

Newsletter January 2025

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

COURAGE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK ABOUT COURAGE TOGETHER...

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"Courage is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."
Nelson Mandela

READ TOGETHER...

The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides. This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.

Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17

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

QUIZ Wordsearch

?

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

ARMOUR	BOY	DAVID
COURAGE	FOREHEAD	GIANT
GOLIATH	GOD	ISRAELITE
PHILISTINE	SHIELD	SLING
SOLDIER	STONE	STRUCK



FAMILY FOCUS & HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Children of Courage

Each year awards are presented to children throughout the country who have shown outstanding bravery and **courage** in overcoming huge challenges in their lives. (Google 'UK children of **courage** awards' to see some examples.)

Design a nomination for a child that you know and believe should be recognised for their **courage**. Remember, there are different kinds of **courage** and different ways of showing bravery.

The nominations will be displayed in the Challenge Gallery at school.

Example Nomination sheet



Name of child who has shown **courage**

.....

Has shown **courage** by

.....

This bravery should be recognised because

.....

.....



HALL OF FAME



Bravery v. Slavery

Harriet Tubman was born nearly 200 years ago in Maryland, USA. Her family were slaves which means that they had to work for the people who 'owned' them. Slaves had no pay and no rights and they could be bought or sold like property. As Harriet grew older she was afraid that she would be sold and sent far away from her family to work for strangers. She decided to try to escape. This needed great **courage** because Harriet knew that if she was caught she would be cruelly punished. After many adventures and with the help of kind people along the way, Harriet managed to escape to Canada, where slavery was banned.

It would have been safest for Harriet to stay in Canada and make for herself a comfortable and easier life, but she was determined not to forget her family and friends who still suffered as slaves in America. She made her way back and forth to Maryland not once, but *nineteen times*, facing great danger and showing amazing bravery as she helped slaves to escape to freedom. By the end of her life Harriet had helped to free around 300 slaves!

After her death Harriet received many honours for her bravery. A ship was named after her, and in 1995 the US government issued a postage stamp to celebrate her **courageous** life.



FASCINATING FACTS

In case of emergency – Dial 999

"Help...my house is on fire!"

"Help....there's been an accident!"

"Help.... burglars are breaking into the house over the road!"

- The emergency number, 999, was introduced in London in 1937.
- In an emergency, phoning 999 will connect you quickly to an 'emergency control centre'. An operator will ask which service you need, fire, ambulance or police. The operator will be able to track your call to discover where you are and soon help will be on its way.
- Firefighters, police and ambulance crew all risk their own lives on occasions to help other people who are in danger.
- Additional emergency services operate in some places such as mountain and cave rescue, coast guards, air sea rescue.
- Over 30 million 999 calls are made each year.
- About half of all calls are hoaxes. Not only do hoax callers break the law, they put people's lives in danger as it takes longer for real emergencies to be dealt with.

ACORN CLASS

Acorn Class have been busy this month.

In our cooking session, we enjoyed making some pasties using lots of different vegetables. We also made a lovely syrup sponge.



As part of our extra PE sessions with Sadie from Kingshill School, we really enjoyed an indoor curling session and we became quite competitive! PE this term is focusing on dance and gymnastics and the children are making good progress with these skills.



In English we have used the book *The Way Back Home* to write some adventure stories using the skills we have practised this term.

As part of Forest School, we enjoyed getting messy and made some excellent bird feeders which are currently hanging in the playground tree. We have had some hungry customers already.

In Geography, we have been learning about different environments around the world. We have looked at coastal areas as well as the Amazon Rainforest so far. This week we have enjoyed a visit from Jonathan's Jungle where we met all sorts of creatures from all over the world, up close. Wow!

OAKS CLASS

English

Our first topic of the New Year was all about the Stone Age Boy who went back in time and made friends with a girl from the Stone Age. The children have just finished their own independent write where their character also time travelled! All the children choose to include our history topic, World War Two, in their writing and their character experienced the horrors of The Blitz.

Maths

Both Year 3 and Year 4 have been continuing their work on Multiplication and Division. We are nearing the end of this unit and will be moving on to Length and Perimeter with both year groups.

Science

This term we have been focusing on bubble! We started the topic by discussing solids, liquids and gases and how we can change the states of matter by melting, evaporating, condensing and freezing. We then explore what a bubble is which led nicely onto creating our own bubbles.

History

KS2's history topic question is, 'What impact did WW2 have on children?' So far, we have looked at what was going on at the Home Front to cause children to be evacuated. With our STEAM Museum visit coming up, we will have a look at the process of being evacuated and the experiences those children might have faced.

French

In French, we have been continuing our work on animals. However, this term, we have looked at pets specifically! We have been able to put some of our knowledge from our previous topic into action as some animals, such a bird and rabbit, also come up in our current topic! It is an absolute pleasure to see how much the children enjoy, and engage, in French this year!

RSHE

The theme for RSHE this term is all about valuing differences. So far we have spoken about how different people might respond to different questions and what the most respectful way to respond is and we have also discussed how each family might look different whether that is through adoption and fostering or same-gender couples and step-siblings.

RE

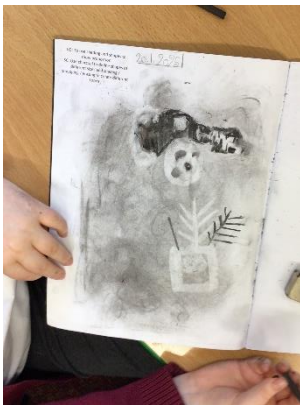
RE this term is all about Hinduism and what it means to be a Hindu in Britain today. We have developed our previous knowledge of Hinduism and explored how Hindus might show their faith in the home, at the temple and as a community. The children have done some lovely presentation work sharing facts about an area of their learning with one another.

MIGHTY OAKS CLASS

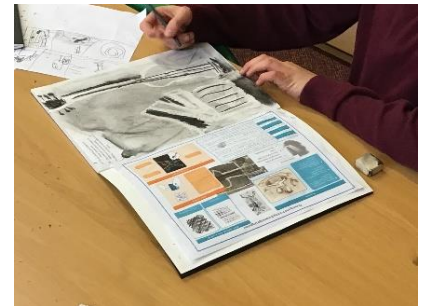
We have had a busy start to term 3. In science, the children have been learning about evolution and have been identifying inherited characteristics. We have also explored Darwin's theory of survival of the fittest and how this leads to a change in a species over time. In this pictures, they are investigating which type of bird beak would make it easier to eat seeds. Chopsticks (as you may have guessed) were not very effective, but they agreed that a long, thin beak would allow a bird to eat small creatures living in mud.



In maths, we have all been tackling the challenging concepts involved in adding and subtracting (and in the case of year 6, dividing and multiplying) fractions. In English, we have been learning how to write an explanatory text. Pupils then chose their own questions to answer – many of these were linked to our WW2 topic, or to last term's work on volcanoes.



In art, all of the children in KS2 have been developing their drawing skills, including how to use shading to create the illusion of 3D images and using charcoal and rubbers produce contrasting tones. We have prepared coloured wax backgrounds so that we can produce some mixed media wax-resist drawings next time.



Our music is linked to our history topic on World War Two. We began by comparing songs from the two world wars before listening to some popular songs from WW2 and learning to sing 'There'll be bluebirds over the white cliffs of Dover'.