



25th February 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Next week marks the beginning of Lent. Pope Francis' Lenten message is to "Sow seeds of goodness." He invites us to not grow tired of doing good, and calls us to believe firmly in not giving up. This is the message that we shall be sharing with children throughout the Lenten period, that through perseverance, sowing the seeds of goodness in the small acts that we can do, that we can help make the World a better place. Ash Wednesday Mass will be at 9.15am in our church and parents are welcome to attend. It will also be livestreamed which can be accessed through the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCW4b-mJCVSd1UQIXmkemDJw>

Reading and Phonics Information Meeting

Thank you to those parents who attended this information session on Friday after school. A further information session will be held on Tuesday morning at 9:15 in the school hall. Thank you, Miss Kelly for leading in the introduction of this new scheme.



Holy Cross Mini-Vinnies

The newly appointed Mini-Vinnies would like to introduce themselves and let you know what they do.

"Mini Vinnies' is the name for the St. Vincent de Paul Group for primary school children. We get together to organise and talk about helping others in need within our school community. Through the simple formula of 'see, think, do', we learn to spot people in need and discover how we can best help them. We are looking forward to our new roles."

Lilly, Isabella, Louis and Bree.

Holy Cross Chaplaincy Group

Our Chaplaincy Group are a dedicated team of children from Year 5 and 6. Luciann, Adjoa, Mya and Gabriel play a vital role in enhancing and promoting the School's Mission statement and Gospel Values.

Jesus is the centre of our lives,

Our learning and friendships.

In a safe, happy and caring community

Where all are welcome.



Commonwealth Choir

Our Commonwealth Choir visited St. Edwards school in East Ham on Thursday for rehearsals. They remain quite secretive only revealing that they are doing a recording as part of celebrations for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Watch this space!

Tag Rugby Tournament

It's great that we are able to travel to venues and play competitions with other schools once more. All the best to our children at the tag-rugby tournament who are playing at Harlow Rugby Club this afternoon. We look forward to hearing their news.



World Book Day

You will have received an email during half-term informing you about World Book Day which is taking place next Thursday. Children are invited to attend school dressed as their favourite book character. This is always a great event and will be sharing the photographs with you in the newsletter next week.

St. David's Day

Just to remind all that Tuesday is St. David's Day. All those children in St. David's House can come in to school on Tuesday in non-uniform. They will have an opportunity during the day to decorate biscuits.

