



22nd May 2026



Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

This Sunday is Pentecost Sunday and we are celebrating the birthday of the church. We hear that the disciples are waiting in a room and they have been waiting for a long time-10 days. They show faith in what Jesus has told them-that He is going to send them something that will help them. On the 10th day the Holy Spirit comes and sits as a small tongue of flames on each of their heads. They are filled with the Holy Spirit and then go out to share the good news of God to everyone. Like the disciples we too are filled with the Holy Spirit and the spirit fills us, guides us when we're not sure of the best path and helps us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.



Ms Doherty- Resources for All



Wishing everyone a peaceful and happy half term break .

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher

First Holy Communion

What a wonderful 2 days we had celebrating with our First Holy Communion children. We are so proud of you. We are looking forward to our Going Forth Mass on Friday 12th June when we will celebrate these wonderful children together, as a school, on the feast of Corpus Christi.



Nut Free School

This is reminder that we are a nut free school. This means that packed lunches are not permitted to contain nuts or products containing nuts. This includes but is not limited to, peanut butter, hazelnut chocolate spread, biscuits, cereal bars and chocolate containing nuts.

IOW Information

Our Year 6 residential is now only a few weeks away as we go on Monday 22nd June. Thank you to parents and families who were able to make it along to the meeting this week. There was a lot of information to share as we take this residential very seriously; taking the children away for 5 days is a huge responsibility but something staff are very committed to and are looking forward to.

We want all the children going to build memories that will last a lifetime. If you couldn't attend we will be sending the power point slides out to everyone and I urge everyone to read (revisit) these please, so that you know what we need you to do, to best prepare your child for the trip. It is a tried and tested formulation so please support us and your child in being organised and clear about what is happening. We are of course happy to answer any questions you have about the trip.

May-Month of Devotion to Our Lady.

In May we have special devotion to Our Lady and we will pray the Rosary every day with the children at lunchtime. On Wednesdays just after drop off and at 3pm before pick up I would like to invite parents and families to join with me in praying the Rosary during the month of May.

You may also like to follow this link to access some resources for praying the Rosary together as a family:

<https://cafod.org.uk/pray/pray-the-rosary>

Save the Date

We have some important events coming up that I would like to highlight in case you need to ask for some time off work.

Sports Day and Picnic -This year we are planning a Sports Week with traditional races on the morning of the Wednesday 17th June. Reception and Key Stage one will start at 9.00am and Key Stage 2 at 10.30am. Parents and families are invited to come along and watch the races. At 12 noon we will then move onto our Family Picnic.

In response to a question raised recently by a parent, we are looking into creating shade for the children on the morning of the races so that if it is very hot, the children can enjoy this safely and comfortably.

Leavers Mass: This will be in the church this year and will take place on Thursday 16th July at 9:30am. This will be limited to our Year 6 parents or parents of children who are leaving our school.

Important Dates: All the other important dates for the summer term can be found by following this link to our website:

<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=3&pid=133&viewid=41>



Year 1 SUPERHERO DAY



The KS2 Girls took part in a Panathlon Football Skills Festival, held on Wednesday 20th May at Shooters, it was a fantastic celebration of determination, teamwork and sporting spirit. All of the girls who took part should be incredibly proud of their efforts throughout the event.

The festival gave pupils the opportunity to develop and showcase a range of football skills through fun and engaging activities. Every participant demonstrated excellent enthusiasm, resilience and commitment, encouraging one another and working together brilliantly as a team.

A special mention must go to the girls for their outstanding sportsmanship throughout the day. They showed respect, kindness and support towards both teammates and other schools, representing themselves and their school in a truly positive manner.

Well done to everyone involved for making the festival such a successful and enjoyable event. The teamwork, confidence and positive attitudes on display were exceptional, and the girls should be very proud of their achievements.



Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Olivia	Squirrels:	Aiden
Badgers:	Chloe	Foxes:	Salem
Hares:	Samantha	Rabbits:	Flynn
Kingfishers:	Yohane	Robins:	Blousey

HAPPY FATHER'S Day

GIFT SALE!

