



11th October 2019



Newsletter

Dear Parents

This has certainly been a busy week at school with plenty of visits and visitors. Thank you for supporting our Mental Health dance workshop and 'Wear Yellow' day yesterday. Some people call mental health 'emotional health' or 'well-being' and it's just as important as good physical health.

Mental health is everyone's business. We all have times when we feel down or stressed or frightened. Most of the time those feelings pass. But sometimes they develop into a more serious problem and that could happen to any one.

Thank you to Mrs Gallagher for organising these events and helping to raise awareness of such an important issue.

Reception Family Lunch

Once again Mrs Alger and her team in the kitchen produced a lovely family lunch for the Reception children and their families. Thank you to the kitchen and Midday Assistants for making this possible.

Cardinal Newman

We have been speaking to our children about Cardinal Newman who will be Canonised this weekend by Pope Francis in Rome. Cardinal John Newman, who converted from Anglicanism to Catholicism, will be the first English person born since the 17th century to be declared a saint by the Catholic Church.



Thanks

I am sure that you would like to join with me in thanking our staff for all of their hard work both in and outside of school time. This involves staying late in school preparing work, putting up displays, meeting with staff, governors or parents, adding posts to Its Learning or Tapestry - often late into the night. We are certainly blessed with such dedicated staff. Please remember that whilst we do not expect thanks we also find it very disheartening to see groups of parents complaining on social media - when often a quick word at school can resolve an issue. This type of group 'discussion' serves little purpose other than to inflame a situation and cause general disquiet. We are rightly proud of our Catholic school and will continue to work with you all to build relationships of trust and mutual respect.

Reminder

Just a brief reminder to please supervise your children at the end of the day we are regularly seeing youngsters jumping on outdoor tables and chairs and riding scooters around the playground. We have previously requested that children do not ride their scooters on school premises and we all need to be respectful of school equipment. Thank you.



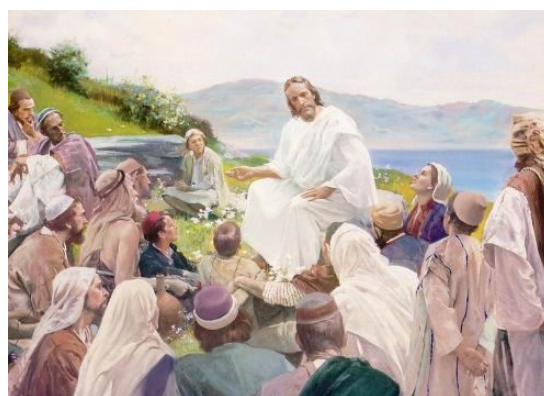
Year 2 are learning about the Great Fire of London, which started in a bakery in Pudding Lane and in RE we learnt about Judaism this week, we combined our learning and we learnt how to make a Jewish bread called Challah, this is a braided sweet bread eaten on ceremonial occasions such as Shabbat and major Jewish holidays. The children enjoyed working in the bakery making the bread but especially eating it!



Gospel Values Awards

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

1D: Eliana Owusu-Adu	1S: Ellie Edmonds
2HD: Iris Wells	2TE: Aimee Kuttin
3N: Conor O'Rourke	3P: Maja Owczarz
4A: Sophie Stopplecamp	4C: Otto Colussi
5G: Julian Jozefczyk	5S: Erin Barker
6E: Molly Cozens	6N: Lucja Ostowska



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Congratulations to **2TE**, winners of the KS1 Attendance Award for this week with **98%**. The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are **3N**, for a second week running, who attained **99%** attendance this week.

Attending school is so important and makes a huge difference to your child's learning.

It is essential you notify us of your child's absence by 9am either by telephone or using the Parentmail report absence option. 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 an absence is not reported

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

R B	96%
R L	96%
1D	97%
1S	96%
2HD	98%
2TE	99%
3N	97%
3P	97%
4A	95%
4C	97%
5G	96%
5S	97%
6E	96%
6N	96%

5G Burwell Trip

5G had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Burwell House between 7th and 9th October 2019 as part of their residential trip. After arrival, they explored the grounds at Burwell House through the 'Snail Game'. This was followed by a walk around the village of Burwell where they did sketches of walls, roofs and tiles.

On Tuesday 8th October, 5G recorded their news report in the Burwell studio. In this they took on two roles, one as presenters in front of the camera and the second as technicians which involved sound mixing, vision mixer and camera operators. They also made clay tiles following their exploration of the local area and learning about the history of Burwell on Monday. The children also had the Burwell Fox game in the evening - always a favourite with the children.

On Wednesday morning the children did a comparison study between Burwell and the hamlet of Reach which we then followed up by comparing these to our local area of Harlow.

This has been a tremendous trip for our Year 5 children. They all received compliments from Burwell staff for their good manners and excellent behaviour.

Thank you to Mrs Guna and all involved.



London Marathon 2020

Brentwood Catholic Children's Society has a number of Gold Bond Charity places for runners in the London Marathon taking place on Sunday 26th April 2020. If you are an experienced runner or someone who would value the opportunity to participate in this renowned event please contact Libby Phillips for further details on 01268 784544 / lphillips@bccs.org.uk. The closing date for completed applications is Friday 15th November and please note that there is a minimum sponsorship requirement of £1600 (excluding Gift Aid). If you have been lucky enough to secure your own running place through the ballot, we would invite you to join us and run for Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. The London Marathon is a unique opportunity to raise much needed funds for the Diocesan Children's Society and perhaps achieve a lifetime ambition at the same time.



EARLY ACCESS

Understanding Video Game LOOT BOXES & SKIN BETTING



ONLINE GAMING

Much is written in the media about online gaming, gambling and "skin" betting. These terms can be confusing as they mean different things in different contexts. Online gaming has historically meant gambling websites with cards, slot machines and roulette. More recently, as we are discussing here, online gaming has also come to mean video games you play over the internet. In online video games, players can often start playing for free. As they progress, the game offers in-app purchases that provide equipment, weapons, outfits and enhancements to characters. These are usually small purchases of just a few pounds. However, games offer many hundreds of these purchases that can mean children spend a considerable amount of money.

SAFE SETTINGS

It's important that parents try this out with children as they venture into the world of gaming. Together they can build an understanding of how these purchases work and discuss which are really good value, and which are over-priced. Like pocket money, it can be a good way to teach children about virtual currency and online purchases.

It's important to understand that it can be easier to make repeat purchases online compared to buying toys or stickers over the counter. Also, many games offer high-cost top-ups of virtual currency (up to £79.99) in a single purchase. While these are sometimes labelled "best value" they represent a significant investment in a game that should be considered carefully before purchase.

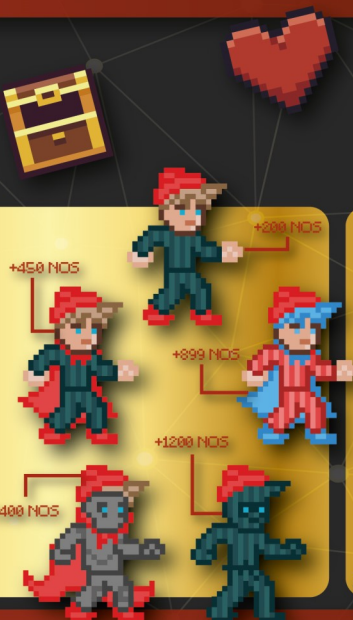
It's worth noting that Microsoft, Sony and Nintendo have agreed to disclose the odds of getting rare items in loot boxes. Game publishers on these platforms will have to reveal the chances of each purchase. Some publishers do this already. Together with your child, you can set-up spending limits to stop accidental purchases. A good approach is to use the pocket money feature on consoles to allow them to spend a small amount each month. You can also avoid putting your credit card details in by using pre-paid cards that work like book tokens. If you do add credit cards ensure you set up a password on the account.

NOS National
Online
Safety®
#WakeUpWednesday

SKIN TRADING

Because players can trade and swap items in games, the relative rarity of these items creates a thriving market where these items are exchanged. This trading aspect of games like Rocket League can be an enjoyable way for players to get the items they want, similar to swapping football stickers in the playground.

Because these items are often just visual changes to how characters look they are called "skins", although, in reality, this includes items that do more than change appearance. It's important for parents to understand that these "skin" trades are often arranged on websites or apps outside the game itself. This can mean that parents are unaware of trades. Also, the third-party communities are unregulated and beyond the control of the game creator.



SKIN BETTING

Use of this "skin" currency can be taken further by websites that use it for gambling. "Skin betting" is when players use these virtual items they have earned or purchased in games as gambling currency. Players can also use these sites to bet with "skins" on eSports competition outcomes. It's important for parents to be aware of this activity, as it can consume considerable amounts of money if a player is buying in-game items for this purpose.

Where this becomes a legal issue, is when the "skins" you win can be converted to cash. As the Gambling Commission stated in its Young People and Gambling 2017 Report, "Where gambling facilities are offered to British consumers, including with the use of in-game items that can be converted into cash or traded (for items of value), a gambling licence is required."

In particular, this means that these sites must not be accessible or advertised to children. "Tackling operators making gambling facilities available to children is one of the Gambling Commission's priorities. This has been demonstrated by action taken against unlicensed websites providing facilities for gambling using in-game items as methods for payment." Along with the Gambling Commission, the games industry strongly opposes "skin" betting sites as they infringe the legal agreements that underpin games. Games companies work with law enforcement agencies to clamp down on these sites.

VALUING IN-APP PURCHASES

Understanding how modern games make money enables you to guide your family to find the best value in the games they play. Whether it's taking advantage of the many free to play games now available, making informed decisions about in-app purchases or spending weekend pocket money after a hard week at school, this way of paying for games can work.

Meet our expert

Andy Robertson is a parent of three children and journalist who writes for national newspapers and broadcast television. His Taming Gaming book helps parents guide children to healthy play.



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Twitter - @natonlinesafety

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Forest School

What a week full of exciting learning...

The children worked cooperatively together in solving scientific challenges, problem solving using shape as well as utilising their D and T skills by creating levers and bridges!

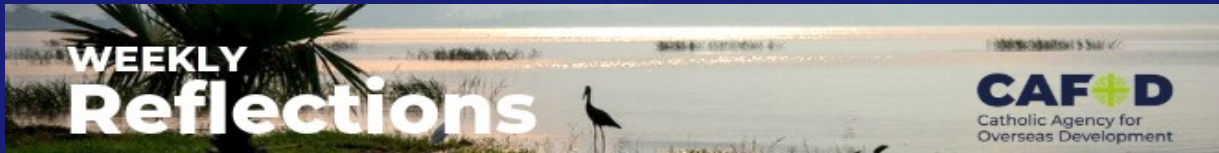
Many children took part in the usually Forest school activities such as pond dipping, bug hunting, observing wildlife and working in the mud kitchen. Each week, we are becoming more effective nature detectives by familiarising ourselves with the specific names of trees and plants.

Also as part of mental health awareness week, the TV filming that took place within the school took a great interest in our love of the outdoors. They made a visit to our very own Forest School at Holy Cross.

It is so key for children's wellbeing to experience being outside with nature, so therefore we were very proud to share how lucky our children are to have this opportunity right on their door step.



RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for Sunday 13 October - Luke 17:11-19

"Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you."

Whilst travelling through Samaria and Galilee, Jesus encounters ten lepers who plead to be healed. He sends them to the priests, and all ten are made well.

However, only one of the ten, a Samaritan, falls at the feet of Jesus in thankfulness.

How often in life, when the Lord answers our prayers and pleas for help, are we like the Samaritan? In our busy lives do we remember to be thankful for the help and healing we receive?

It's easy to get distracted in our day to day tasks and forget to take a minute to quietly reflect in appreciation.

Yet our faith in Jesus sustains us and enables us to go on in the most difficult times.

So before we 'stand up and go on our way' we should, like the Samaritan, give thanks that our prayers have been answered.

For in acknowledging your help, Lord, we strengthen our faith and our lives, through you.

O Lord,
When our faith sustains us
And heals us
And saves us
Let us, in our healing
Be like the Samaritan and give thanks.
Thank you, Lord.
Amen.

The Words of Pope Francis

Our life and our talents are the result of a gift woven between God and the many silent hands of persons whose names we will only know in Heaven.



Month of Our Lady

We continue to pray especially to Our Lady during this month of October. Mr Long has invited children to pray the rosary on Monday 14th October at 8.30 and Wednesday 16th October also at 8.30 am.



Encountering Christ
Prayerfully preparing for the
Sunday Mass and praying in
particular for our school families



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 13th October 2019 - The Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Relax & Remember

Set aside 10 -15 minutes and create a suitable environment by removing any distractions. Make sure that you are comfortable. Perhaps light a candle. Make the sign of the cross † and remain still for a minute of settling silence. **Call to mind the love that God has for you. Remember that through this scripture our Lord is truly present.** Then read the Gospel, preferably aloud and slowly, and pay attention to any words that stand out. If any do, meditate on them for a few minutes and be invited into a dialogue with God.



2 Read

Taken from the Gospel for 13th October 2019 (Luke 17:11-19): The Samaritan Leper

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus travelled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered one of the villages, ten lepers came to meet him. They stood some way off and called to him, "Jesus! Master! Take pity on us." When he saw them he said, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." Now as they were going away they were cleansed. Finding himself cured, one of them turned back praising God at the top of his voice and threw himself at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was a Samaritan. This made Jesus say, "Were not all ten made clean? The other nine, where are they? It seems that no one has come back to give praise to God, except this foreigner." And he said to the man, "Stand up and go on your way. Your faith has saved you."



3 Reflect

After spending a few minutes considering this Gospel, continue by reading Fr Henry Wansbrough's reflection.

We see why the story of the cure of Naaman the leper has been chosen as our first reading today: in the Gospel reading we find another cure of a foreigner, and not an ordinary foreigner, but a hated foreigner. There was a cordial hatred between Jews and Samaritans: for the Jews, the Samaritans were a wretched hybrid race, who accepted only part of the Jewish Bible, and had their own ideas about the coming Messiah. Yet Luke has already recounted the story of the Good Samaritan, who succours the wounded traveller who had been neglected by Jewish priest and Levite. Now only a Samaritan comes back to thank Jesus for the cure from leprosy. Samaritans are the foreigners geographically nearest to Jesus, but hated by the Jews. If the Samaritans can set an example to the Jews, so can many other foreigners. In his initial proclamation Jesus promises salvation to the gentiles, and Luke misses no opportunity to show us gentiles ripe for salvation: the centurion of Capernaum who built the synagogue and whose son is cured, the guests for the banquet called in from highways and byways. Luke is preparing for his second volume, the Acts of the Apostles, where the Good News will spread to the ends of the earth, even to Rome itself.

Christians believe that no race is superior to another. Why?

Dom Henry Wansbrough OSB

4 Respond & Request

Now slowly and prayerfully read the Gospel once again but this time in silence. Consider how this Gospel could apply to your life in general. Then thank God for any insight you may have received. Conclude by asking God to bless you with one of the following spiritual gifts to help you act on any resolution you have made: love, understanding, wisdom, faithfulness, peace, self control, patience, or joy. Please remember to pray for the Church and particularly our school families. **Then conclude by requesting the prayers of Our Lady & St Joseph.**



The Wednesday Word is under the patronage of St Joseph, Patron Saint of Families and Protector of the Church
Within the tradition of the Catholic Church, each Wednesday is dedicated to St Joseph

WEDNESDAY WORD PLUS +

Fr Henry's reflections on the first and second readings of Sunday 13th October 2019



First Reading: *Naaman the Syrian*

2 Kings 5:14-17

Naaman the leper went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, as Elisha had told him to do. And his flesh became clean once more like the flesh of a little child. Returning to Elisha with his whole escort, he went in and stood before him. "Now I know," he said, "that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel. Now, please, accept a present from your servant." But Elisha replied, "As the Lord lives, whom I serve, I will accept nothing." Naaman pressed him to accept, but he refused. Then Naaman said, "Since your answer is 'No', allow your servant to be given as much earth as two mules may carry, because your servant will no longer offer holocaust or sacrifice to any god except the Lord."

This little excerpt is the stub-end of one of the most delightful stories in the Bible (read it!). It pairs with the Gospel reading. In his opening proclamation in the synagogue at Nazareth Jesus declares that he has come to save the gentiles too, just as Elisha did, citing Naaman as an example. Today we read about the cure (the saving of Naaman) itself. The odd bit about two 'muleloads' of earth is the result of the belief, still persistent at that time, that the God of Israel could be worshipped only on the soil of Israel – so take some soil with you! Naaman wants to express his gratitude to the Lord at his home too. At the time attributed to Elisha and Naaman (mid 9th century BC) the Lord was accepted as God of Israel, the Sovereign and Protector of Israel, but this implied nothing about other nations. It was not until the Babylonian exile, when Israel was confronted with the multiple gods of Babylon, that Israel came to believe that the Lord was the God of the whole earth, the whole universe, and that all the other deities, such as those of sun and moon and stars, were simply timing-devices plugged into the vault of heaven by the Lord himself. God reveals himself to Israel, and to us, gradually.

How has your faith deepened or developed over the years?

Second Reading: *The Grounds for Hope*

2 Timothy 2:8-13

Remember the Good News that I carry, 'Jesus Christ risen from the dead, sprung from the race of David'; it is on account of this that I have my own hardships to bear, even to being chained like a criminal - but they cannot chain up God's news. So I bear it all for the sake of those who are chosen, so that in the end they may have the salvation that is in Christ Jesus and the eternal glory that comes with it. Here is a saying that you can rely on: if we have died with him, then we shall live with him; if we hold firm, then we shall reign with him; if we disown him, then he will disown us; we may be unfaithful, but he is always faithful, for he cannot disown his own self.

“The kernel of the Good News is the Resurrection.”

If Paul is chained as a criminal, at least he gives the grounds for his hope and his security: 'the saying is sure'. The kernel of the Good News is the Resurrection, and that is enough for Paul. If Christ is risen from the dead, nothing more is required; this in itself is the fulfilment of the promises to David. Paul quotes a little symmetrical hymn ('if we have died with him...') which was no doubt sung by the early Christian congregations. The earliest external evidence to the Christian liturgy is a letter from Pliny, governor of a province in what is now northern Turkey, in the early second century, written only a few decades after the Second Letter to Timothy. He has examined Christians under torture and sends his findings to the Emperor. Christians, he says, meet on a set day (presumably Sunday), make oaths of loyalty to one other, sing a hymn 'to Christ as to a god', and then have a meal (presumably the Eucharist). The hymnic phrases in today's reading could be part of just such a hymn mentioned by Pliny, sung under the pressures of persecution, celebrating the union of Christ with his followers, and Christ's fidelity to his own people, whatever they do to him: if we are faithless, he remains faithful.

What does the hymn in this letter to Timothy teach us about life in Christ?

The Wednesday Word: *Connecting Home, School & Parish through the Word of God*
w: www.wednesdayword.org e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday to... Victoria Banjo, Kayden Kureya, Jake Sinyakin, Aria McGinty, Dion Arthur, Gilda Bosopem, Freya Bown, Jacob Bown, Kiera Hodgkinson



Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Justin Nguyen, for his fantastic addition work in maths.
 1S: Jeremy Cox, for using Capital letters, finger spaces and full stops.
 2HD: Rhianne-Joy Hombre, for creating a super Great Fire of London collage.
 2TE: Benjamin Thorp, for excellent effort and skills in maths this week.
 3N: Mmasi Ihekaigbo-Iwuaba, for her excellent attitude to learning.
 3P: Dominic Marshall, for working very hard in learning our text map all about electricity.
 4A: Emil Danel, for excellent addition work.
 4C: Emma Woodhouse, for tremendous literacy work about Narnia.
 5G: Charlie Usedon-Duff, for developing excellent technical skill during our trip to Burwell.
 5S: Aleigha Twomey, for her positive attitude to learning and trying her best in all subjects.
 6E: Johnathan Ferreira-Borges, for great numeracy work.
 6N: Steven Stewart-Evans, for always working hard, trying his best and presenting his work beautifully. Well done.

Learning Mentor: Jack Bishop, for his wonderful enthusiasm setting up a lunch time book club.

Diary Dates

Week 2 Menu

Global Achievers Week

Monday 14th October

Rosary Club 8.30
 Be Still Club lunchtime
 Year 4 Mass 2.00
 KS2 Homework 3.15 - 4.15
 KS2 Spanish 3.15 - 4.15

Tuesday 15th October

2HD Bush Fair Visit
 Year 6 Mass 2.00
 Choir 3.15 - 4.20
 Football Team Training 3.15 - 4.30
 KS1 Construction 3.15-4.00
 KS1 Cosmic Yoga / Just Dance 3.15 - 4.00
 KS2 Code 3.15 - 4.30
 KS2 Dodgeball 3.15 - 4.15

Wednesday 16th October

Rosary Club 8.30
 3N Eucharistic Service
 Karate 3.15 - 4.15
 KS2 Football 3.15 - 4.15
 KS1 Football 3.15 - 4.15

Thursday 17th October

Choir 3.15 - 4.20
 KS2 Chess 3.15 - 4.15
 KS1 Dodgeball 3.15 - 4.15
 KS2 Drama 3.15 - 4.15

Friday 18th October

Parent Forum 1.30
 Assembly 2.40
 Karate 3.15 - 4.15
 KS2 Netball 3.15 - 4.15

House Points

Congratulations to the winning house St Patrick

S. McGuigan

Miss S McGuigan

Headteacher

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

Seew Kelliher

Mr S Kelliher

Deputy Headteacher