



3rd July 2026

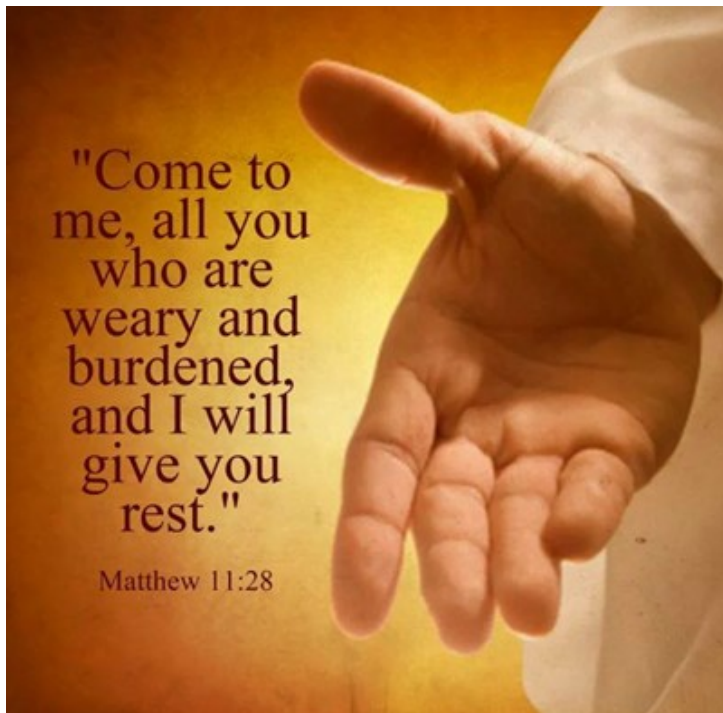


Newsletter

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

Weekly Reflection

In the readings this Sunday we hear Jesus offer words of comfort and kindness. It is almost as if these words are written for us in school as we enter these last two weeks of the school year. It is very busy with lots of things still to do and enjoy. Next week we are really looking forward to **International Week** and of course the wonderful food festival on Friday.



Wishing everyone a peaceful and happy weekend.

Mrs Kerrell
Headteacher



Isle of Wight 2027

We are looking forward to welcoming our Year 5 families to our first information evening for the Isle of Wight 2027. This will take place on Monday after school at 3.30pm.

Extreme Temperatures

We have had a few phone calls about the potential of high temperatures next week. We will let parents know as soon as possible if the forecast changes. At the moment temperatures are not forecast to be high enough to put our Extreme Weather Plan in place.

Hot Weather

It is set to be hot and sunny over these next 2 weeks. Children can wear our lightweight summer uniform (PE kit only on PE days) to keep cool. Please refer to the school website if you are unsure what this is.

It is essential that your child has a hat, refillable water bottle and sun-cream (spray) with them every day so that they can keep safe in the sun. We will ask the children to seek as much shade as possible when they are outside at Break and Lunchtime.

Uniform-Footwear

Please remember that we have a strict uniform policy at Holy Cross. Trainers must only be worn on PE days and are not part of the normal school uniform. I am seeing lots of trainers and I would like to remind parents that children must be in school shoes please.

Year 6 Leavers Play

We are really looking forward to seeing our amazing Year 6 act and sing their hearts out in their Year 6 production next week. The performances are on Monday 6th July at 6pm and Tuesday 7th July at 2pm. Please be sure to get a ticket from the office.

Save the Date

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.

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

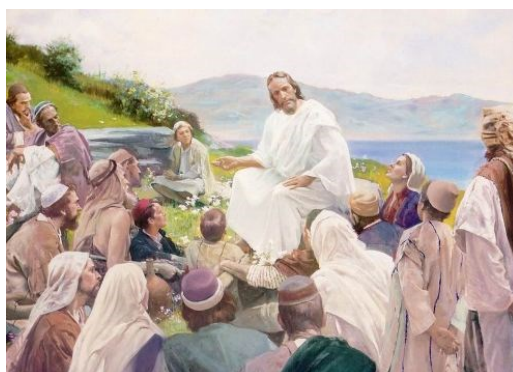
<https://www.holycross-pri.essex.sch.uk/calendar/?calid=3&pid=133&viewid=41>

Gospel Value Awards

Humility

trust and faith in our Lord God our Father

"Lord, make me know your ways. Lord, teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth, and teach me: for you are God my saviour" Psalm 24:4



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

Butterflies:	Ayla	Ladybirds:	Grace
Dragonflies:	Emily	Grasshoppers:	Malakai
Hedgehogs:	Holly	Squirrels:	Jude
Badgers:	Olivia	Foxes:	Noah
Hares:	Gerald	Rabbits:	Ava
Kingfishers:	Bali & Maya	Robins:	Blousey
Eagles:	Andriya	Owls:	Diana

Today Year 4 had their Egyptian Day and they all looked amazing dress up as Ancient Egyptians!