GIFTS ARE
£3
EACH



YEARS 2, 3 AND 4 – MONDAY 15TH JUNE



YEARS 5 AND 6 – TUESDAY 16TH JUNE



RECEPTION AND YEAR 1 – WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE



Cash, card or payment link





SPORTS DAY

≡ AND ≡

FAMILY PICNIC



17TH JUNE



RECEPTION AND KS1 FROM 9AM



KS2 FROM 10.30



PICNIC 12PM TO 1.30PM



COLOUR RUN

18TH JUNE

£1 PER CHILD



SPONSORED BOUNCE

19TH JUNE



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!**

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Hedgehogs achieving 99% attendance. The winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Kingfishers, also attaining 99% attendance. Well done!

Please ensure you are sending your child into school everyday, unless they are not well enough to attend. Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning. The gates open at **8:30am** until **8.55am**.

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	94%
Ladybirds	92%
Dragonflies	94%
Grasshoppers	96%
Hedgehogs	99%
Squirrels	89%
Badgers	90%
Foxes	97%
Hares	96%
Rabbits	98%
Kingfishers	99%
Robins	92%
Eagles	94%
Owls	84%

Gospel Value Awards

Compassion

kindness, patience, empathy, helpfulness

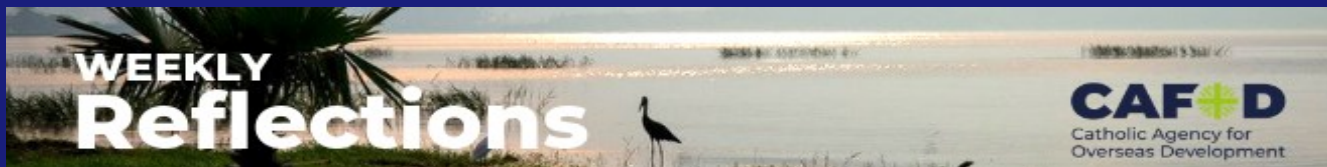
Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Colossians 3:12



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

Butterflies: Edward
Dragonflies: Ronan
Hedgehogs: Charles
Badgers: Tobi
Hares: Isabella
Kingfishers: Jaxon
Eagles: Jack

Ladybirds: Harper
Grasshoppers: P. J.
Squirrels: Stephanie
Foxes: Nellie
Rabbits: Olivia
Robins: Eddie
Owls: Freya



Based on the gospel for Sunday 24 May, Pentecost: John 20:19-23

"And with that he breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

The disciples could not make sense of the apparent death of the Messiah, whom they had hoped would change the world. So they hid away behind locked doors. Fear was keeping them trapped: fear of retribution, fear of pain, fear of hurt.

I wonder what keeps us behind locked doors? What fears keep our hearts and souls locked away? What will it take for us to break down those barriers to begin to live life to the full?

For the apostles it was Jesus walking through a locked door and showing them the signs of the wounds in his hands and his side, the signs of the crucifixion.

Not only was he present amongst them, but he also breathed life into them. His Holy Spirit gave them renewed strength, energy and purpose. His words, "as the Father sent me, I am sending you", commissioned them to carry on his work in the world. The work of building a just and fair world where all can peacefully but passionately enjoy life to the full. "Peace be with you," said Jesus.

Can I allow myself to stand in his presence, to feel his breath upon me, to feel his peace invading me, a peace that passes all understanding?

Holy Spirit, may I be filled with you. May your love, joy and peace pervade my being. May I feel revived to live my mission of sharing your love in my community, so that your peace may spread far and wide, bringing glory to you. Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

In these days leading up to the Solemnity of Pentecost, as we prepare to relive the mystery the miracle of the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the nascent Church, let us #PrayTogether to the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life. May He grant us the gift of #ChristianUnity, bestow upon us enduring peace, and renew the face of the earth.



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 24th May 2026

Pentecost Sunday — John 20:19-23

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 GIFT OF PEACE



In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you,' and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.' After saying this he breathed on them and said: 'Receive the Holy Spirit. For those whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven; for those whose sins you retain, they are retained.'

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...



At first sight this is a surprising gospel reading for Pentecost, but of course the event of Pentecost came too late to be a subject for the gospels, and we read the account of another incident where the Risen Christ gave the Spirit to his disciples. There are two emphases in the account. The first is peace. Christ brings peace to his disciples with the double greeting of peace, and peace is a Christian watchword. Peace was the song of the angels at Jesus' birth. Each of Paul's letters opens with a greeting of peace. The letter to the Ephesians proclaims that Christ is our peace, the removal of all worry, strife, envy, jealousy, self-seeking ambition. 'Go in peace' is Jesus' dismissal of those he cures, and also the dismissal at the end of Mass. Peace was Jesus' bequest to his disciples after the Last Supper. The second watchword is forgiveness, for God was always known as a God of mercy and forgiveness, as Jesus came to show by his constant approach to sinners. But the Lord's Prayer shows that if we do not ourselves forgive, we block God's forgiveness of ourselves too.

'Forgiveness is the only sure path to peace.' Does this cause any difficulties? Which is more important to you, peace or forgiveness? Or are they the same?

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 **PENTECOST**
(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: *The Birth of the Church*



Acts 2:1-11

When Pentecost day came round, the apostles had all met in one room, when suddenly they heard what sounded like a powerful wind from heaven, the noise of which filled the entire house in which they were sitting; and something appeared to them that seemed like tongues of fire; these separated and came to rest on the head of each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak foreign languages as the Spirit gave them the gift of speech. Now there were devout men living in Jerusalem from every nation under heaven, and at this sound they all assembled, each one bewildered to hear these men speaking his own language. They were amazed and astonished, 'Surely' they said 'all these men speaking are Galileans? How does it happen that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; people from Mesopotamia, Judaea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya round Cyrene; as well as visitors from Rome - Jews and proselytes alike - Cretans and Arabs; we hear them preaching in our own language about the marvels of God.'

The ministry of Jesus starts with the coming of the Spirit at his Baptism, and so the ministry of the Church begins with the coming of the Spirit at

Pentecost. There can be no witness to Jesus or to his message, no spreading of the Kingship of God, without the Spirit of Jesus. Another lesson from this parallel between Baptism and Pentecost is that the task of the Church and the life of the Church are the same as those of Jesus himself: to bring God's kingship to its fulfilment by bringing healing, love and joy through the message of the Risen Christ. The rushing wind and the tongues of fire are an allusion to the coming of God's Spirit upon Moses and the elders in the Old Testament. So the new message is the fulfilment of the Old Testament, breaking out beyond the borders of Judaism to include all peoples of the world. The union of all these peoples, all understanding one language in their own way, is a deliberate contrast to the scene at the Tower of Babel, when the Lord split up all the peoples of the world by their inability to understand one another's languages. The list of unpronounceable peoples is itself a witness to the universality of the Church!

How can the Church claim that, through its mission, the Spirit is at work in the world? Mention three outstanding ways in which the Church shows Christ at work today.



Second Reading: *The Body of Christ*



1 Corinthians 12:3-7. 12-13

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit. There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose. Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

The slightest glance round a church full of people is enough to show the variety within the Christian community. But it needs the hints given us by Paul to remind us that every member of that community has his or her own special gift to contribute. Mercifully, these gifts are all different. It is valuable

to reflect on the natural gifts that we find all around us. It is also valuable to reflect how dull, or even intolerable, life would be if I lived with a lot of clones of myself, all with the same gifts - and the same faults - as myself! Every one of us contributes something different and valuable in our own way, whether it is as the baby squeaking as a sign of new, developing life or the older person contributing wisdom, experience and even the suffering of Christ. The other inspiring thought is that all we varied and diverse people go to make up the Body, which is Christ. We all have experience of various corporate bodies, organisations and companies, but none of these other bodies makes up a person. Together we all make up that person who is Christ, since as Christians we all live and operate through Christ's Spirit.

Who is the most Christ-like figure for you in the present or recent past?

