



14th November 2025



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

We hear the words of the Gospel this coming Sunday and Jesus reminds us of the importance of having hope in struggle, 'We are reminded that faith isn't about having an easy path'. Jesus doesn't promise us a life without struggle, but he does promise that if we keep going and if we remain faithful, we will find new life with him. Many of us face struggles and worries, it might be an illness of ourselves or a family member, it might be a financial struggle, a bereavement or split in our family. We can feel lost and alone, but Jesus tells us that he is with us we just have to have faith and trust in Him. When we pray God's ear is next to our lips.



I wish everyone a wonderful weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

Family Mass

All of our families and pupils are welcome to join us for our Family Mass tomorrow evening in the church at 5:30pm. I would appreciate the children coming along in their school uniform and they are welcome to come and sit with me and Mrs Mills at the front of the church. It will be lovely to celebrate Mass with St Lukes and our Parish Family.

Uniform

It was good to see all the children looking so smart this week for their photographs, your support with maintaining this high standard of uniform is appreciated.

Cold Weather

It has been unseasonably mild this week but the forecast is for the temperature to drop. Please make sure that your child has a warm coat to wear to school and a hat, and gloves. Please make sure that all items are labelled.

Lost Property

The amount of lost property is growing! Please check in the box in the entrance hall if your child has lost any items. We will be sorting through it this week and any unclaimed and unnamed items will be given to the second-hand uniform shop or donated to the clothing bin.

Christmas

The season of Advent is just around the corner! Mrs Slater and Mrs Gallagher are busy with arrangements for the Christmas period and it is going to be wonderful in school! It is exciting that we will have a Christmas Extravaganza this year and we are already recruiting helpers for the event. Please let Mrs Gallagher or Mrs Slater know if you can help even for a short time. I am interviewing for 2 Elves (not on a shelf) to help Santa in his Grotto. We already have 2 very keen candidates-watch this space!

Reception - September 2026 Applications

Applications are now open for parents to apply for a Reception school place for the September 2026 academic year.

The closing date for applications is **15 January 2026**.

Applications can be made online via www.essex.gov.uk/admissions and by completing a Supplementary Information Form (available from the school office).

All of the application information is available on the website above.

Pilgrims of Hope Celebration

Next Friday, there will not be any awards, as we will have a special assembly to mark the end of the Jubilee year. Parents are welcome to attend, if they wish.

Grapes

If you are sending grapes in, with a packed lunch or for snack, they must be cut lengthways.

Grapes are a significant choking hazard if they are uncut or cut widthways.



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Zakary	Squirrels:	
Badgers:	Jacob	Foxes:	Nihin
Hares:	Jemimah	Rabbits:	Jan
Kingfishers:	Maya	Robins:	Medeina
Eagles:	Erin	Owls:	Filip



NOVEMBER 11TH 2025

MY REMEMBRANCE DAY POEM

As we come together for 2 minutes silence,
We remember the soldiers who suffered such violence,
For using guns and bombs, grenades and tanks,
We come together to give our thanks.
Thank you for keeping our country well,
When I wear my poppy my heart will swell,
For all who gave their lives away,
That is why we remember today.
Red and black, purple and white,
A poppy in memory of the soldiers fight,
We hope for love and peace for all,
As I stand for two minutes,
with the rest of the school.

by Keaton Peters



Football Tournament

What a fantastic day of football! Last Friday morning our Year 3 and 4 children, and in the afternoon our Year 2 team, took part in a tournament with around 20 other schools. Across eight matches, Holy Cross came away with six brilliant wins, one draw and just one loss – an amazing effort all round.

The teamwork, communication and encouragement on display were outstanding. The children played with real determination and joy, celebrating every goal and supporting each other no matter the result. Our biggest win of the day was an incredible 6-0 – but the real highlight was the way they represented Holy Cross with such pride and positivity.

It has been a joy to watch our young footballers grow in confidence and skill. The future of Holy Cross football is definitely in safe hands!



MONDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2025
AT 3PM

Jolly Christmas Jumper sale

The Eco Council will be having a
PRE LOVED CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE.
Any Christmas jumpers that you no longer
need please bring them into school.





HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC
PRIMARY ACADEMY


CHRISTMAS EXTRAVAGANZA

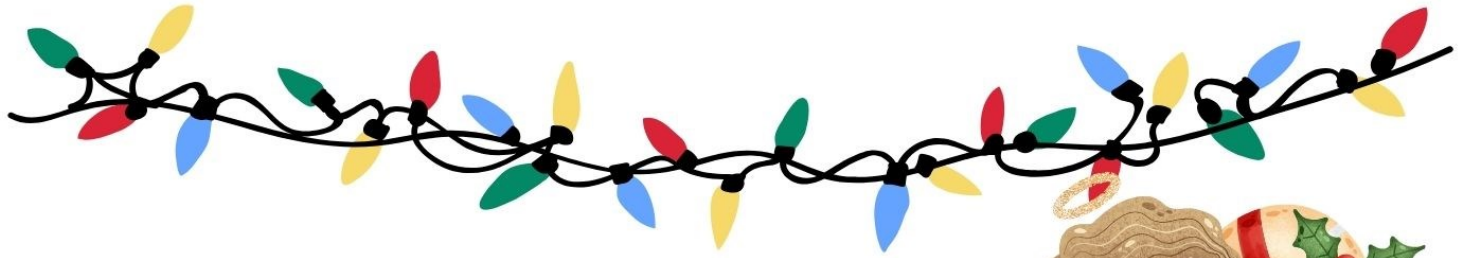
Have a jolly holly holiday season at our extravaganza

THURSDAY 4TH DECEMBER
3.30PM TO 5.30PM

Admission is completely free, so bring your entire
family!

Come and enjoy our Christmas stalls and crafts and
even a visit to Father Christmas!!
Refreshments will also be available.





THE GIVING TREE



Pick a tag off the tree
and buy a gift for someone in
need



**12th November
to 10th December**

This year all our tags are for
the local children's home,
Abbot Care home, Manor
Hatch and the Women's
refuge.

What is The West Essex Inclusion Project?

We support children up to the age of 14 with a learning disability and/or autism, children with a physical and/or sensory impairment through sport and leisure activities across Harlow, Epping and Uttlesford.

Parents and guardians must register their child with Short Breaks and The West Essex Inclusion Project before booking. To obtain a Short Breaks passport ID. Visit: <https://shortbreaks.essex.gov.uk/>



To register with the West Essex Inclusion Project and for any questions: contact Disability and Inclusion Officer, Emily Stevens: estevens@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

When?
After school term time, half term, holidays



To book head over to <https://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com/>

Larks with the Arts

After school club
ages 5 -14
Mondays 4-6pm

A specialised after school social group providing relaxed, fun, creative sessions to build your child's social, emotional and communication skills.

The Learning Centre
Pet's Corner, Town Park
Edinburg Way, Harlow
CM20 2QG



Games, drama, arts & crafts, puppetry, music and lots more!



Scan the QR code to book!



Kids (age 4-14)

SEND Swimming Courses

7 weeks
£49

- ✓ Every Saturday, 1:30-2:30pm
- ✓ Freshwaters, Harlow, CM20 3QA
- ✓ 5 places per class
- ✓ Non-swimmers, Beginners & Improvers groups
- ✓ Led by Comfort Aquatics fully qualified Swim Instructors



SEND Family Swim Sessions

OPEN TO FAMILIES THAT ARE REGISTERED WITH THE WEST ESSEX INCLUSION PROJECT & ESSEX SHORT BREAKS

Child: £2
Adult: £3

- ✓ Every Saturday, 2 - 3pm
- ✓ Freshwaters, Harlow, CM20 3QA
- ✓ 20 places per session
- ✓ Quiet, relaxed SEND friendly swim
- ✓ Supervised by Comfort Aquatics fully qualified Swim Instructors



To Book or for further info:

Online: <https://eppingforestdc.bookinglive.com/>

Call: 01992 564 226

Email: adoherty@eppingforestdc.gov.uk

TO BOOK OR FOR FURTHER INFO:

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CALL: 01992 564 226

EMAIL: ADOHERTY@EPPINGFORESTDC.GOV.UK

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Ladybirds achieving 98% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Kingfishers, 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 8.55am.

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.

Butterflies	97%
Ladybirds	98%
Dragonflies	97%
Grasshoppers	97%
Hedgehogs	95%
Squirrels	97%
Badgers	95%
Foxes	97%
Hares	97%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	97%
Eagles	96%
Owls	96%

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.

- | | | | |
|--------------|--------|---------------|--------|
| Dragonflies: | Emily | Grasshoppers: | Milin |
| Hedgehogs: | Holly | Squirrels: | Orlagh |
| Badgers: | Amelia | Foxes: | Dilara |
| Hares: | Grace | Rabbits: | Layla |
| Kingfishers: | Sarah | Robins: | |
| Eagles: | Sofia | Owls: | Lucas |



Based on the gospel for Sunday 16 November, Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Luke 21:5-19

"By your endurance you will gain your lives."

In this passage, I am reminded that faith isn't about having an easy path. Jesus doesn't promise us a life without struggle, but he does promise that if we keep going and if we remain faithful, we will find new life with him.

I often think of our brothers and sisters around the world who show great resilience and courage as they carry heavy burdens today - such as families affected by conflict or those rebuilding after devastating earthquakes. This challenges me to remember that faith is not just about my own journey, but about standing with others who are enduring such difficult circumstances.

When life feels heavy, this passage reminds us to hold on with hope. Jesus shows us that even in difficult times, God is close and gives us the strength to carry on.

Living out this hope means more than waiting for things to change - it means choosing to act with love. It means supporting one another, near and far, and seeking justice and dignity for all people. In doing so, we share in Christ's promise of new life and help to bring his hope into the world today.

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
teach us to hold on
with hope and courage
walking with those
who endure hardships
around the world.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

During the month of November, we pray in particular for the eternal repose of the faithful departed. May the Risen Lord show them His mercy, and may the hope brought by our faith in the Resurrection keep our eyes and our hearts turned towards the joy of Heaven. #GeneralAudience



Dear Parents and Carers,

A faithful person is a gift to the world.

When we grow in faithfulness, others will know that we are people who are reliable, supportive and trustworthy, who are loyal and have staying power through both good times and bad times.

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus encourages the disciples (and us too) to be faithful to him. Everybody wants a faithful

Wednesday 12th November 2025

friend. Jesus offers to be our faithful friend and invites us to be his. Even though many things in the world may change, the faithful promises of Jesus will never pass away - God's love for us will last forever.

Enjoy a special time together this evening exploring this Sunday's Gospel and this Wednesday's word, which is **FAITHFULNESS**.

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"God is faithful and if we serve Him faithfully he will provide for our needs." St Richard of Chichester

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 16th November 2025



When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: they will all have been knocked down." And they put to

him this question: "Master," they said, "when will this happen then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?" "Take care not to be deceived," he said, "because many will come using my name and saying, 'I am he' and 'The time is near at hand'. Refuse to join them." Then he said to them, "When you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened. There will be wars, earthquakes, plagues and famines here and there; there will be great signs in the heavens. Before all this happens you will be shunned by all people on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives."

Adapted from Luke 21: 5-19

The 33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time, 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!

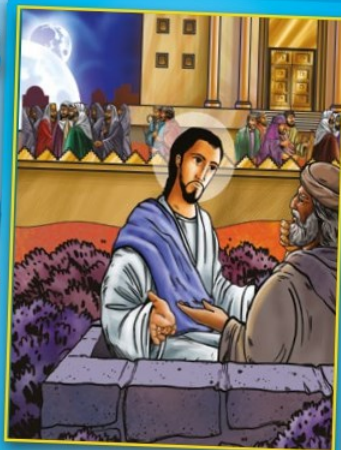
Having Hope
in our Families

If we choose to be faithful to Jesus, we still need God's help and the help of the Church (the community of the faithful) to stay faithful. We can be certain that our faithfulness to God will be rewarded.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME



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

Some people were talking about the beautiful stones used to build the temple and about the gifts that had been placed in the temple. Jesus said, "The time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: they will all be knocked down." The disciples asked Jesus when this would happen and he replied, "Before the world ends, many things will happen. People will appear and pretend to be me saying, 'I am the Christ and now is the time!' But do not believe or follow them. And when you hear about wars and earthquakes, do not be afraid; just stay faithful to me."

What were the disciples asking Jesus?

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

Look at this Sunday's Gospel picture. 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...

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies." *St Teresa of Calcutta (Mother Teresa)*

FAITHFULNESS



Ask your child what the word 'faithful' means to them. To be faithful is to be true to someone or something. Does your child know someone who is a faithful friend - someone who keeps their promises? What is it like to be in the company of a faithful person? It may help your child if you can talk about a person you know to be a faithful friend, and say why.



How can we grow in faithfulness to God and to each other? Perhaps we can: spend time with God and listen to him through daily prayer; follow the teachings of Jesus by always trying to love our neighbour as ourselves; remember to put others' needs before our own needs; make sure that if we tell someone [or we tell God] that we will do something, we do it!

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for being our faithful friend. Please help us to keep growing in faithfulness to you and to one another. Amen.

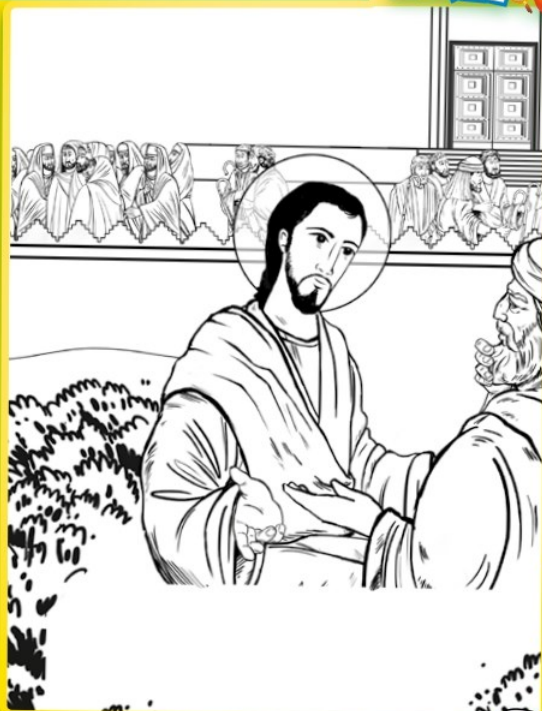
FINDING THREE!

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	DISCIPLES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	ASKED	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	MANY THINGS	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	STAY FAITHFUL	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	JESUS NEARBY	<input type="checkbox"/>

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

Cross out the letters **C W S** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

fawicthfuls cnoswt smewc wafracids

Jesus said, "Do _____ be _____;
just stay _____ to _____."

To be a faithful person is to be loyal and to keep our promises. We can ask God to help us to grow in faithfulness - it really is a gift worth asking for.



This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 16th November 2025
 The Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time — Luke 21:5-19

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 : PERSEVERANCE



When some were talking about the Temple, remarking how it was adorned with fine stonework and votive offerings, Jesus said, "All these things you are staring at now - the time will come when not a single stone will be left on another: everything will be destroyed." And they put to him this question: "Master," they said, "when will this happen, then, and what sign will there be that this is about to take place?" "Take care not to be deceived," he said, "because many will come using my name and saying, 'I am he' and 'The time is near at hand'. Refuse to join them. And when you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be frightened, for this is something that must happen but the end is not so soon." Then he said to them, "Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be great earthquakes and plagues and famines here and there; there will be fearful sights and great signs from heaven. But before all this happens, men will seize you and persecute you; they will hand you over to the synagogues and to imprisonment, and bring you before kings and governors because of my name - and that will be your opportunity to bear witness. Keep this carefully in mind: you are not to prepare your defence, because I myself shall give you an eloquence and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, relations and friends; and some of you will be put to death. You will be hated by all men on account of my name, but not a hair of your head will be lost. Your endurance will win you your lives."

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...



Luke was writing his gospel after the devastation of Jerusalem by the Roman armies in 70 AD, and the way he frames the words of Jesus suggests that he had witnessed the devastation. Massive blocks of stone, thrown down from the walls, are still lying there as they fell, scattered at the base of the Temple. The message of this passage is, then, the same as Paul's in today's second reading: the end is sure, but is not yet. Jesus prepares his followers for what is to come before the cataclysmic finale. He warns against false Messiahs, political leaders or other saviour-figures who claim to 'put the world to rights'. His followers will be continually challenged to give an account of their beliefs, harassed and martyred in every age, betrayed by those they thought their friends. There is a promise that Jesus will provide the words and wisdom for Christians to make a reply to their persecutors; there is a promise too of protection from real harm - but there is no promise that it will be a quiet and easy life. A constant theme in Luke's Good News is that the followers of Jesus must follow him in his difficulties and trials. Only with like endurance will they stay true to him and keep in his footsteps.

Reflection: Recall an occasion when the Lord gave you wisdom beyond your own.

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

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 **FAITHFULNESS!**
 (To see the Family Version, please visit: 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.

Wednesday Word Plus +

If you'd like to spend more prayerful time with God through the First and Second Readings, follow the same process for praying with the Gospel (overleaf). Gently place the First or Second Reading and Fr Henry's reflection into that same prayerful rhythm for more fruitful meditation with God's Word.



First Reading: *Burning like an Oven*



Malachi 3:19-20

The day is coming now, burning like a furnace; and all the arrogant and the evil-doers will be like stubble. The day that is coming is going to burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, leaving them neither root nor stalk. But for you who fear my name, the sun of righteousness will shine out with healing in its rays.

Each year the Church takes the opportunity at the end of the liturgical season to remind us that the Day of the Lord is coming. This 'Day of the Lord' has several different meanings, depending on context. In the Old Testament it was the great and terrible day, pictured in ever more catastrophic cosmic images, when the Lord would come to set right all injustice. In today's world

this would be some upheaval! Rags to riches, riches to rags, slumdog millionaires, emperors wearing no clothes! Then Jesus came, declaring that the Kingdom was at hand, that the Day was dawning. And so it did - at the Hour of Jesus, completed on the first Easter Sunday, when the world and life were changed for ever. Yet in another sense, at another level, the Day is still to come. Christians are different from every other people, in that we live in expectation, in the knowledge that at some time everything will be brought to completion. The sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. Christ will hand over the Kingdom to his Father, having put all things under his feet, even the last enemy, death. This is the end to which we believe all history is pointing.

What do you understand by 'The Day of the Lord'?



Second Reading: *Keep Busy*



2 Thessalonians 3:7-12

You know how you are supposed to imitate us: now we were not idle when we were with you, nor did we ever have our meals at anyone's table without paying for them; no, we worked night and day, slaving and straining, so as not to be a burden on any of you. This was not because we had no right to be, but in order to make ourselves an example for you to follow. We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work. Now we hear that there are some of you who are living in idleness, doing no work themselves but interfering with everyone else's. In the Lord Jesus Christ, we order and call on people of this kind to go on quietly working and earning the food that they eat.

In his earlier letter to the Thessalonians Paul had warned them that the Day would come 'like a thief in the night', like an unexpected trap suddenly sprung. The recipients of the letter seem to have been so panicked that some simply downed tools and sat waiting. So now Paul chides them that anyone who does not work should not eat either. The charge of 'idleness' is not to be understood only on a literal level but on a symbolic level too. Paul himself not only worked to earn his bread and butter by his leather-working but also worked to set the fire of the Gospel alight all around the eastern Mediterranean. In all his writings he is acutely aware of the pressure from the end-point, from that Day of the Lord, although he has no idea when it will come. We don't get any nearer perfection, or any nearer the state in which we would like the Lord to find us, simply by sitting and waiting. Even those who are chair-bound, and can indeed only sit and wait, are able at the same time mightily to advance the Kingdom by bringing the light and joy of Christ to their surroundings.

What should we do to prepare for 'The Day of the Lord'?

**“We don't get any nearer perfection...
simply by sitting and waiting.”**

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Jacob, Skyla, Matthew,
Hermione, Thankgod, Archie,
Aminda, Olivia, Reginald,
Kiera & Mario



Headteacher Award

River, following the Gospel values and showing kindness to others

Kenzo, following the Gospel values and showing kindness to others

Golden Awards

Dragonflies: Jude, for his amazing homework model of the London Eye.

Grasshoppers: Chase, for being so helpful this week!

Hedgehogs: Eduard, for being a helpful member of the class.

Squirrels: Malakai-Chase, for producing some lovely pieces of work.

Badgers: Filip, for answering the register everyday.

Foxes: Noah, for his fantastic French work.

Hares: Lillian, for a lovely R.E. assessment about Abraham.

Rabbits: Maurice, for quickly settling in, in Rabbits class and making friends.

Kingfishers: Roman, for his fantastic work in all lessons—well done Roman, you are a superstar!

Robins: Albie, for excellent maths work, finding fractions of amounts.

Eagles: Eryk, for excellent contribution to reading comprehension.

Owls: Hillary, for a beautiful Remembrance prayer.

House Points

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

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

Monday 17th November

Foxes swimming

* Drama club

Art club

Scrapbook club

Lego club

Coding club

Mindfulness and Yoga club

Board Games club

Girls football team

Boys football team

Year 6 Boosters

Tuesday 18th November

Year 5 trip to Duxford

Year 2 reading zone -
09:00

* Multisports club

* Dance club

Year 6 Boosters

Young Carers club

Wednesday 19th November

* Football club

* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Year 2 reading zone - 2:45

Thursday 20th November

Year 2 reading zone - 09:00

* Football club

* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Cafod club

Friday 21st November

Pilgrims of Hope assembly
2:15 pm

* Musical Theatre club

* External club, fees apply

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell



JUBILEE 2025
PILGRIMS OF HOPE