

Newsletter December 2024

Our Christian value this term is: **Compassion.**

COMPASSION
HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value **COMPASSION**. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT COMPASSION TOGETHER...

Compassion is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try to help.

Talk together about:

- how we can show **compassion** and kindness to one another at home
- recognising when friends at school need us to listen and act with **compassion**
- stories in the news demonstrating how strangers show **compassion** in times of natural disasters
- how nations show **compassion** to other nations at times of disaster or need by sending money or volunteers to help



THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop



READ TOGETHER...

The good Samaritan

When someone asked Jesus the question, "Who is my neighbour?" he told a story that surprised everyone who heard it. The hero was from Samaria but those listening were mainly Jews. (Jews and Samaritans usually kept well away from each other.)

"A man set out on foot from Jerusalem to a town called Jericho", said Jesus. The crowd murmured and exchanged knowing glances. They knew this was a lonely, dangerous road, a favourite place for robbers to attack travellers. "As the man reached a rocky and desolate place, a gang of robbers leapt out and beat him. They took all that he had and left him bleeding and bruised. To the man's relief, he saw in the distance a priest from the temple. A priest is bound to help me, thought the man. He waited until the priest came a little closer and then called out, 'Thank goodness it is you. Please Sir, take me to safety.' But to his amazement the priest hurried past pretending not to see or hear him.

As the poor, injured man grew weaker and weaker in the burning midday sun, he once again heard footsteps. Looking up he saw a Levite, another of his own people. 'Please Sir, please help me', he called out. Surely this Levite would take pity on him, but to his horror the Levite just kept on walking.

The man had almost given up hope when he felt a gentle touch on his shoulder. A stranger, a Samaritan, had bent down beside him and was bandaging his wounds and giving him sips of water to drink. The Samaritan helped the man on to his own donkey and slowly, carefully took him all the way to an inn. There he paid the innkeeper to look after the man until he was well. The man never forgot the **compassion** and kindness of the Samaritan stranger."

"Who do you think was a good neighbour?" asked Jesus.

Bible story based on Luke 10:29-37



QUIZ The Stranger on the road was kind....

Change one letter in the word to answer the next clue.

- The traveller was attacked as he walked along the **R O A D**
- Watching from the rocks was a small creature like a frog -----
- The Samaritan ____ the innkeeper to look after the man -----
- The Samaritan acted with courage. He was ____ -----
- We sometimes talk about the ____ of friendship (rhymes with pond) -----
- Wrap tightly with a bandage (rhymes with find) -----
- The Samaritan in the story was -----



FAMILY FOCUS

Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness is often appreciated most when it is offered at unexpected times.

Choose one week this term for your family to have "a random acts of kindness" week, and do something kind for someone each day. Try to do it without telling people it was you!



www.randomactsofkindness.org



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Helping hands

As well as being kind and showing **compassion** in what we say, it is often what we *do* that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person's hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown. Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.



FASCINATING FACTS

What a difference **compassion** and kindness can make! Numerous charities help people who have been hurt, are ill or suffer through lack of resources. Below are just 3:

- **World Vision** encourages individuals and groups to 'Sponsor a Child' in an area of the world where food, health and education cannot be taken for granted. For just 75 pence a day the life of a child, in for example Uganda or Bolivia, can be transformed by providing help to grow food, source clean water, improve health services and pay for education.

www.worldvision.org.uk

- **Help for Heroes** was set up after many British soldiers returned from war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. By giving to this charity the public show their **compassion** for the soldiers and their families and recognise the service they gave on behalf of us all.

www.helpforheroes.org.uk

- **Help the Hospices.** Sometimes when people become very ill they go to a hospice which will provide them with care and **compassion**. Often hospices are maintained by donations from people who admire and value their service or who have had a relative who has been helped by the hospice.

www.helpthehospices.org.uk



HALL OF FAME

A famous bear with a spotty scarf



Pudsey Bear became a national mascot in 1985. He was designed by Joanna Ball and she named him after the small town in Yorkshire where she lived and went to school for many years, Pudsey.

When we see Pudsey Bear we immediately think of Children in Need. This charity has grown enormously since it began and raises millions of pounds every year. Thanks to people all over the country, children in the UK and across the world have come to know real kindness and **compassion**, made possible by generous donations to the charity. www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

ACORN CLASS

It has been a very busy month in the lead up to Christmas. In History, Acorns Class enjoyed making their Tudor houses and then setting some of them on fire and recreating The Great Fire of London. We saw how the fire could spread from roof to roof because the houses were so close together.