**“ Every one of us contributes something ”
different and valuable in our own way.**

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

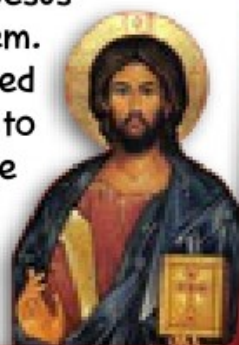
Wednesday
20th May 2026

Good News for Families
TOGETHER TIME 

1

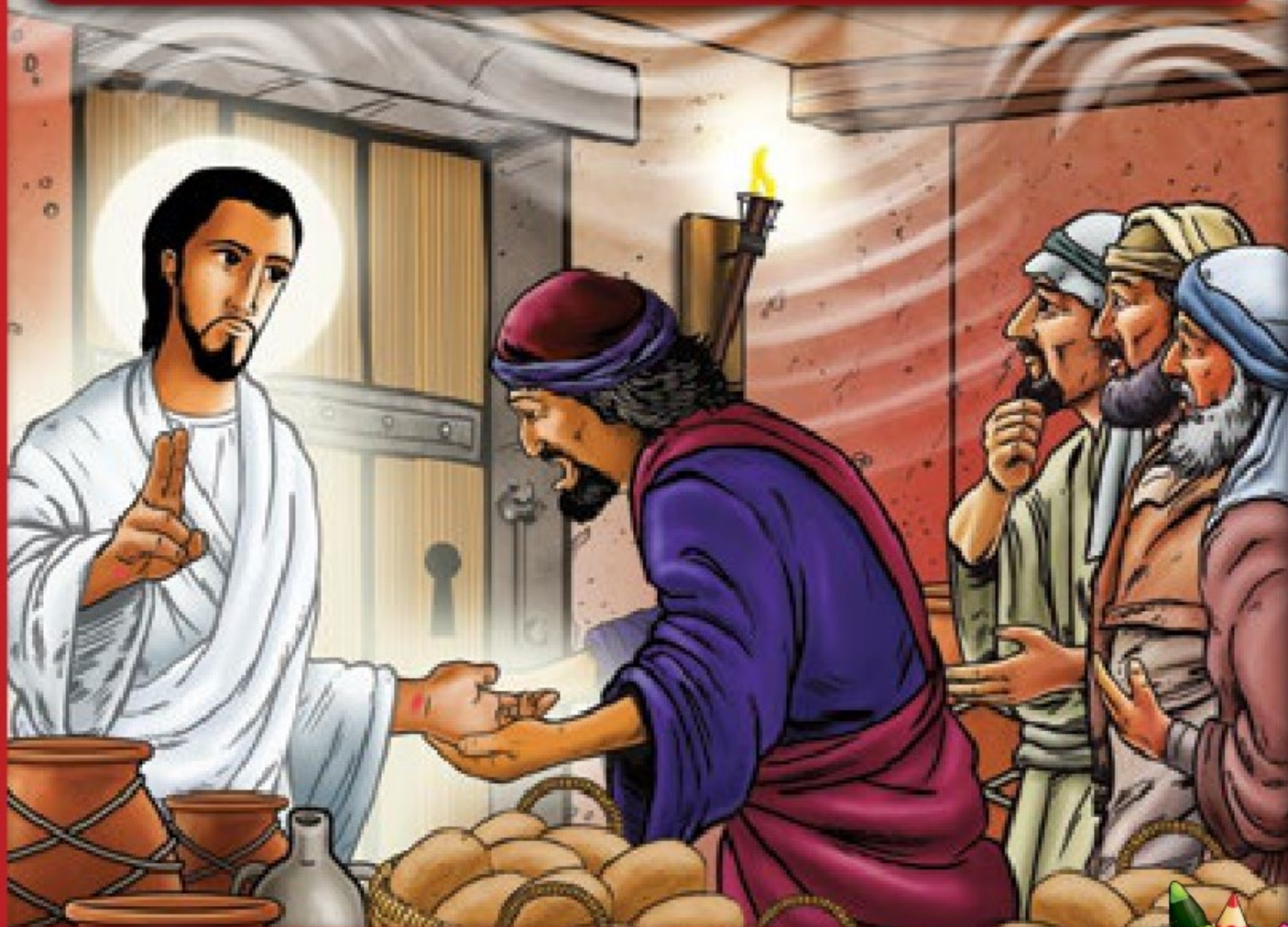
Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

In the evening, the disciples were gathered in a room. They had locked the doors because they were afraid of the people who had crucified Jesus. Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace be with you," he said to them. He showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord. "Peace be with you," Jesus said to them again. "As the Father has sent me, so I now send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said to them. "If you forgive the sins of anyone, then they are forgiven. If you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."



Taken from the Gospel of Sunday 24th May 2026. John 20:19-23 (Pentecost Sunday, Year A)

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



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

2

Wednesday's Word

PENTECOST



"Pentecost is the birthday of the Church." St John XXIII

Why did Jesus breathe on the disciples? This coming Sunday the Church celebrates Pentecost. This is the feast of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the Church - a gift which we now receive at Baptism, Confirmation and at Mass. Ask your child what they know about Pentecost. It may help your child if you tell them something that you know about Pentecost. The word 'Pentecost' means 'fiftieth day'. On this day (fifty days after Easter) the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit.

"The extraordinary outpouring of Pentecost continues. The Holy Spirit transforms us and wants to transform the world."

Pope Francis (Pope from 2013-2025)

Pentecost is not just a historical event. The Holy Spirit is alive and active today. Each of you choose one of the following qualities that you would like to ask the Holy Spirit for today: **Courage, Joy, Peace, Patience, Gentleness, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness or Self-Control.** Why did you choose that quality? In what ways could growing in that quality help you or help those around you? As the Church prepares to celebrate Pentecost Sunday, let's be open to receiving the many priceless gifts which the Holy Spirit offers to enrich our lives.

3

Simply repeating the words 'Come, Holy Spirit' is a great prayer to say at **Pentecost**, and also each day throughout the year.



WEDNESDAY
WORDSEARCH



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



**PENTECOST
GATHERED**

**DOORS
LOCKED**

**JESUS
APPEARED**

**BREATHED
SPIRIT**



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

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

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

Hukomly samukid mubreakthed Supmirkitt
Jesus _____ on them. "Receive the
_____, " he _____ to them.

Write a promise and then **draw** a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....
.....



Pentecost Sunday is popularly known as the birthday of the Church. This was the day when Jesus' disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, when the mission of the Church really began - almost 2000 years ago.

Happy Birthday this week to...

**Ana Christine, Mara, Malakai-Chase,
Frankie & Jedidiah**

Happy Birthday in half term to...

**Dillon, Edie, Stephanie, Filip, Neave,
Andriya, Charlotte, Christabel,
Parker & Jayden**



Golden Awards

- Butterflies: Santino, for a great understanding of odd and even numbers.
Ladybirds: Chimdal, for her enthusiasm and work in Drawing club.
Dragonflies: Halle, for her hard work and determination in all of her learning.
Grasshoppers: Francesca, for always being a positive member of the class.
Hedgehogs: Aminda, for producing a beautiful illustrated drawing of Pentecost.
Squirrels: Orlagh, for a lovely playscript including stage directions.
Badgers: Keizah, for always demonstration the Gospel Values every day.
Foxes: Arthur, for sharing his expert knowledge of Sir David Attenborough.
Hares: Kyren, for great effort in maths when learning about money.
Rabbits: Emilia, for working hard in all subjects.
Kingfishers: Sarah, for her fantastic work in all lessons—Well done Sarah.
Robins: Mara, for her excellent R.E. work about Saint Francis.
Eagles: Eagles class, for coping with the SATs so well.
Owls: Owls class, for coping with the SATs so well.

House Points

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

Menu week 1

Diary Dates

* External club, fees apply

Monday 1st June

Year 1 booster
Mini Musicals club
Years 1 & 2
Forest school
Years 1, 2, 3 & 4
* Cheerleading club
Football team training
Year 5 booster

Tuesday 2nd June

Years 3 reading zone 09:00
Year 5 swimming (invited
pupils only)

Wednesday 3rd June

Years 3 reading zone 14:45
Year 6 National Measurement
Programme
* Football club
* Karate - Years 2 & 3

Thursday 4th June

Years 3 reading zone 09:00
Cafod club
Year 2 booster
* Football club
* Karate - Years 4, 5 & 6

Friday 5th June

Celebration Assembly 2 pm
* Musical Theatre club

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