

15th October 2021



Dear Parents/Carers,

We wrote to you with a heavy heart on Saturday. Miss McGuiggan led our school for twenty years and I know that the news of her death brought great sadness but also the feelings of respect and love for all that she has done. We united in grief but also in love to remember and give thanks for Miss McGuiggan who has been central to our school and our lives.

Children were told in two separate, age appropriate, assemblies on Monday morning through an adapted version of the Gospel according to Mark 10:17-30.

They were told that we learned it is hard for people who are rich to enter the kingdom of heaven and have everlasting life there. People must live a good life but also, they must give up all their riches, leave home, their brothers, sisters and children.

Miss McGuiggan led a very good life through her dedication to everyone at Holy Cross. This is her home, this is her family. She told us, as friends and colleagues, that she felt like the richest person on earth. Rich with all her brothers, sisters and children.

She viewed all the adults in the school community as her brothers and sisters. She saw all pupils, as her children and always made sure that she did the very best for them. Miss McGuiggan was rich in everything through our school and parish community.

Miss McGuiggan led a good life just like the man that Jesus met in the Gospel reading but, unlike that man, she was prepared to give up all of her riches to enter the kingdom of heaven and have everlasting life. She is now with God.

Just as Jesus said to the disciples, Miss McGuiggan will now receive a hundred times more homes, brothers, sisters, mothers and children—she will receive eternal life. She will also live in our memories here at Holy Cross through the love she has shown us.

In the coming days and weeks there will be sadness about not seeing Miss McGuiggan at school but we must remember that we have been blessed by her love and that she is happy, watching over us with everlasting life in heaven.

Thank you all for your condolences and kind words, they are much appreciated.

Arrangements for the Requiem Mass for Miss McGuiggan are underway. Once the date is confirmed, we will let you know.

Mr. Kelliher

In company with Christ,

Who died and now lives,

May Miss McGuiggan rejoice in Your kingdom,

Where all our tears are wiped away.

Unite us together again in one family,

To sing Your praise forever.

Amen

A message from Robert Simpson, Director of Education for the Diocese of Brentwood.

Miss McGuigan was a well-respected and dedicated Headteacher who provided long and successful service to the educational mission of the Diocese of Brentwood.

She took on a number of senior roles over her time in Catholic education, never losing sight of the significant impact that a good education could have on the lives of the children and families that she served. Whilst she will be sadly missed, what Miss McGuigan built in Harlow and in other schools across the diocese remains a real and tangible legacy. Bishop Alan and the Brentwood Diocesan Education Service will be keeping Sue, her family and the school community in their prayers at this difficult time.

The background of the central section is a collage of autumn leaves in various shades of orange, yellow, and red, set against a warm, golden-brown gradient.

Holy Cross School Council **Harvest Collection 2021**

**Our Harvest Collection will be
from 11th– 22nd October**

Donations of tinned food, dry foods such as cereal, rice, pasta, long life milk, tea, coffee, sugar, juice and anything in date with a long shelf life would be greatly appreciated.

All donations will be going to Streets 2 Homes

Young Minds

Thank you to everyone who took part in our Wear Yellow for Mental Health day and donated to the charity.