In Music, we have been learning how to tell a story using musical instruments. We have also spent time practising our Nativity with lots of songs, carols and actions to learn. We enjoyed a super day at North Cerney rehearsing and doing PE together too.

In Art, we have been mixing colours to create different effects. We particularly enjoyed our work based on Jasper Johns. We made our own number wall which looks very effective.

In Computing, we have completed a unit on digital art and we have used Purple Mash paint a picture software to experiment with pointillism, impressionism, pattern and collage.

We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas and we wish you a joyful festive period.



OAKS CLASS

English

In English, the children have been looking at a poem called If I were in Charge of the School. As a class we then wrote a poem called If I were in Charge of the World. The children have now written their own poem! They decided what they wanted to be in charge of, and this ranges from the sea, to space, to the whole of the animal kingdom.

Maths

The children and Year 3 and Year 4 have started their Multiplication and Division topic which aligns nicely to practicing their times tables. The Times Table Rockstars challenge ends at 08:00 on the 20th December. There will be a prize for the top scores of children within Oaks class.

Science

We have now finished our Earth Rocks topic and completed an end of unit assessment. We have continued our Scientist of the week, which the children are absolutely loving! We need to make sure we take some pictures next term of our scientists while they are wearing their lab coats and goggles.

Geography

Our geography topic this term is all about what makes the Earth shake, rattle and roll! We have looked at earthquakes and volcanoes and the reasons they happen and the impact they have. To finish off our topic, the children have been completing a double page spread of information they have learned. These are looking absolutely incredible!

French

We have finished our topic on animals. The children could say, read and write the names of 10 different animals in French!

To finish off the year, we have been looking at how to say common Christmas objects in French. In the final week of term, we are going to make a Christmas card using entirely French words!

RSHE

The theme for RSHE this term is Keeping Myself Safe. The children have done incredibly well to consider how they should keep themselves safe in different scenarios including when taking medicines.

KS2

Christmas season is upon us and the children all enjoyed our visit to the Baptist Church in Cirencester to watch a production by the 'Forefront Theatre Company' telling the story of the wise men's visit to Herod when searching for Jesus. Although it included lots of songs and jokes, the true meaning of Christmas was also conveyed.



At the end of last week, the children all travelled to North Cerney to rehearse for the Nativity. While there, they were treated to a musical workshop provided through the Cheltenham Festival. The two saxophonists entertained the children and involved them in a variety of musical activities, which were thoroughly enjoyed by all.



MIGHTY OAKS CLASS



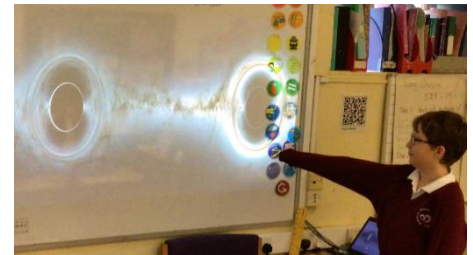
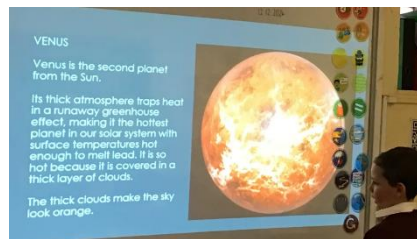
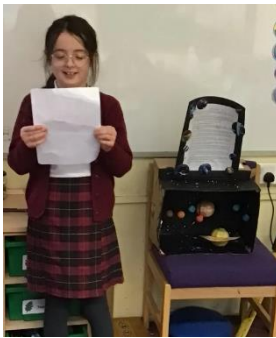
Having learned some basic stitches, the children are now all working hard to complete their Christmas stockings, following their own creative designs.



The children concluded their unit of work on Hinduism by learning about how Gandhi's beliefs led to non-violent protests against British rule in India.

In science, they have learned that seasonal change is due to the tilt of the Earth and its orbit of the sun. We also explored the reason why the moon appears to change shape over the course of a month.

The children have all been working on space-themed projects over the last few weeks and I was delighted that they wanted to present these to their friends last week. A variety of subject matter was chosen from this solar system and beyond and some of the children also used their creative side to make models and artwork. Thank you, parents, for supporting your children to complete this independent work at home – it will help to prepare them for similar tasks at secondary school.



We are now looking forward to our last few Christmas activities before the end of term – our Nativity story on Tuesday evening, Christmas cookie baking and crafts and finally carols in the church. May you all have a joyful and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!