Year 5 Bikeability

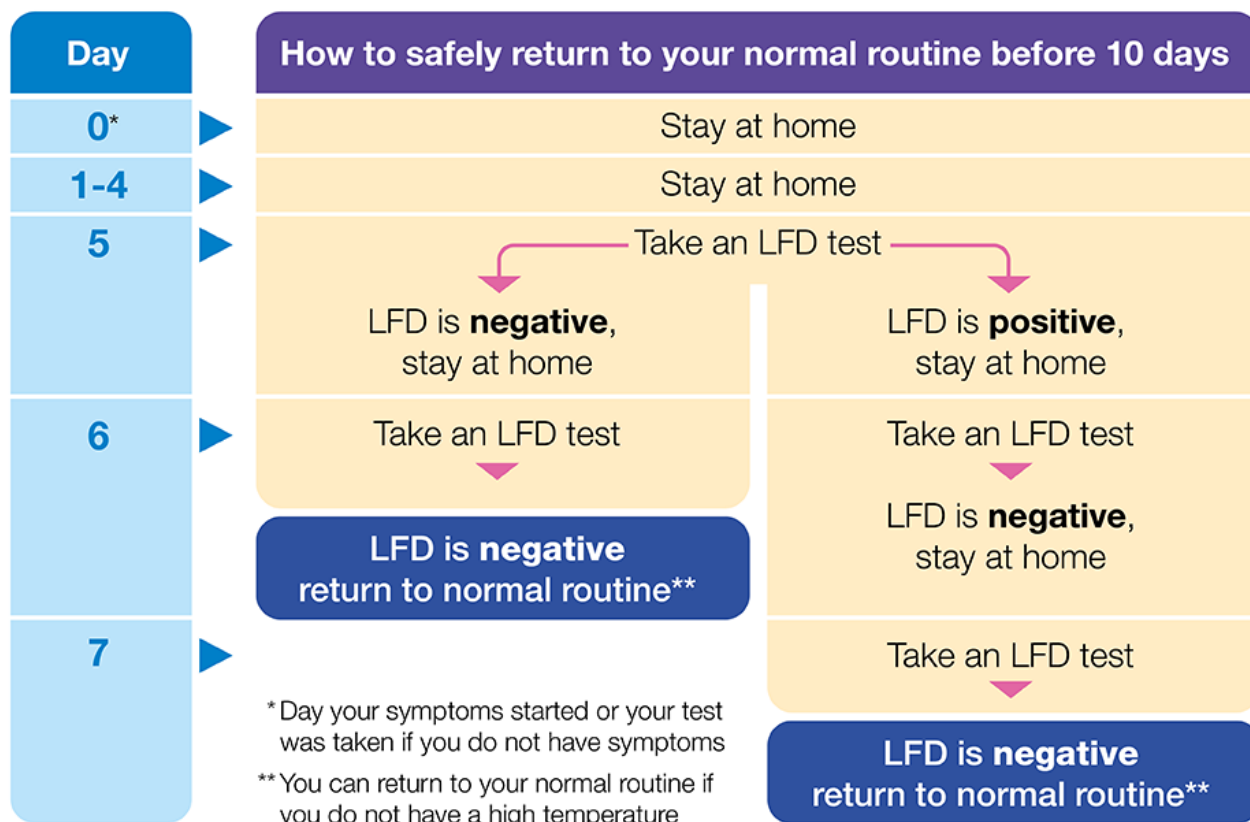
The Bikeability forms that were given out on Thursday need to be returned on Monday, to secure a place on the Bikeability course.

Easter Holiday Cycling Course

The Safer Essex Roads team are going to be using the playground in the first week of the Easter Holidays to run cycling courses. There will be Learn to Ride and Level 1, 2 and 3 courses. Further details on booking will be sent out as soon as we have them.

New COVID Guidelines

If testing positive for COVID the guidance recommends that those who test positive stay at home and avoid contact with others for at least five full days. We will continue ask all children, testing positive, to stay at home for 5 days and not return to school until they have had 2 negative LFD results.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The winners of the KS1 Attendance Award are Butterflies attaining 98% attendance. Well done! The winners of the KS2 Attendance Award are 6CN, achieving 97%. 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 **8.50am**.

Familiarise yourself with the symptoms of COVID 19. If your child displays any COVID 19 symptoms they must have a negative 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 Pupil Asset 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.

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

R B	98%
R L	97%
1DG	94%
1S	97%
2HD	96%
2PT	96%
3N	95%
3R	96%
4C	85%
4E	96%
5G	97%
5S	89%
6CN	97%
6E	94%

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about WINK

AGE RATING
13+

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

POTENTIAL FOR GROOMING

Wink accounts can't be made private – so when a young person uploads images and shares their social media usernames, it's easier for potential groomers to stalk and locate them online. The fact that children prioritise having an abundance of friends is also a concern: they're more likely to accept someone just to build their friend count – possibly including users with sinister intentions.

ACCIDENTAL OVER-SHARING

Many young people don't consider privacy when they choose to share their social media usernames on their Wink profile. This allows other people to connect with them on multiple platforms, strengthening their online presence and reputation. Some children post photos which reveal aspects of their personal life to other users – showing their house, school, friends and family, for instance.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Many popular messaging apps contain profiles featuring profanity, nude or semi-nude photos and users openly looking for a "wifey" or "hook ups". Users can send messages anonymously, which engenders a sense of power and freedom. Children often engage in inappropriate behaviour more willingly when it's anonymous, even if it's not the sort of thing they would take part in normally.

18
CENSORED

CYBERBULLYING

Being anonymous online provides some users with an incentive to bully others through toxic private conversations. Anonymous bullies can send hurtful messages or pressure young people into sending inappropriate content. Being a victim of cyberbullying can result in children becoming depressed and showing low self-esteem. If your child is exhibiting these signs, it's time to step in.

EXCESSIVE SCREEN TIME

Wink encourages repeated engagement through signing in daily, making connections, building up a message 'streak' and publicly sharing stories. The reward is 'gems', which allow users to connect with more people, play games and edit their profile background. This can lead to children spending an excessive amount of screen time on the app, which of course can be detrimental to their health.

Advice for Parents & Carers

DO YOUR RESEARCH

If you do decide to allow your child to have a Wink account – or you find that they already have one – it's vital to talk to them about how to use the app responsibly and keep themselves safe. You could also consider exploring Wink yourself and becoming familiar with the app before letting your child download it, as there are no security settings or parental controls that can be put into place.

OFFER YOUR SUPPORT

While it's not always easy to talk about inappropriate content with your child, it's crucial that they understand the impact of sending or receiving it. They also need to feel that they can speak to you about it without worrying about consequences. Emphasise that, if your child receives any messages that make them feel uncomfortable, they can block the sender and report them to the app.

BE WARY OF SHARING

It's important that your child stays aware of what they're sharing online. Remind them about the importance of not posting personal information like their full name or which school they go to. Many users share their other social media account details on Wink to build their friend count, but we would recommend advising your child not to give strangers multiple avenues to contact them.

DISCUSS LOSS OF OWNERSHIP

It's essential that young people understand that once content goes online, the sender no longer has any control over where it will end up. While your child may feel like they can trust their online 'friend', that person is still a stranger. Even sharing one inappropriate image, for example, could then be used as leverage – as their 'friend' threatens to release it publicly unless the child sends more.

BALANCE SCREEN TIME

Before having a chat with your child about screen time, ask yourself if you're being a positive role model. Get your child thinking about how much time they spend on the app: is it healthy? Is it affecting their offline relationships with people? Is it impacting their mood? If so, you could suggest some activities you can do together which aren't so reliant on digital technology.

BE CAUTIOUS OF NEW CONTACTS

Remind your child that not everyone online is who they say they are, and some users have harmful intentions. If someone on Wink is asking them lots of personal questions or suggests meeting up in real life, these are definite red flags. Encourage your child to ask for help if they're unsure about a particular profile. Remember, the app has a block button: your child shouldn't be afraid to use it!

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

Source: <https://www.getwinkapp.com/faq/>



This week we made the most of the rain, wind, sun, and sleet and mud (apologies if they came home a bit muddy!)

Children helped clear our outdoor area from the aftermath of the storm and we managed to collect lots of fire wood.

We enjoyed making bird feeders using pipe cleaners and Cheerios and some children designed and created their own birds nests. Many of the older children have ongoing projects that they work on each week and one in particular was designing, planning and making a memorial for Miss McGuiggan. They scattered the seeds in their planter and plan to paint it in a Scottish theme in memory of her love of the outdoors.

In year 2, the children did a science themed session by being nature explorers and studying the different habitats they could identify.

The signs of Spring are beginning to appear which is exciting, so please encourage your children to continue spotting. It is so vital for the mental wellbeing of children to be outside and embrace their love of nature.

Every child in this school has benefited in some way whether socially, emotionally, educationally or spiritually by this experience. The skills learnt will hopefully continue supporting them through their learning journey.

In recognition of their ongoing hard work, I will be awarding a certificate to one child in each year group to those that have excelled above and beyond.

Reception - Jonny Shiel

Year 1 - Hayley Tran

Year 2 - Lucas Patasius

Year 3 - Albert Edwards

Year 4 - Will Bannister - How

Year 5 - Toby Field

Year - Lucy Richardson





Forest School



Forest School





Times Tables Rockstars

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



2HD: Zofia Rotkowska

2PT: Sid Cundins

3N: David Owolabi

3R: Julia Czarny

4C: Mason Thompson

4E: Thomas Hyde

5G: Alex Embley

5S: Aidan Cater

6CN: Lucy Philpot

6E: Mitchell To

Gospel Values Awards

The Gospel Value this week is...

Gentleness

- love and friendship

"If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also." (6:29) Samaritan Village (9:54)



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

Butterflies: Georgie White

Ladybirds: Andreas Vechiu

1DG: Afi Agyei-Frimpong

1S: Maisie Sinyakin

2HD: Aimee Fennelly

2PT: Barry Tanu

3N: Jessica Jeffrey

3R: Ireoluwa Oyelami

4C: Sophia-Jai Henry

4E: Darcie Bethell

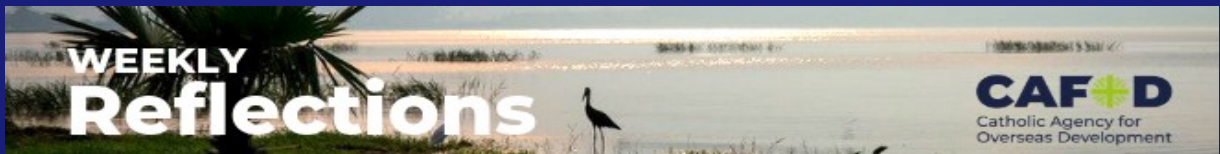
5G: Jake Doyle

5S: Dan Boateng

6CN: Francesca Griffiths

6E: Lily Vitori

RELIGIOUS LIFE AT HOLY CROSS



Based on the gospel for 27 February, Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time: Luke 6:39-45

"Take the log out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter in your brother's eye."

The gospel stories of Jesus we have to remember aren't just nice stories for bedtime reading, but for everyday life. These stories are the words of Jesus addressed personally to us which, as we listen, read and pray with them, should affect in us a reaction.

We learn from the gospel today that the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. As people fed by the Sacraments of the Church, fully initiated into the life of Jesus, we have a duty to become more like our master, more aware of our human needs.

Jesus always says that we should have a concern for those around us, especially the poor. What Jesus invites us to remember in this weekend's gospel is to look after our own needs too. This isn't to be selfish and forgetful of others around us who are in greater need, but to recognise who it is that I am and ask how I can be a better disciple of Jesus.

Never mind the splinter in the other person's eye, what about the plank in your own eye? Surely if we attend to our needs first, we will be able to see greater things, and see each situation with the eyes of Jesus.

Lord, guide our hearts to follow you each day anew. Through our lives following you allow us to see what you see and give us the courage to do what needs to be done.
Amen.



The Words of Pope Francis

The young must dialogue with the old and the old with the young. And this bridge will be the transmission of wisdom in humanity, because the elderly are like the roots of the tree and the young are like the flowers and the fruit.

Wednesday
23rd February

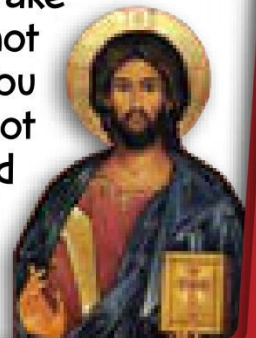


**Good News
for Families**

1

Enjoy reading this Sunday's Gospel

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. "Why do you observe the splinter in your friend's eye and never notice the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your friend, 'Friend, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye,' when you cannot see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your friend's eye. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. You can tell what a tree is like by the fruit it produces. You cannot pick figs or grapes from brambles. A good person does good things out of the good stored up in their heart; a bad person does bad things out of the badness in their heart. Your words show what is in your heart."



From the Gospel of Sunday 27th February 2022 Cf. Luke 6:39-45 (the 8th Sunday in Ord Time, Year C)

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 **ACTION**.



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





**"We must live the faith, not only with our words,
but with our actions."** Pope Francis

What did Jesus say 'a good person' does? In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus is using parables – short stories – to teach us important lessons. Just as good fruit is a sign of a good tree, so our words and actions show what is truly inside our heart. Ask your child what the saying, 'Actions speak louder than words' means to them. Tell your child about a time when someone was a really good friend or neighbour to you because of something they did. Then ask your child if they can remember a time when someone was really good to them.

**"Actions speak louder than words; let your words
teach and your actions speak."** St Anthony of Padua

This Gospel also reminds us not to criticise others' actions but rather to look at our own actions and try to grow in goodness. Decide on some kind of action that you could take to show your love for God and others. Perhaps you can: visit a person who may need your help; try to be humble and truthful about any of your own faults; say sorry to one another for anything you have done wrong; help around the home more; offer to help out with a voluntary project; resist being quick to criticise; always try to look for the good in others; remember to be understanding, compassionate, caring and speak kindly of others.



Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to be good friends to our family, our neighbours and all who we meet through our words and actions. Amen.

WEDNESDAY WORDSEARCH



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

**JESUS
PARABLES**

**SPLINTER
PLANK**

**TREE
FRUIT**

**GOOD
HEART**

SUPERSEARCHERS FIND THE WORDS
BACKWARDS OR **DIAGONALLY**

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

Cross out the letters
U M W
in the 4 jumbled
words to find
4 real words.

thuminwgs stuwormed hemarwtu gumowod

"A _____ person does good _____ out
of the good _____ up in their _____."

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

This week let's remember to keep any promises and to show our love in action by setting a good example for our friends – showing them good and right things.

This week I will try my best to...

.....
.....





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



Preparing for the Mass of Sunday 27th February 2022 - The 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

The Gospel for Sunday 27th February 2022 - Judging Others (Luke 6.39-45)

Jesus told a parable to his disciples. 'Can one blind man guide another? Surely both will fall into a pit? The disciple is not superior to his teacher; the fully trained disciple will always be like his teacher. Why do you observe the splinter in your brother's eye and never notice the plank in your own? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take out the splinter that is in your eye," when you cannot see the plank in your own? Hypocrite! Take the plank out of your own eye first, and then you will see clearly enough to take out the splinter that is in your brother's eye. "There is no sound tree that produces rotten fruit, nor again a rotten tree that produces sound fruit. For every tree can be told by its own fruit; people do not pick figs from thorns, nor gather grapes from brambles. A good man draws what is good from the store of goodness in his heart; a bad man draws what is bad from the store of badness. For a man's words flow out from what fills his heart.'



3 Reflect

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

Matthew gathered together the teaching of Jesus on the basic requirements of Christian morality into the Sermon on the Mount; that formed a sort of manifesto for the Kingdom of Heaven, starting with the eight Beatitudes. Luke gathers many of the same teachings into his 'Sermon on the Plain', starting with four Beatitudes. This has provided the gospel readings for the last three Sundays. Matthew, writing for Christians of Jewish origin, stressed Jesus' teaching on law, and how Jesus made it more interior and often more demanding. Luke, always aware of the needs of the poor, stresses more our social obligations. As he draws to a conclusion, he gives us two of Jesus' warnings, expressed in the vivid language and with the fierce exaggeration and wit that is so characteristic of Jesus' teachings. The first, the splinter and the log, warns us to use the same standards in judging ourselves as we use in judging others. The second, the sound and rotten fruit, is perhaps a double warning. You can judge people only by their actions. More profoundly, it is also a challenge: don't flatter yourself on your achievements until you are good through and through, until the store of goodness in your heart is really overflowing.

Is it ever helpful to point out people's faults?

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 27th February 2022



First Reading: *The Test of Speech*

Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

In a shaken sieve the rubbish is left behind, so too the defects of a man appear in his talk. The kiln tests the work of the potter, the test of a man is in his conversation. The orchard where the trees grow is judged on the quality of its fruit, similarly a man's words betray what he feels. Do not praise a man before he has spoken, since this is the test of men.

The wise sage of Jerusalem collected many proverbs and pithy sayings. Most of them are severely practical, as in this short reading. Here he presents us with four images of testing someone by their speech. He does not deny that there are other ways of proving a person's worth and generosity, but these four aspects of testing by speech are as clear as any. This reading is chosen to introduce the sayings of the gospel reading on discerning people by their fruits. There is no way of telling what people are, except by how they act.

In fact, the Book of Sirach is rather a favourite with Luke. He takes at least two of his sayings and transforms them into parables to illustrate two of his special emphases in Jesus' teaching. Luke is the evangelist of prayer, and a saying on a widow's earnest prayers (Sirach 35.14) illustrates the need to persevere in prayer in Luke 18.1-8 (the Parable of the Unjust Judge), and the Rich Fool (Sirach 11.19) is used to illustrate the acute dangers of hoarding wealth in Luke 12.16-21.

Which is the most testing of the criteria in this reading?

Second Reading: *Christ's Victory over Death*

1 Corinthians 15.54-58

When this perishable nature has put on imperishability, and when this mortal nature has put on immortality, then the words of scripture will come true: Death is swallowed up in victory. Death, where is your victory? Death where is your sting? Now the sting of death is sin, and sin gets its power from the Law. So let us thank God for giving us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Never give in then, my dear brothers, never admit defeat; keep on working at the Lord's work always, knowing that, in the Lord, you cannot be labouring in vain.

“ For Paul, death is a triumph which he awaits eagerly, longing to be fully united with Christ ”

For most people, death is terror: the one thing certain about life is that it will end in death. For Paul, death is a triumph which he awaits eagerly, longing to be fully united with Christ and to share fully in Christ's victory. This Christian attitude, totally at variance with the views of those who do not know Christ, and with our natural human instincts, is the reason why the Church has given the last four Sundays to meditation on the transformation that will take place at Christian death. Paul is so convinced of the overwhelming power of Christ and his victory over sin that there is no hesitation: this mortal body will put on immortality. Quite how this will be is still not entirely clear: Paul says it is foolish even to ask what sort of body the dead will have. But he insists that there is continuity: the seed that dies is transformed, but 'each kind of seed has its own kind of body'; the risen person is in continuity with the person in this life. There are no conditions attached, no threat or fear of hell, being cast into outer darkness 'where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth', as in so many of Matthew's parables.

Why does Paul never mention the word 'hell' or consider it?

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...

Tehilah Sambo, Keziah Adisa, Robyn Cope, Viktoria Semenka, Violet Aldous and Kailani Loughran Ricketts.



Merit Certificates:

Butterflies:	Memphis Wells, for great enthusiasm during phonics activities
Ladybirds:	Caliyah Aboagye-Manu, for making good progress with her phonics and reading
1DG:	Freddie Wink, for his fantastic science work on plants
1S:	River Harris-Lyons, for brilliant sentences describing a superhero
2HD:	Gracie Freeman, for always trying her best in all subjects
2PT:	Feodora Benghea, for excellent effort with home learning
3N:	Amy Dawodu, for a very confident start at Holy Cross
3R:	Eliana Owusu-Adu, for fantastic effort in her learning at home and school
4C:	Vicky Portaro, for excellent enthusiasm when reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory
4E:	Will Bannister-How, for fabulous concentration in literacy this week
5G:	Teddy White, for his fantastic attitude to learning
5S:	Shauden Sesay, for excellent participation during the P.S.H.E lesson
6CN:	Isla Kent, for always having an enthusiastic attitude to learning
6E:	Parvataa Muraleedharan, for fantastic home learning

House Points

**Congratulations to the
winning house St George**

Menu Week 2

Diary Dates

Monday 28th February

3N Library Visit 9:30
3R Library Visit 10:30
KS2 Shakespeare Macbeth

Tuesday 1st March

Shrove Tuesday
St David's Day - non uniform
for St David's house only
4C Library Visit 9:00
4E Library Visit 10:30
KS2 Shakespeare Macbeth
Choir 3:15 - 4:15

Wednesday 2nd March

Ash Wednesday Mass 9:30
Years 2 & 3 Karate 3:10 - 4:10
Years 5 & 6 Football 3:15 - 4:15

Thursday 3rd March

World Book Day - non uniform,
dress a book character
6E Library Visit 9:00
6CN Library Visit 9:30
Karate 4, 5 & 6 3:15 - 4:15
Years 1 & 2 Football 3:10- 4:10
Years 3 & 4 Football 3:15 - 4:15

Friday 4th March

5S Library Visit 9:00
5G Library Visit 9:00
Years 1 & 3 Multisports 3:10 - 4:15
Years 4 & 6 Multisports 3:15 - 4:15

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