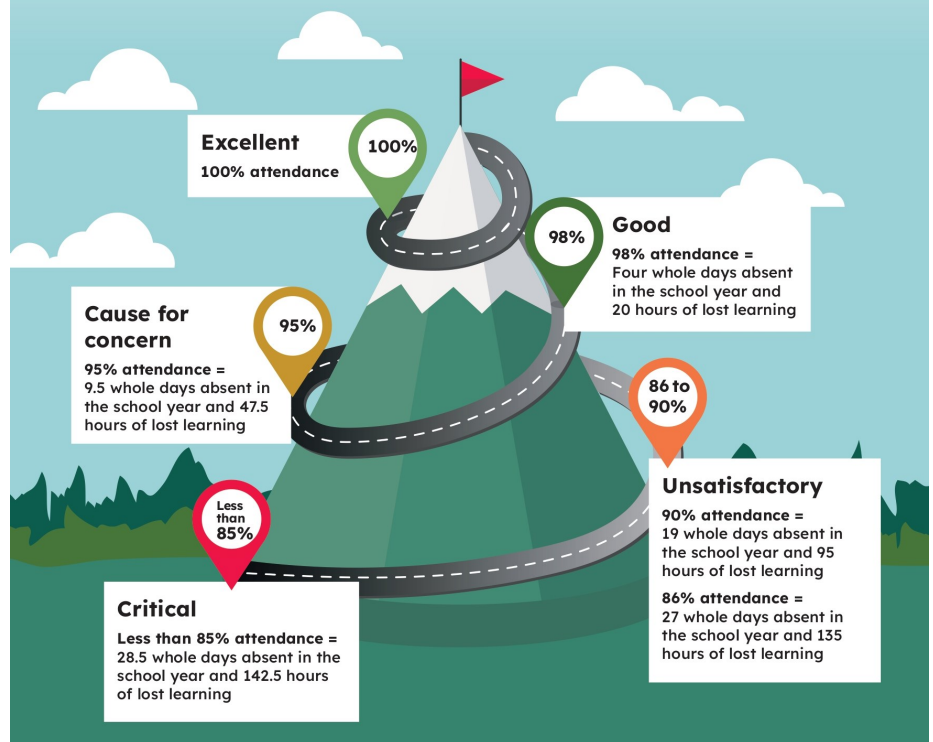
Parents of children below attendance targets will be invited in for a meeting with the Educational Welfare Officer.

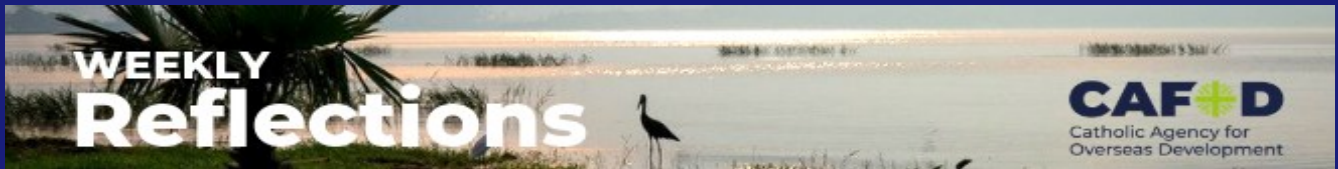
Your child's attendance is available for you to view on Arbor. Compare it to the image right, to see how many hours of lost learning it equates to over the academic year.

Butterflies	95%
Ladybirds	98%
Dragonflies	<b>100%</b>
Grasshoppers	94%
Hedgehogs	96%
Squirrels	98%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	<b>100%</b>
Hares	95%
Rabbits	97%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	98%
Eagles	97%
Owls	98%

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Education

## Where does your child sit on the attendance mountain?





Based on the gospel for Sunday 14 September, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross: John 3:13-17

**"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up."**

This Sunday, on the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, we ponder an unsettling mystery: the cross of Christ.

The Gospel refers back to the Old Testament reading. The ancient Israelites in the wilderness are afflicted by poisonous snakes. Those who are bitten must gaze upon a bronze snake for healing. At his crucifixion, Jesus is lifted up for all to see, like the bronze snake. How can gazing upon a scene of such horror be healing?

On the one hand, the cross can console, revealing that Jesus remains with us, whatever 'poisonous snakes' surround us. On the other hand, the cross exposes a violence at the heart of our political systems and cultures that we cannot unsee. Jesus is the scapegoat, an innocent victim sacrificed to 'keep the peace' with the occupying power.

Being branded with the sign of the cross, we are emboldened to confront violence, not with violence, but, in Pope Leo XIV's words, with the "unarmed and disarming peace" of the risen Christ.