The school raised £221 and Pre-school raised £35

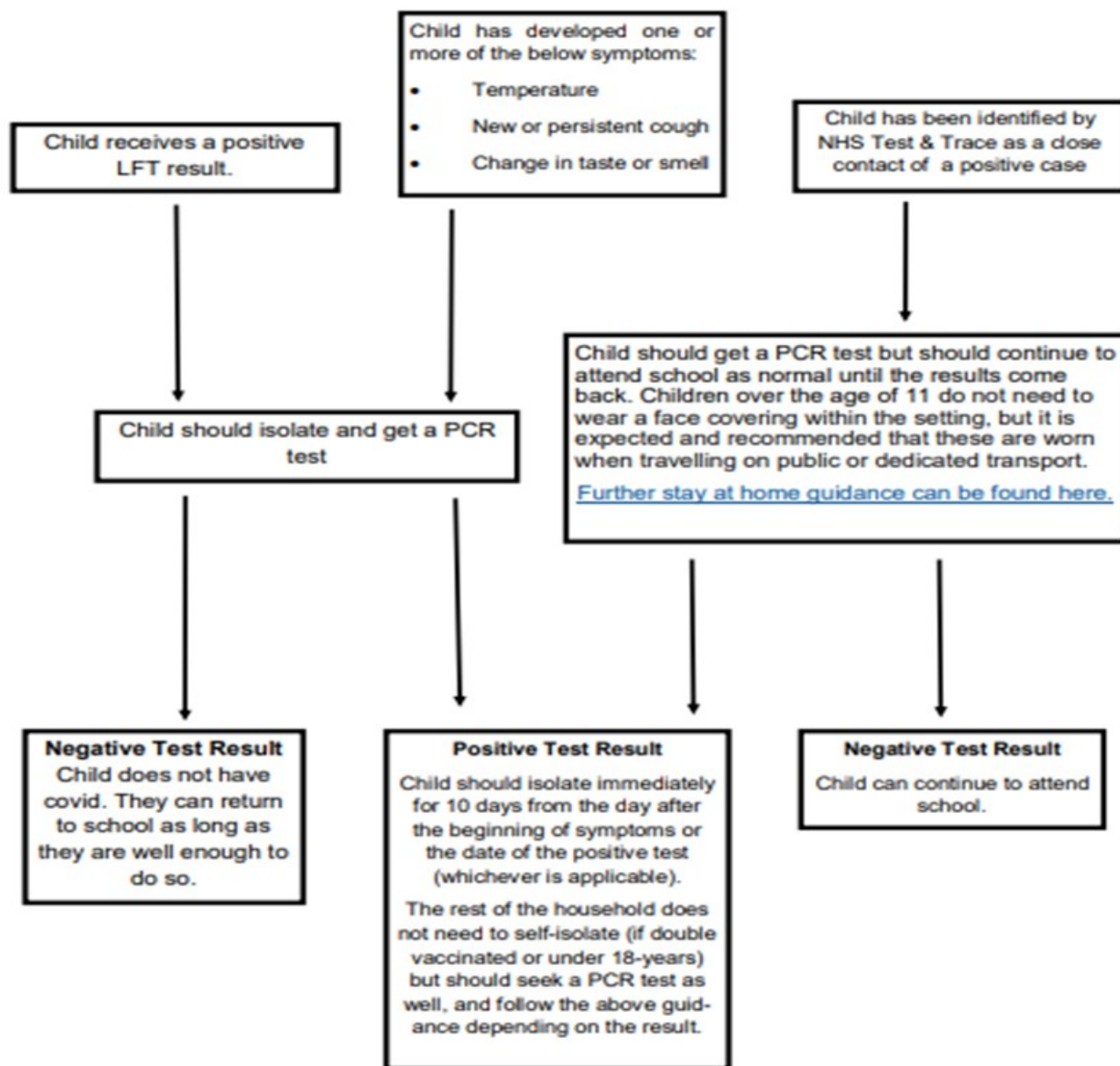
The logo for Young Minds is located in the bottom right corner. It features the text 'We're fundraising for' in a small, pink font, followed by 'YOUNGMINDS' in a large, bold, white font with a blue outline. Below this, the tagline 'fighting for young people's mental health' is written in a smaller, black font.

We're fundraising for
YOUNGMINDS
fighting for young people's mental health

COVID-19

The way that Covid is managed in schools has changed from September. Please find a flowchart below which illustrates the self-isolation and testing guidance for children.

Self-Isolation and Testing Guidance



Times Tables Rockstars

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

2PT: Luna Milciute Blynovas

3N: Catherine Kazakov

4C: Filip Skowron

5G: Kayden Messer

6CN: Jessica Wadding

2HD: Aimee Fennelly

3R: Oliwier Slawikoski

4E: Thomas Hyde

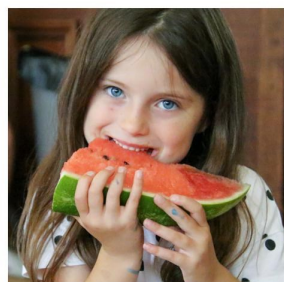
5S: Ruby La Ronde

6E: Ethan Owusu-Boateng



Essex ACTIVate

Active Essex is offering a range of ActivAte clubs this Half Term!



These clubs are completely **free for young people** who are **eligible for benefits based free school meals**, as well as children from low income working families who would benefit from this **additional support**. Clubs will feature fun physical and enrichment activities, as well as nutrition education. Plus, each child will receive a **tasty, nutritious lunch!**

Mental Wellbeing Hubs

Delivering **supported activities** over **shorter sessions**, in **smaller groups**. Activities will be **sensitive** to children's needs, focusing on **gentle social transition** and **copng exercises** to help with the move back to community engagement.



Local Activity Clubs

Our holiday clubs, run by **locally trusted organisations**, offer a wide variety of activities, ensuring they have a **fun, memorable and active** holiday!

All clubs will be delivered within Covid safety guidelines.

SEND Activity Hubs

There will be **SEND Hubs** across Essex, delivering **specialist workshops**. These will provide **coaching** and **inclusive physical and enrichment activities** for SEND pupils, to ensure they get **the best** out of their summer!

If your child is eligible but does not require this face to face support, then we are pleased to also be offering fun virtual resources www.activeessex.org

Forest School



This week all the children have begun practising the art of mindfulness and meditation. We will continue to do this every week building up the ability to be still and enjoy nature at its best.

It has been a calm week with many children studying autumn in depth. As part of their art curriculum, year 3 gathered natural objects to create natural artwork. One group even created a beautiful representation of Miss McGuiggan out of the different coloured leaves.

This weeks Forest School award is being presented to Adam in 1S for his perseverance and dedication to identifying all the trees.



Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Humility

- Trust in God

"God be merciful to me a sinner." (18:13)

"I am among you as one who serves." (22:27)



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

1DG: Thea Dixon

1S: Kiera Noonan

2HD: Liliana Smaglo

2PT: Emauella Boateng

3N: Luisa Marsham

3R: Martuna Gulka

4C: Logan Coombe

4E: Mara Ciotoi

5G: Mischa Hyde

5S: Isla Marsh-Gray

6CN: Kailani Loughran Ricketts

6E: Sophie Stopplecamp

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are 2HD attaining 99% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award 3N, achieving 98%. 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 **8:40am** until **8.50am**.

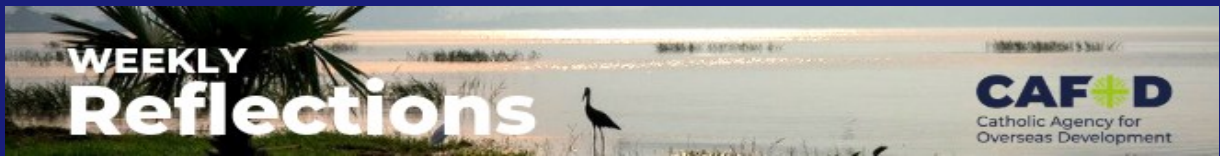
Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of COVID 19. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms they must have a negative PCR test before they may attend school. There is no need to keep your child off with a common cold, if they are well enough to come in.

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.

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

R B	98%
R L	98%
1DG	94%
1S	97%
2HD	99%
2PT	98%
3N	98%
3R	93%
4C	96%
4E	93%
5G	97%
5S	95%
6CN	97%
6E	93%

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for 17 October, Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Mark 10:42-45

"Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all."

In our everyday lives, it can be difficult to give things up. We can maybe relate to the sadness of the rich man in last Sunday's Gospel. Making sacrifices, humbling ourselves and being a servant to all seems like a big task.

But through service, comes 'greatness' and an opportunity to help build God's Kingdom. The greatness is not about our glory, but God's.

How can we be a servant to all? It sounds impossible. But our prayers for global justice are extremely powerful.

A modern-day issue, affecting all of us is climate change. But we can serve all and act in solidarity by making changes to our own lives, and by calling on those with power in our world to take action too.

Slowly but surely, we can serve all through prayer and actions.

Saint John Paul II said that development in justice is made: "in the exercise of solidarity...in the love and service of neighbour, especially of the poorest." God gave us great freedom to choose to love and serve in many ways.

God has planned each of our days (Psalm 139:16). There is joy in taking on these daily challenges of service and being who God needs us to be for his kingdom.

Lord, guide us through the challenging times of our world. Help us to be who you made us to be and joyfully serve others. Let your victory and love of justice inspire us each day. Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

Only if we become roots of peace and shoots of unity, will we prove credible in the eyes of the world, which look to us with a yearning that can bring hope to blossom.
#ApostolicJourney

Wednesday
13th October

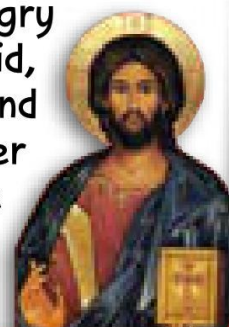


**Good News
for Families**

1

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus and said, "Master, we want you to do us a favour." Jesus said, "What is it you want me to do for you?" They answered, "When you come into your glory, allow one of us to sit at your right hand and the other at your left." When the other ten heard this they began to feel angry with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said, "You know how some rulers want to order people around and to control them. Well, you must not be like that. Whoever wants to be truly great must follow my example and be like a servant to others. I did not come to be served – I came to serve, and to give my life for other people."



From the Gospel of Sunday 17th October 2021 Cf. Mark 10: 35-45 (29th Sunday in Ordinary Time)

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 **GREATNESS**.



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





**"Doing little things with a strong desire to please
God makes them great."** *St Francis de Sales*

What did Jesus say he had come to do? It's natural to want to be great. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus teaches the disciples how to be truly great. Being kind, self-giving, thoughtful and helpful are great qualities. It's not always easy to live our lives in this way but it is the way that God want us to live, to become the best that we can be. Ask your child what the word 'greatness' means to them. Who does your child know at home, at school or in the community who shows true greatness by putting others' needs first? It may help your child if you tell them about someone you know to be 'great'.

God is great and He made us to be great too. Through spending lots of his time serving others Jesus shows us the way to true greatness. Each of you share one thing about other family members which you think makes them great. Then choose a way in which you can be 'great' for each other this week. Perhaps you can: look for new ways to serve someone at home or at school; offer help at mealtimes, preparing the food and clearing up afterwards; avoid being bossy; resist pushing in and let others go first instead; give your time or money where needed.



Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for all the great people in our world. Please help us to grow in greatness through putting others first. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



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

☒
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

**JAMES
JOHN**

**JESUS
SAID**

**TRULY
GREAT**

**SERVE
OTHERS**

☒
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐
☐

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS
BACKWARDS OR **DIAGONALLY**

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

Cross out
the letters

i d b

in the 4 jumbled
words to find
4 real words.

bexdampile wadnitbs serdvantib giredbat

"Whoever _____ to be truly _____ must follow my
_____ and be like a _____ to others."

This week we celebrate the Feast of
St Teresa of Avila. She is a real example
of what it means to be truly great!

Find out more about St Teresa in the
Children's Section at wednesdayword.org
(see 'SAINT FACTFILES').

Write a promise and then draw a big smile on Smiley

This week I will try my best to...

.....

.....



Wednesday 13th October 2021 - A WEEKLY PRAYER CUSTOM



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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 17th October 2021 - The Twenty Ninth 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 17th October 2021 (Mark 10:35-45): A Life of Service (shorter version)

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, approached Jesus. "Master," they said to him, "we want you to do us a favour." He said to them, "What is it you want me to do for you?" They said to him, "Allow us to sit one at your right hand and the other at your left in your glory." "You do not know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup that I must drink, or be baptised with the baptism with which I must be baptised?" They replied, "We can." Jesus said to them, "The cup that I must drink you shall drink, and with the baptism with which I must be baptised you shall be baptised, but as for seats at my right hand or my left, these are not mine to grant; they belong to those to whom they have been allotted." When the other ten heard this they began to feel indignant with James and John, so Jesus called them to him and said to them, "You know that among the pagans their so-called rulers lord it over them, and their great men make their authority felt. This is not to happen among you. No; anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be slave to all. For the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."



3 Reflect

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

Three times in Mark's gospel Jesus formally tells his disciples about his coming Passion, and each time they seem entirely deaf to it. So each time Jesus counters their misunderstanding by repeating the need for a disciple to follow him in suffering. Today's reading begins just after the third prophecy, and – true to form – the sons of Zebedee reply with a request for the best seats at the banquet of the Kingdom! Matthew in his gospel spares the two disciples by putting the request in their poor mother's mouth; only in a second exchange with Jesus do they woodenly accept to share Jesus' 'cup' and 'baptism'. Do they really know what they are accepting, or do they just blithely agree and answer 'Yes' to Jesus' question about sharing the same 'cup' as their 'Master'? The indignation of the other disciples prompts Jesus to deliver his clearest statement in words that authority in the Church should be regarded as service. His clearest statement in action about service is the smelly business of washing the travel-gnarled feet of his disciples at his last meal with them.

How does Jesus envisage leadership in the Church? How may we all live better lives of service?

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 17th October 2021



First Reading: *The Suffering Servant of the Lord*

Isaiah 53:10-11

The Lord has been pleased to crush his servant with suffering. If he offers his life in atonement, he shall see his heirs, he shall have a long life and through him what the Lord wishes will be done. His soul's anguish over, he shall see the light and be content. By his sufferings shall my servant justify many, taking their faults on himself.

The whole of this Fourth Song of the Suffering Servant is read at the liturgy of Good Friday. Today we have only a part, but enough to show that the Servant's suffering somehow fulfils God's purposes: it brings glory to the Servant and salvation to others. We do not know who the servant originally envisaged by the author was: perhaps the prophet himself or perhaps the people of Israel suffering in exile in Babylon. But in Christ we can see a further meaning in this reading. We know from Jesus' own sayings that he saw himself as the complete fulfilment of these poems: 'The Son of man came not to be served but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many'. He saw his life as one of service and of perfect obedience to the Lord, his Father. He saw his task to be the establishment of the Kingship of God on earth, which would bring salvation to all, and that opposition to this Kingship would bring him suffering and eventually death. This selfless obedience of Jesus would undo the stubborn disobedience of all humanity, symbolised by the sin of Adam. It would bring to completion the Lord's designs for the world and for all creation.

Whom did the prophet mean by the Suffering Servant? How does this Servant "fulfil" God's purposes?

Second Reading: *The Supreme High Priest*

Hebrews 4:14-16

Since in Jesus, the Son of God, we have the supreme high priest who has gone through to the highest heaven, we must never let go of the faith that we have professed. For it is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

“In order to bring humanity to perfection, Jesus had to share completely in our humanity.”

The Letter to the Hebrews contrasts the supreme High Priest with the transient high priests of Judaism. In order to bring humanity to perfection, Jesus had to share completely in our humanity. He was 'tempted in every way that we are': temptations to anger, to intolerance, to regard others as inferior. He was 'capable of feeling our weaknesses': fear, frustration, laziness, boredom. In the gospels a few of these 'weaknesses' are mentioned: his exhaustion at the well in Samaria, his grief at the death of his friend Lazarus. But, as he had a very human personality, he must have suffered the fears and incomprehension of childhood, the frustrations of adolescence, as well as the more complex troubles and sorrows of adulthood, not to mention temptations arising from the unremitting opposition of those who rejected him – all under the overarching passion for his Father and his Kingship. All this would have enriched his personality still further, until he offered the whole of his humanity in obedience to his Father's designs. Just as martyrdom is the crown of a life of Christian fidelity, so Jesus' final sacrifice was the crown of a life of love, obedience and generosity.

What does it mean to say that Jesus feels our "weaknesses" with us?

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

w: www.wednesdayword.org

e: info@wednesdayword.org

Happy Birthday this week to...

Aria McGinty, Gilda Bosompem, Freya Bown, Jacob Bown,
Kiera Hodgkinson, Reece Atkinson, Victor Budnyak, Nick Rzecholka, Elsie
Bethell



Merit Certificates:

- 1D: Sebastian Gronert, for his fantastic maths work on number bonds
- 1S: Adam Bujnowski, for excellent writing in your dream jar
- 2HD: Adaora Oguejifor, for an amazing start in 2HD
- 2PT: Keaton Peters, for outstanding effort with times tables
- 3N: Taylan Jackson, for displaying excellent reading skills
- 3R: Jemie Kuttin, for fantastic effort in maths when learning about 3 digit numbers
- 4C: Samuel Shoji-Akiwale, for his brilliant reading and acting in literacy
- 4E: Will Banister-How, for some great subtraction work using the column method
- 5G: To the whole of the class for their excellent team work and resilience during our Burwell trip
Lilly Bergamini, for her fantastic contributions to our class discussions
- 5S: Korneliusz Adamczak, for his fantastic art and sculpture work in Global Achievers week
- 6CN: John Jo Marti, for working so hard in all lessons this week and particularly with his arithmetic
- 6E: Daniel Owusu, for always trying his best
- Learning Mentor: Ranniel Masambique, for wonderful reading in playleader training and for his great ideas and engagement

Menu Week 2

Diary Date

Monday 18th October

Year 5 Mass 2.00

Tuesday 19th October

Choir 3:10 - 4:15

Parents Evening 3:15 - 6:00

Wednesday 20th October

Years 2 & 3 Karate 3:10 - 4:10

Thursday 21st October

Years 4,5 & 6 Karate 3:15 - 4:15

KS2 Football Club 3.15 - 4.15

Parents Evening 4:00 - 7:00

Friday 22nd October

KS1 Football Club 3.10 - 4.10

KS2 Fitness Club 3.15 - 4.15

KS2 Art Club 3.15 - 4.30

House Points

Congratulations to the
winning house St Patrick

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