



30th January 2026

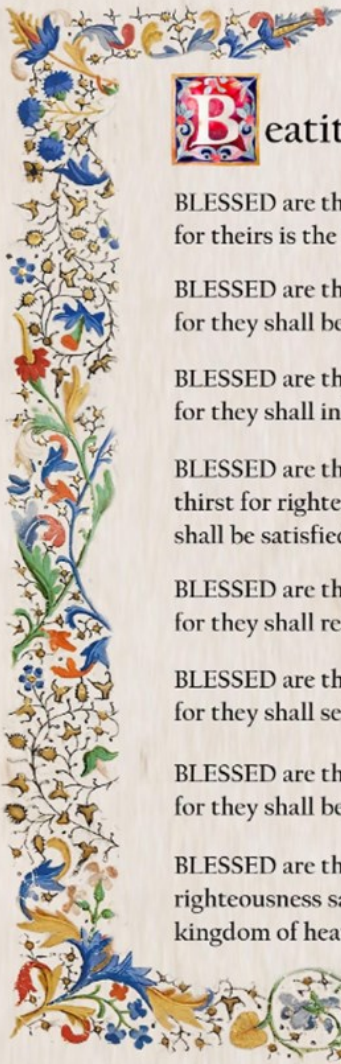


# Newsletter

**GOSPEL VALUE:** Our Gospel Value for the first week back is Compassion. Please reflect on this at home with your child.

## Weekly Reflection

This Sunday is the 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time and the focus in the Gospel is Jesus preaching the good news of The Beatitudes. Jesus shares with the crowd, that has gathered on the Mount, some profound ways to live a good and holy life. There are 8 ways that he shares; not telling people what to do but gently offering these ways as deep and profound teachings. When we read them today, they are ways for us follow so that we too can follow in the footsteps of Jesus...



**B**eatitudes

BLESSED are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven

BLESSED are those who mourn,  
for they shall be comforted

BLESSED are the meek,  
for they shall inherit the earth

BLESSED are those who hunger and  
thirst for righteousness, for they  
shall be satisfied

BLESSED are the merciful,  
for they shall receive mercy

BLESSED are the pure in heart,  
for they shall see God

BLESSED are the peacemakers,  
for they shall be called the children of God

BLESSED are those who are persecuted for  
righteousness sake, for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven

**A**men

Have a calm and peaceful weekend.

*Mrs Kerrell*  
Headteacher

## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

On the 2nd February we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in The Temple, 40 days after His birth. Mary and Joseph take Jesus to the Temple to fulfil Jewish ritual obligations following the birth of a baby. Not only do we see the religious commitment of faithful parents in Mary and Joseph, but at the heart of this celebration is the encounter of Simeon and Anna with the Christ Child in the Temple, who are delighted to see the baby Jesus and know of His importance in their lives as The Messiah. This is also known as Candlemas, and we remember that Jesus is The Light of The World.



### Pope Leo's Prayer Intention

Each month Pope Leo will have a new Prayer Intention and this January -you may wish to follow this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s1CBCcEIkME>

We are praying along with our Holy Father:

### *For prayer with the Word of God*

Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

### Glimmers-Jesus is the Light of the World

We have chosen a new liturgical theme for our school that we will be following through 2026. The theme is Glimmers. We are thinking of how Jesus brings glimmers of light into our lives and how he encourages to see glimmers of light in others, in our world and in ourselves. We will think of the joy of light in nature as the days change from dark to light and the light of warm sunshine wakes up the earth as we move through the spring. Each class will choose a different interpretation of this and will produce a beautiful display using reflections of scripture.

We are remembering that Jesus is The Light of the world.

### Congratulations

Congratulation to Mrs Marsh, who got married this week. We wish the new Mr and Mrs Champkins a very long and happy marriage.

## Gospel Value Awards

### Justice

'fairness, equality, share for all

"The Lord is gracious and merciful: patient and plenteous in mercy. The Lord is sweet to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works. The Lord is just in all his ways: and holy in all his works." Psalm 145: 8-9, 17



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

Butterflies:	Cezar	Ladybirds:	Amar
Dragonflies:	Zuzanna	Grasshoppers:	Nate
Hedgehogs:	Aminda	Squirrels:	Riley
Badgers:	Filip	Foxes:	Harley
Hares:	Arribella	Rabbits:	Zuzanna
Kingfishers:	Joel	Robins:	Eva
Eagles:	April	Owls:	Livia

# raise

## £20.26 IN 2026!

### HOW? However you like!

### Whether that's...



- Something sporty? A sponsored swim, bike-ride, walk, run, skip, goals scored, climb or even bounce
  - Something crafty? Sell your artwork, crafts or cakes
  - Something helpful? Helping with some chores or a litter pick up
  - Or even a sponsored read-a-thon or month with no sweets!
- Whatever you want!

Money can be paid on line at Holy Cross School PTA a/c: 66911260, s/c: 30-90-91 or cash or card payments can be handed in at the office. Please let your teacher know when you achieve your goal so that this can be celebrated.

**£20.26 is not compulsory, all donations under or over £20.26 are welcome, just give yourself a challenge and have fun!**

$$M = \left( \frac{x_1 + x_2}{2}, \frac{y_1 + y_2}{2} \right)$$

Come to our  
Maths workshops and  
enjoy some fun maths  
with your child

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026**

Reception and KS1 9.10am to 10.10am  
KS2 11am to 12pm

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a}$$

# Number Day 2026

FRIDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY  
IN AID OF NSPCC



On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February all children can come to school wearing something number related



We will be holding a bucket collection on this day for the NSPCC



**Let's Celebrate**

# **Valentine's Disco**

**We are holding a Valentines disco on  
Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February**

**3.30pm to 4.45pm - Reception, Years 1 to 2**

**5pm to 6.30pm - Years 3 to 6**

**£4 per child includes a snacks and  
unlimited juice or water**

**Have a favourite song, let us know by Friday 30<sup>th</sup>  
January and hopefully the DJ will be able to play it  
for you.**

**If your child would like to attend you can pay by  
card, cash or payment link.**

**Payments need to be made by  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February**

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies achieving 99% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Foxes attaining a fantastic **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.

Butterflies	99%
Ladybirds	94%
Dragonflies	97%
Grasshoppers	97%
Hedgehogs	93%
Squirrels	92%
Badgers	96%
<b>Foxes</b>	<b>100%</b>
Hares	94%
Rabbits	96%
Kingfishers	98%
Robins	93%
Eagles	96%
Owls	96%



## The Words of Pope Leo XIV

May the Holy Spirit find in us a mind docile to proclaiming the faith with one voice to the men and women of our time!



### Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Marcel	Squirrels:	Malique
Badgers:	Grace	Foxes:	Alexandra
Hares:	Muenyasha	Rabbits:	Maurice
Kingfishers:	Maya	Robins:	Hayley
Eagles:	Riley	Owls:	Dominik



Dear Parents and Carers,

Out of his great love for us, God created us to be happy with him forever. The blessings in this Sunday's Gospel, which promise true, lasting happiness, are taken from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount and are known as the Beatitudes.

To be gentle and to mourn means to share the sorrows of others and help them. To hunger and thirst for what is right, and to be prepared to be persecuted for it, needs courage and good judgement. 'Meek' really means un-pompous, genuine.

Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The merciful don't insist on their rights, but have strength to see the point of view of others and to think of the needs of others as well as their own needs.

Jesus' words would have turned upside down the thoughts that most of his listeners had about true happiness, and maybe they challenge our own ideas too.

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

*Dom Henry Wansbrough*



A Word from the Saints

"Whoever possesses God is happy!" *St. Augustine*

"The Beatitudes are Jesus' way of life and they are the way of true happiness."

## THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026



Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: "How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people mistreat you and persecute you and speak all kinds of slander against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

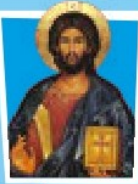
*Adapted from Matthew 5:1-12*  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

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

Family Time Prayer & Share Overleaf ▶

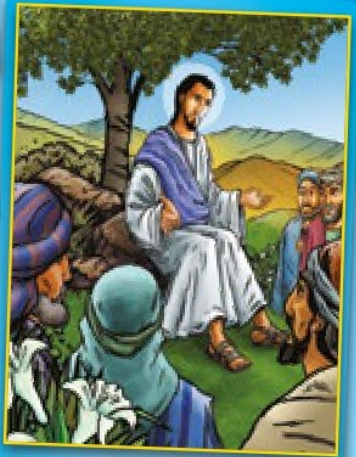
Good News for Everyone

We all want to be happy, to have a sense of well-being and inner joy. Jesus' Sermon on the Mount teaches us how to discover the true happiness for which we were created. Living in the way that Jesus taught us, knowing that we are loved forever by God our Father and responding to that love by loving others, is the path to everlasting happiness - to live forever with God.



# Good News for Families

## TOGETHER TIME



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

Jesus' disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them. "Happy are people who know they need God, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them. Happy are people who are gentle. Happy are people who show mercy, for they will have mercy shown to them. Happy are the people whose hearts are pure, for they will see God. Happy are people who make peace, for they will be called children of God. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

#### Who did Jesus say the kingdom of heaven belongs to?

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...

"The goal of our life is to experience God's own happiness - a gift to every person."

*Adapted from the Catechism of the Catholic Church (nos 1718-1719)*

## HAPPINESS



Ask your child what they think true happiness is. When or where are they usually most happy? What is their happiest memory? When did your child last make someone truly happy? It may help your child if you can tell them when they most recently made you happy (or when you are most happy). True happiness comes from knowing and loving God. Sharing God's love is the happiest way to live.



Each of you choose some little, simple thing to do which will help to create a better atmosphere of happiness in school, the community, or at home this week. Perhaps you can: volunteer to give someone a helping hand; serve your parents and teachers by cheerfully doing what you are asked to do at home and at school; forgive someone who has upset you, and make a fresh start with them; give someone a kind message or a gift.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for showing us how to be truly happy. May our family be filled with the happiness which comes from following your ways, so that we can share it with others. Amen.

### FINDING THREE

S	E	D	U	T	I	T	A	E	B	R
S	T	A	U	G	H	T	U	T	G	H
E	E	H	E	A	V	E	N	E	D	A
N	R	J	G	R	E	W	A	R	D	P
I	N	E	E	U	P	L	A	V	B	P
P	A	S	P	J	A	W	C	S	E	I
P	L	U	P	N	E	T	J	V	A	N
A	H	S	R	R	S	U	S	E	J	E
H	S	E	L	P	I	C	S	I	D	S
C	T	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S
E	B	E	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	S

### WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

SMARTSEARCHERS FIND THESE EIGHT WORDS EITHER ACROSS OR DOWN

- JESUS TAUGHT
- DISCIPLES
- BEATITUDES
- REWARD HEAVEN
- ETERNAL HAPPINESS

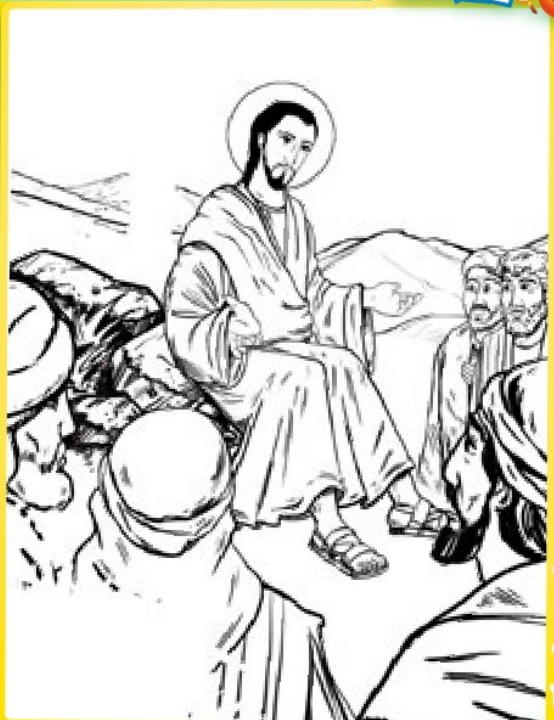
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS BACKWARDS OR DIAGONALLY

Cross out the letters **b c u** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

kibnugdcm cheaboven Habpucy pebocule

"\_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ who know they need God,  
for the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ belongs to them."

A happy heart is a sign of God's Spirit within us. This Sunday's Gospel shows us how to be happy. We don't have to search around for happiness: it comes from within. When we listen to Jesus and follow his ways we are filled with happiness!



Find and draw 3 differences, then colour the picture

This week I will try my best to...



Write a promise & draw a big smile on Smiley



**Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026**  
 The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Matthew 5: 1-12

**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 BEATITUDES**



Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to speak. This is what he taught them: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy the gentle: they shall have the earth for their heritage. Happy those who mourn: they shall be comforted. Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is right: they shall be satisfied. Happy the merciful: they shall have mercy shown them. Happy the pure in heart: they shall see God. Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God. Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

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 Matthew's Gospel these eight blessings stand at the head of the Sermon on the Mount, pointing out eight ways in which we can welcome God into our lives. They are ways of living out God's blessing. The first and the last knit them all together with the phrase 'theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. In his Gospel, Luke also begins his Sermon on the Plain with four such blessings – only his blessings focus more on those who are materially poor and in need, whereas Matthew's concentrate on the spiritual attitudes required of the Christian, 'poor in spirit, hunger and thirst for justice'. Jesus came to proclaim the kingship of his Father, and these are ways of living it. For each beatitude, do you know someone who exemplifies the attitude? Which is your own favourite? For most of them there are gospel incidents in which Jesus illustrates how to live out the beatitude, like the entry into Jerusalem on a donkey as the gentle king, or the love he shows in his welcome to sinners, or his bringing peace to those tortured by disease or contempt, or his purity of heart in his single-minded pre-occupation with his Father's will, or finally his acceptance of persecution for what he knew to be right.

Which of these qualities would you like to have more of? Which quality will bring you closest to Jesus?

*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 **HAPPINESS**  
 (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: *Blessed by the Lord*



#### Zephaniah 2: 3; 3: 12-13

**Seek the Lord all you, the humble of the earth, who obey his commands. Seek integrity, seek humility: you may perhaps find shelter on the day of the anger of the Lord. In your midst I will leave a humble and lowly people, and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the name of the Lord. They will do no wrong, will tell no lies; and the perjured tongue will no longer be found in their mouths. But they will be able to graze and rest with no one to disturb them.**

*Before the Babylonian Exile, Israel tended to equate material prosperity with divine blessing: those who prospered did so because of the Lord's blessing; those who did not must in some way be blameworthy. The Exile put this philosophy in question, and the consequent puzzlement is visible in the Book of Job. These verses from the prophecy of Zephaniah show the new and more satisfying analysis: it is the humble of the Lord who will*

*receive divine blessing, those who seek refuge in the Name or Power of the Lord and recognize their entire dependence on him. The nation of Israel was the plaything of the great powers on either side, dominated first by one, then by the other. Today's reading reflects the spirituality of the powerless Remnant, not giving themselves airs or trusting in their own strength. It is perfectly and consciously exemplified in the people we meet in the Lukan Infancy Narratives, where Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna humbly obey the Law and await the salvation which is to come to them from the Lord. This spirit of humility was not the strong suit of the Corinthians to whom Paul writes in our second reading, but it is partly exemplified in the Beatitudes of the gospel reading.*

**What, then, is true Christian humility? Is it to say that I am no good at anything, or to recognize my talents and be grateful for them?**



### Second Reading: *Reversal of Values*



#### 1 Corinthians 1: 26-31

**Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense of the word, how many were influential people, or came from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by human reckoning; those whom the world thinks common and contemptible are the ones that God has chosen - those who are nothing at all to show up those who are everything. The human race has nothing to boast about to God, but you, God has made members of Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let him boast about the Lord.**

*The Corinthians seem to have been particularly pleased with themselves, so that Paul mercilessly lavishes his sarcasm on them. In their bravado and their complacency they were happy to rely on their own resources, and expected to be saved by them.*

*Paul repeats to them the lesson of Zephaniah. The public reading of the letter must have embarrassed those at whom it was aimed, and the vigour of Paul's criticism was perhaps the reason why his relationships with this community continued stormy for some time. For us, however, the positive teaching is a treasure: Christ is for us our wisdom, our strength, our holiness and our freedom. Only through Christ can we achieve our ambitions and grow to full human maturity, by participating in the qualities of Christ. Once incorporated into Christ by baptism, we already share in his wisdom, holiness and strength, and even in his freedom, if only we rely on that and not on ourselves. Paul goes on to say that Christ is the Wisdom of God, a teaching which will be elaborated in the later epistles (possibly written not by Paul himself) to the Colossians and Ephesians.*

**Do I recognise in myself how easy it is to become conceited or part of a clique, excluding others?**

**“Christ is for us our wisdom, our strength, our holiness and our freedom.”**

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

Elaeh, Emmanuella, Dominik,  
Livia, Kodie & Amelia



### Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Alfie, for making excellent and interesting contributions to all carpet sessions.
- Ladybirds: Omemma, for putting lots of effort into her phonics learning.
- Dragonflies: Samuel, for working hard on all of his rainbow challenges this week.
- Grasshoppers: Ethan, for his fabulous R.E. work.
- Hedgehogs: Bekah, for excellent effort when learning about multiplication and division.
- Squirrels: Cameron-James, for his amazing work on multiplication and division.
- Badgers: Zora, for using super descriptive vocabulary in her writing.
- Foxes: Arthur, for creating a fantastic story map in English.
- Hares: Grace, for fantastic effort in maths when dividing 2 digit numbers practically.
- Rabbits: Memphis, for persevering with things she's finding challenging.
- Kingfishers: Jaxon, for his amazing effort in all lessons—well done Jaxon!
- Robins: Blousey, for her excellent attitude and routine in our dance lesson.
- Eagles: Aimee, for her heartfelt letter to Jesus in R.E.
- Owls: Vivienne, for making a massive improvement in arithmetic.

### House Points

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

Menu week 1

## Diary Dates

### Maths Week

\* External club, fees apply

Monday 2nd February

Hares swimming

\* Drama club

Girls football team

Boys football team

Year 1 booster

Year 3 booster

Year 6 booster

Tuesday 3rd February

Parent maths workshop

- Reception & KS1 9:10 am - 10:10 am

- KS2 11:00 am - 12:00 am

\* Multisports club

\* Dance club

Year 6 booster

Wednesday 4th February

Last day to pay for the disco

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Parent maths workshop -  
Reception & KS1 3:15 pm

Thursday 5th February

Autism bus

Cafod club

Year 2 booster

\* Football club

\* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Parent maths workshop -  
KS2 3:15 pm

Friday 6th February

NSPCC Numbers day

Celebration assembly 2:15 pm

\* Musical Theatre club

Valentines disco

- Reception & KS1 3:30 pm - 4:45 pm

- KS2 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs A Kerrell'.