#### Prayer

Prince of Peace,  
by your Holy Cross you disarmed  
the powers of this world.  
In the midst of violence,  
may we find shelter in your open arms  
and share your peace with others.  
Amen.



### The Words of Pope Leo XIV

Care for creation is a true vocation for every human being. Our commitment must be carried out within creation itself, never forgetting that we are creatures among creatures, not the Creator. #SeasonOfCreation



**Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025**  
 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Year C — John 3:13-17

**Relax**

Make the Sign of the Cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. Then read the Gospel — preferably aloud and slowly — paying attention to any words that stand out to you.



**Read**

**This Sunday's Gospel : THE SON OF MAN MUST BE LIFTED UP**



Jesus said to Nicodemus: 'No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven, the Son of Man who is in heaven; and the Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved.'

**Did any words or phrases stand out to you in the Gospel? If so, take a few moments to meditate on them.**

**Reflect**

Now read the Gospel again and consider what the Lord might be saying to you, or asking of you, through it. Then continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection...



In this gospel-reading we are listening-in to a conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee who came to Jesus by night (presumably because he did not want his colleagues to know. Do you mind your colleagues knowing that you are a Christian?). Jesus is talking about an incident during the Exodus journey described in our first reading today, when the Israelites were struck by a plague of snakes. Moses hoisted a bronze snake on a pole as a recovery-totem. It sounds superstitious, but presumably to depend on this "totem" was an expression of trust in God. Jesus now says that this snake is to be seen as a promise of the salvation to be won by trusting in his Cross. The Cross remains our sign of victory. To wear it and welcome it is, in our increasingly material world, a statement of where our heart and our confidence lies. However, the Cross is not complete in itself. Some people find it 'morbid' or 'morose', but to Christians it contains also the victory and reassurance of the Resurrection. The Cross makes sense not by the crumpled figure on the wood, but by God's acceptance of that obedience. The triumph of the resurrection is too glorious to be represented by anything visible.

**What place do representations of Christ raised on the cross have in your own life and home?**

**Rest**

Now call to mind the Lord's love for you, remembering that through this scripture the Lord is truly present. Then silently and prayerfully listen for God's voice and rest in God's love.



**Respond  
&  
Request**

Thank God for any insight you may have received, and respond by asking the Holy Spirit to bless you with a spiritual gift or help you to grow in a particular fruit of the Spirit.

*You might pray for wisdom, courage, faithfulness, self-control, patience, generosity, joy, kindness, love, peace, faith, chastity - or another grace - to help you live out your faith this week.*



**Remember**

This Wednesday's word for our families is **SELF-GIVING!**  
 (To see the Family Version, please visit: [wednesdayword.org](http://wednesdayword.org))



**As you pray for your loved ones, please remember to pray for the Church and for the families connected to our schools.**

*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.*



### First Reading: *A Sign of Healing*



#### Numbers 21:4-9

On the way through the wilderness, the Israelites lost patience. They spoke against God and against Moses, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt to die in this wilderness? For there is neither bread nor water here; we are sick of this unsatisfying food.' At this God sent fiery serpents among the people; their bite brought death to many in Israel. The people came and said to Moses, 'We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you. Intercede for us with the Lord to save us from these serpents.' Moses interceded for the people, and the Lord answered him, 'Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live.' So Moses fashioned a bronze serpent which he put on a standard, and if anyone was bitten by a serpent, he looked at the bronze serpent and lived.

This story about a bronze snake may well explain a bronze snake which was long kept in the Temple at Jerusalem as a reminder of God's healing power, which lasts from age to age. Eventually, in a purge of dubious objects of veneration, the reforming king Hezekiah decided that the snake was idolatrous, and destroyed it. One still sometimes sees a snake curled round a stake as a medical sign, a promise of healing. The Church sees that healing sign as a preparation for the great healing sign of the Cross. During Lent and Passiontide we remember the Cross chiefly for the suffering of Christ. Now, months later, we can celebrate the triumph of its healing power and the triumph of Christ's victory. Today's Feast originates in the victory of the Christian emperor Heraclius, when he won back from the pagan Persians a great relic of the Cross which they had taken from Jerusalem. The crucifixes which hang in our homes must be seen as symbols not only of Christ's suffering, but above all of his triumph over death.