The children took part in a range of different activities including; making the death mask of Tutankhamun, making a cartouche of their name in hieroglyphics (which will be shrunk in the oven and made into a keyring), research on the Gods and Goddesses from Ancient Egypt and sewing their own Egyptian collar.

The children all had a great day and enjoyed all of the activities.

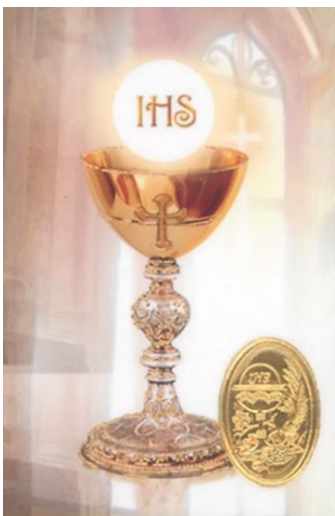


Year 6 Retreat

On Wednesday, our Year 6 pupils enjoyed a memorable Retreat hosted by Mr Hyde and the Year 12 students from St Mark's. Throughout the morning, the children took part in a range of fun team-building activities that encouraged cooperation, communication, and friendship. They also explored Pope Leo's encyclical *Magnifica Humanitas*, reflecting on the message that while technology is a valuable tool, people and human relationships are always more important than machines.

The children also spent time learning about the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit, reflecting on how these guide us to live as faithful disciples of Christ. Through discussion and activities, they considered how qualities such as kindness, patience, wisdom, and self-control can help them in their daily lives and relationships with others.

As part of the retreat, the children completed affirmation booklets, inviting their peers to write positive comments about one another, helping to build confidence and celebrate each individual's unique qualities. The current Head Boy and Head Girl also shared inspiring accounts of their own journeys into secondary school, offering reassurance and encouragement as our Year 6 pupils prepare for this exciting next step. The Year 12 students were a real credit to St Mark's, demonstrating kindness, maturity, and leadership throughout the day, and proving to be outstanding role models for our Year 6 children.



First Holy Communion

The programme will begin on 5th September where pictures will be given out that will be needed for the programme, this will be every week. Enrolment is online through the Parish website. The cut-off date for this is 27th September. All work must be completed before then. You and your child will be expected to attend Mass each week. There will be a meeting with Fr Bernard, Dn Tony and Dn Michael. Parents Meeting 8th January, the lesson will begin 22nd January, then February 27th, March 20th, March 26th, April 17th. The communion Mass will be in May.

READ to the BEAT

Summer Reading
Challenge 2026

Join FREE at your
local library!



Saturday 18 July to Saturday 5 September
At your local Essex library or mobile library -
see libraries.essex.gov.uk for library opening times



National
Year of
Reading
2026



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Delivered in partnership with libraries
summerreadingchallenge.org.uk



INTERNATIONAL FOOD

FESTIVAL

LET'S MAKE IT
BIGGER THAN LAST YEAR!

AFTER SCHOOL

FRIDAY
10TH JULY

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO
HAVE A STALL
THEN LET
MRS SLATER OR MRS MILLS KNOW.





Times Tables Rockstars

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

Hedgehogs:	Kaleb	Squirrels:	Zuriel
Badgers:	Keziah	Foxes:	Malachi
Hares:	Raysa	Rabbits:	Ava
Kingfishers:	Adrian	Robins:	Hayley
Eagles:	Kenna-Kah	Owls:	

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to this week's winners of the KS1 Attendance Award, Butterflies achieving 98% attendance. The joint winners of this week's KS2 Attendance Award are Badgers and 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.

Butterflies	98%
Ladybirds	97%
Dragonflies	93%
Grasshoppers	98%
Hedgehogs	98%
Squirrels	96%
Badgers	100%
Foxes	100%
Hares	92%
Rabbits	89%
Kingfishers	94%
Robins	94%
Eagles	80%
Owls	75%



Based on the gospel for Sunday 5 July, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Matthew 11:25-30

"Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

In this passage, Jesus invites us to come to him, promising rest for our souls, but what does this mean for us today?

With all the suffering in the world, Jesus is offering to share the burdens of humanity. In the world today we can see war, conflict, and injustice, but we may ask: where is Christ in these, sharing the burden?

Here, we may find Christ in the work done by CAFOD partners, walking alongside the communities they serve, demonstrating what hope looks like in the most challenging situations. For example, in Sudan where conflict rolls on, Church partners are providing food, safe water and vital support to families forced to flee their homes.

In this passage, Jesus invites us to learn from him and to become lowly in heart. This means choosing to follow Christ in his service to others, wherever and whenever we can.

Lord God, who sent your Son Jesus Christ to give rest to the heavy laden, grant respite to those who labour, food to those who hunger, and drink to those who thirst. Give us the grace to serve our neighbours as ourselves. We pray this in Jesus Christ's name, Amen.



The Words of Pope Leo XIV

We are called to celebrate the Eucharist at the altar of the Lord, but also in daily life, where it is possible to live everything as an offering and an act of thanksgiving.



Dear Parents and Carers,

A good companion is priceless and helps us to make the best of ourselves. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus offers his companionship to us and to our children.

In this much-loved and encouraging gospel passage, Jesus invites us to go to him to rest and to be refreshed. Jesus came to take away fear and loneliness – to help people feel loved and accepted. We can experience Jesus' companionship through other people and through spending time with God in prayer.

Wednesday 1st July 2026

We do not need to be clever, rich or popular for God to care for us. Regardless of our faults or weaknesses, Jesus always loves us and offers us his comfort and everlasting companionship.

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

Dom Henry Wansbrough



A Word from the Saints

"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you." St Augustine of Hippo (Confessions, Book I)

THE GOSPEL IN CHURCH Sunday 5th July 2026



Jesus exclaimed, "I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children.

Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light."

Adapted from Matthew 11:25-30
The 14th 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

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus invites us to experience the true peace and rest that his companionship brings. He wants to walk alongside us to help lighten life's load. At all times (and particularly whenever we feel overburdened, worried or afraid) Jesus calls us and our children to share, through prayer, any troubles or upsets with him.



Good News for Families

TOGETHER TIME

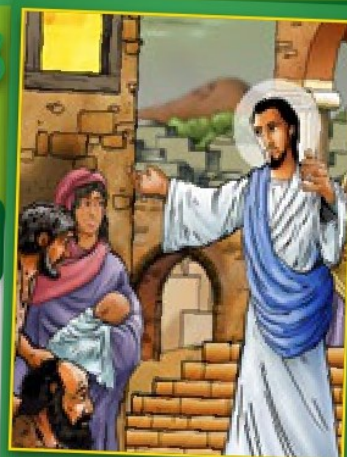


1 READ & REFLECT! Listen & Learn with Jesus, the Word!

Jesus had been teaching his disciples about God the Father, and then started to teach and preach to the people in the towns of Galilee. He said, "Come to me, all you who work hard and are troubled or tired and I will give you rest. Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."

What did Jesus say he would give us?

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...

"Do you want your companions to respect you? Always think well of everyone, and be ready to help others. Do this and you will be happy." *St John Bosco*

COMPANION



Good companions always want the best for us. Ask your child what the word 'companion' means to them. Parents, carers, children and friends can be good companions for each other. As a family, talk about people who are good and helpful companions to you. Can you remember the last time that you were a good companion and helped or comforted someone? What did you do?

As a family, talk about the qualities that make a good companion (e.g. trust, kindness, honesty, loyalty, etc.). Then each say one thing that you can do to be a better companion to someone at home, at work or at school. Perhaps it is by: always trying to treat your friends as you would wish to be treated; saying kind and encouraging words to your friends; supporting and giving, rather than taking; being reliable, faithful and loyal.

3 Dear Lord Jesus, you are kind and full of compassion. Thank you for offering to be our companion and sharing our concerns as we journey through life. Amen.

FINDING THREE

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

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH

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

☒	TROUBLED	☒
☐	TIRED	☐
☐	JESUS	☐
☐	GENTLE	☐
☐	HUMBLE	☐
☐	HEART	☐
☐	REST	☐
☐	SOUL	☐

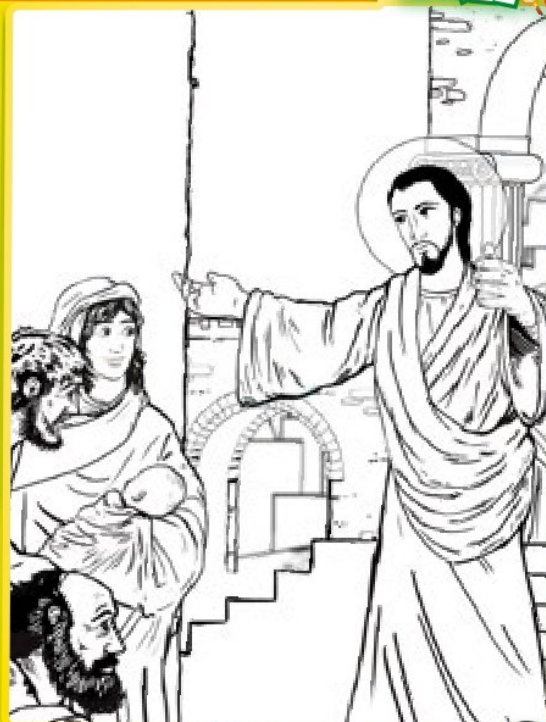
SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS **BACKWARDS** OR **DIAGONALLY**

Cross out the letters **a u l** in the jumbled words below to find 4 real words.

urelsat atioreld Cloumae uwolrak

_____ to me, all you who _____ hard and are
troubled or _____ and I will give you _____

Jesus never wants us to feel troubled, he wants to be our companion - to help us live peacefully in his way. We are doing this whenever we are loving and caring, trying our best to be gentle and kind - bringing calm and comfort to others.



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 5th July 2026

The 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time — Matthew 11:25-30

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 : FATHER AND SON



Jesus exclaimed, 'I bless you, Father, Lord of heaven and of earth, for hiding these things from the learned and the clever and revealing them to mere children. Yes, Father, for that is what it pleased you to do. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, just as no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who labour and are overburdened, and I will give you rest. Shoulder my yoke and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. Yes, my yoke is easy and my burden light.'

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...



This much-loved and encouraging passage tells of the intimacy of the relationship between Father and Son in a way that no other passage of the synoptic gospels does. It is reminiscent of those passages in John 5 which unfold the equality of Father and Son: the Son does nothing but what he sees the Father doing; the Father loves the Son so that he entrusts all things to the Son; and the Son gives life just as the Father gives life. Then we read about the gentle invitation of the Son to all who are overburdened. The 'yoke' is often a symbol of the Law of Moses, which could seem burdensome with its many commands, though it was also valued as God's revelation of himself to his own people in love. Christ is not a tyrannical master, but is a sympathetic, gentle and humble leader who shares his life with his followers. The 'yoke' or law of Christ is the interior impulse of the Spirit which we read more about in today's second reading. It cannot be burdensome, since it is a joy to carry this 'yoke'; it is a way of living with Christ and by his Spirit. Martyrs are subjected to physical pains, yet for them joy is a constant feature in the accounts of their martyrdom.

Do you ever feel you can't cope? Do you ask Jesus for help? What does Jesus mean by his 'yoke'? Do you find it comfortable?

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 **COMPANION**
(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.



First Reading: *The King on a Donkey*



Zechariah 9:9-10

The Lord says this: 'Rejoice heart and soul, daughter of Zion! Shout with gladness, daughter of Jerusalem! See now, your king comes to you; he is victorious, he is triumphant, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will banish chariots from Ephraim and horses from Jerusalem; the bow of war will be banished. He will proclaim peace for the nations. His empire shall stretch from sea to sea, from the River to the ends of the earth.'

The link between this reading and today's Gospel reading is not immediately obvious, at least in our English translation. The use of a donkey as a mount is a sign that the king will be humble, just as Jesus in the Gospel says that he is humble of heart. This connection is made clear when Jesus makes his messianic entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday mounted 'on a colt, the foal of a donkey'. In the spirituality of the people of Israel during those

centuries after the Babylonian exile and leading up to the coming of Christ, this quality of humility, rejection of all pomp and pride of position, was very central. Israel could claim no success because of her own distinctiveness, but was forced to rely on the Lord. The poor and humble were the chosen ones of the Lord. Especially in the Lukan stories of Jesus' infancy it is made clear that the blessing of God comes to the poor and humble. Zechariah (the father of John the Baptist) and Mary are both poor and disadvantaged. Mary can find no decent place to give birth to her son. Jesus is greeted by impoverished, hireling shepherds. Joseph can afford only the turtledove, an offering of the poor. Simeon and Anna have the disadvantage of advanced old age.

Humility often gets a bad press in our society. What does it mean to be humble as Christ was humble?



Second Reading: *The Spirit is Alive in You*



Romans 8:9.11-13

Your interests are not in the unspiritual, but in the spiritual, since the Spirit of God has made his home in you. In fact, unless you possessed the Spirit of Christ you would not belong to him, and if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, then he who raised Jesus from the dead will give life to your own mortal bodies through his Spirit living in you. So then, my brothers, there is no necessity for us to obey our unspiritual selves or to live unspiritual lives. If you do live in that way, you are doomed to die; but if by the Spirit you put an end to the misdeeds of the body you will live.

Chapter eight of Romans, from which readings for the next three Sundays are chosen, is the chapter of the Spirit. We have seen that the Christian, baptised into Christ, lives with his life, the life of the Spirit of Christ. This means that the Christian's whole value-system is that of the Spirit, the reverse of the

values of the 'flesh'. 'Flesh' in Paul does not mean, as it often does in modern parlance, only the grosser, 'carnal' desires such as gluttony, drunkenness and irresponsible sex. In the Letter to the Galatians 5:18-21 (and in many ways Galatians is a preliminary to Romans) the 'works of the flesh' include such non-physical things as sorcery, rivalry, quarrels, malice. The concept of 'flesh' therefore centres on unchecked or unschooled natural desires, on self-indulgence as opposed to self-control. To live by the law of the Spirit is therefore not to live by the Law of Moses, which merely checks external actions, nor to live by the law of the flesh, but is to live by the Spirit of Christ, from which love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, trustfulness, gentleness and the other Christ-like motivations well up spontaneously. In this sense the Law of Christ does not restrain from without but impels from within. **Can the interior impulse really replace an external law?**

**“ The Christian, baptised into Christ, lives
with his life, the life of the Spirit of Christ. ”**

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

Happy Birthday this week to...

**Dior, Darcie, Olivia, Yohane, Athea,
Zofia, Roman & Gabriel**



Headteacher Award

Archie, for being a kind and supportive friend

Caiden, for helping Mrs Kerrell to remember all her things

Golden Awards

Butterflies: Elizabeth, for improved attitude and motivation in phonics and making great progress.

Ladybirds: Shania, for working independently during choosing time.

Dragonflies: Maliyah, for trying really hard in her phonics learning.

Grasshoppers: Luna, for always brightening everyone's day.

Hedgehogs: Micah, for always having a positive attitude to learning.

Squirrels: Tomas, for always being a kind and caring friend.

Badgers: Braven, for showing resilience and determination in Sports practise.

Foxes: Samuel, for writing a great poem about the seaside.

Hares: Stephanie, for great effort performing and writing a playscript for Shakespeare.

Rabbits: Gabriella, for always trying her best in all lessons.

Kingfishers: Autumn, for her fantastic non-chronological report.

Joel, for his fantastic web page.

Tilly, for her wonderful work on Greek Day—Well done!

Gabriel, for his fantastic web page.

Robins: Poppy, for her excellent attitude during our Sports Day practise.

Eagles: Barry, for having a positive attitude towards learning.

Owls: Adaora, for always working hard and having a good attitude to learning.

Menu week 2

Diary Dates

International Week

* External club, fees apply

Monday 6th July

Year 5 Isle of Wight
parent meeting

Mini Musicals club Years
1 & 2

Forest school
Years 3 & 4

* Cheerleading club

Football team training

Year 6 production -18:00

Tuesday 7th July

Year 6 swimming (invited
pupils only)

Year 6 Production - 14:00

Wednesday 8th July

Passport day

Rock Steady concert - 14:00

* Football club

* Karate

Thursday 9th July

Year 5 to St Marks

Cafod club

* Football club

* Karate

Friday 10th July

International Food Festival -
15:30

Please download our News &
Events App for dates for the
year. Details are available on
the schools website under News
& Events at www.holycross-

Wishing everyone a lovely weekend.

Mrs A Kerrell

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

House Points

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