**How should Jesus be represented on the Cross, in triumph or in suffering?**



### Second Reading: *God Raised him High*



#### Philippians 2:6-11

The state of Jesus Christ was divine, yet he 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 lovely reading seems to be a very early Christian hymn which Paul had heard and incorporated into his letter. It contrasts the first Adam with the second Adam, Jesus Christ. The first Adam, the representative of the whole human race, tried to be like God;*

*he wanted to escape death but he was disobedient and was humiliated. The second Adam, the founder of the new humanity and first-fruits from the dead, was in the form of God, but did not capitalize on his divinity. In full obedience to the Father he accepted death, a humiliating death, and was raised up by the Father. The last lines give one of the fullest pictures of Christ's divinity in Paul's writings: Christ receives the divine name, the Lord, which belongs to God alone. To Christ every knee must bend, as it must bend only to God. And yet, this does not take away from God's glory, since – on the contrary – it is 'to the glory of God the Father'. Paul never actually calls Christ 'God', but here he shows Christ's divinity, by attributing to him the reverence and adoration which is due only to God.*

**Do you find this poem an attractive prayer for devotion? Why?**

“ Christ receives the divine name, ”  
the Lord, which belongs to God alone.

**The Wednesday Word: Connecting Home, School and Parish through the Word of God**



Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to you and to your family as we begin this new school year.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we read that God loves us so much that he gave his only Son for us. Jesus' great act of love, of self-giving, on the cross, has paved the way for people to share in the true richness of God's joy and love in this life, and also in the life to come.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2025

God wants us to try to live like Jesus, to be 'self-giving', which is the opposite of being 'selfish'. To be 'self-giving' is to be very aware of others' needs or interests, and to put others' needs before our own.

Enjoy hearing your child's thoughts about this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **SELF-GIVING**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

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

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2025



Jesus said to Nicodemus: "No one has gone up to heaven except the one who came down from heaven - that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved."

Adapted from John 3:13-17  
The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

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

It is self-giving which makes people truly great, warmly remembered and deeply loved. The happiest people on earth are actually those who are self-giving and serve others. So enjoy your week together - bring peace and joy into your home and community by sharing God's love, through your self-giving.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus said to Nicodemus (who was a teacher of the law), "No one has gone up into heaven except the one who came down from heaven - that is, the Son of Man. God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may have everlasting life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world; he sent him to save the world."

**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?

#### Why did God send his Son into the world?

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...

"It is in giving that we receive."

*St Francis of Assisi*

## SELF-GIVING



Ask your child what 'self-giving' means to them. Who are the most self-giving people that they know? In what ways are those people self-giving? Ask your child if they can remember the last time when they shared their sweets, their time, their toys, or gave something up to help make someone else happy. It may help your child if you can talk about someone you know to be self-giving, and say why.

How can we be self-giving, even in little ways, at home, at school or in the community? Perhaps we can: offer to help out at school or around the house before we're asked; be polite and let others go first; take time to offer praise where we can; be first to reach out and make friends again after an argument; give some of our leisure time to be with God in prayer; pray for someone in need.

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

### FINDING THREE

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

### WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- GOD LOVES
- GAVE JESUS
- SAVE WORLD
- ETERNAL LIFE

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

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

guaviek Skouni kloviedu woukriid

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

We prove our love by our actions. It's our self-giving which helps to make the world a much better place. To truly follow Jesus we must be kind and self-giving.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley

Happy Birthday this week to...

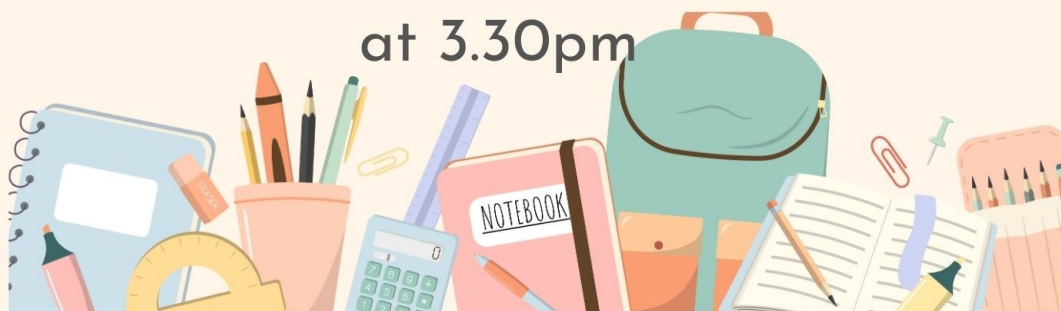
Sofia, Gracie, Ksawery, Jacob,  
Dominic, Abigail, Hudson, Jax,  
Nellie & Phoebe



# Come and meet your childs teacher

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September and  
Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September

at 3.30pm



## Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

### Monday 15th September

Badgers swimming

\* Drama club

### Tuesday 16th September

Meet the teacher 3.30 pm  
Years 1 to 6

\* Multisports club

\* Dance club

### Wednesday 17th September

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 2 & 3

### Thursday 18th September

Meet the teacher 3.30 pm  
Years 1 to 6

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

\* External club, fees apply

### Wednesday 19th September

Celebration assembly 2 pm

\* Musical Theatre club

### House Points

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

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell