

Newsletter March 2024

Our Christian value this term is: Joy

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

TALK TOGETHER ABOUT JOY...

Joy and happiness are wonderful feelings to experience, but they are very different. Joy is often understood to be an approach to life. Coming from inside, it is about being at peace in your spirit and thankful for all that is good in the world. For Christians, the knowledge that they are loved unconditionally by God helps them to know joy in their lives. Happiness on the other hand can be more of a passing feeling, based on things outside of you such as relationships with other people, possessions, places, thoughts and events.

Living in an attitude of gratitude can help us to know joy. What are you grateful for in your life?

Can you think of anything that stops you being joy-full?

READ TOGETHER...

The First Easter Morning

At the end of a long, sleepless Sabbath night Mary set off with her spices for the garden tomb where the body of Jesus had been put. ■ As she reached the place, the first rays of the sun were catching the branches of the trees, birds were singing, everything was as it always was.... but what had happened to the stone that had covered the entrance to the tomb? ■ Mary was rooted to the spot. Who could possibly have rolled away the huge boulder? She peered inside. Jesus was gone! ■ Panic stricken she raced back to tell the disciples the news. Together they returned quickly to the garden and entered the cave.

Peter crouched down. He touched the strips of linen that had been wrapped round Jesus' body and now just lay there, neatly folded. Wild thoughts were now racing around the disciples' headsJesus had once told them he would rise from the dead. Could it really be true? Could Jesus really be alive?

Mary, meanwhile, was still in the garden, and all she could do was weep. ■ Gathering all her courage she slowly stepped down into the tomb. ■ To her amazement two angels, dazzling white, sat before her! She had no idea what was going on. Then one of them spoke, "Why are you crying?"

Mary replied, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I don't know where they have put him." In a daze, Mary stumbled back into the garden and sat down on the nearest patch of grass, tears streaming down her face. She did not see the person who came and stood just beside her. He spoke very gently, "Why are you crying?"

Assuming he was the gardener Mary said, "Sir, if you have taken the body that was in this tomb, please tell me where you have put it now."

"Mary," came the reply. Mary looked up, joy flooding through her whole body. It wasn't the gardener who stood before her, it was Jesus. He was alive! ■



THINK TOGETHER

Words of Wisdom

Sometimes your **joy** is the source of your smile, but sometimes your smile can be the source of your **joy**.

Thich Nhat Hanh - Vietnamese Buddhist monk

Think about these words.
What do you think they mean?

?

QUIZ Emojis tell the story

Read the story once again. Notice the ■ signs. Each time you see one, use the words from the list below to describe Mary's emotions as the story unfolds.

Design your own emojis to illustrate the words

Mary was:

Confused	Weary
Courageous	Grieving
Overjoyed	Shocked

© Jesus Empty Tomb Vectors by Vecteezy



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Joyful Memories

Ask an adult in your family to show you some photos on their phone of a happy occasion or event that you both remember.



Which are the most **joyful** smiles?

Either print out thumbnails of the smiles or recreate the smile as a painting or collage.

Write a sentence about the memory.



FAMILY FOCUS

“Let your **joy** be in your journey, not in the hope of your destination.” *Anon*

When did doing something, or going somewhere together as a family, bring you **joy**?

Draw a picture or make a collage showing the event.

Family Time



FASCINATING FACTS AND HALL OF FAME

On this HOME SCHOOL VALUE sheet the FASCINATING FACTS section and HALL OF FAME section are linked because they are about the famous piece of music called Ode to Joy and it's composer Ludwig van Beethoven.



FASCINATING FACTS

Ode to Joy

Ode to Joy by Beethoven is one of the most famous pieces of all music of all time!

It is part of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Beethoven wanted to set the ideas in a poem by Friedrich Schiller to music. The poem is about the joy and bonds of human friendship.

In 1985 Beethoven's piece was adopted by the Council of Europe (later to become the European Union) as its theme music because it was felt that it symbolised the values of peace, freedom and solidarity, which were shared by all the countries.



When the 9th symphony was first performed in Vienna on 7th May 1824, the audience loved it so much that, at the end they all stood to cheer and clap. Realising that Beethoven was completely deaf and couldn't hear them, they threw their hats and scarves into the air again and again to make sure he knew how much they had enjoyed the concert.

Why not enter 'Ode to Joy' into a computer search engine and listen?



HALL OF FAME

About the composer

Ludwig van Beethoven is one of the greatest composers of classical music who has ever lived.

He was born in 1770 and died when he was only 57.

Beethoven had to leave school at 11 years old because his father was an alcoholic and unable to work. Ludwig needed to earn money to support the family.

Beethoven wasn't only a composer, but also an accomplished pianist and viola player. He performed in public for the first time at 7 years old.

At twelve years old, Beethoven was already composing beautiful music.

At the age of 25 Beethoven began to go deaf. He wrote some of his best work after he had lost his sense of hearing completely.

Before settling down to work Beethoven used to dip his head in cold water. No one quite knew why he did this!

Beethoven wrote one of his best loved pieces of music entirely at night. He called it 'The Moonlight Sonata.'

ACORN CLASS

Acorns Class enjoyed a fantastic day alongside Wren Class at North Cerney, participating in a morning of orienteering activities with Helen Pauling.

They took part in lots of team building games and used maps to help them solve a variety of puzzles. The children worked well together and showed lots of initiative and team working skills. This activity was followed up with an explorer's campfire where we tasted a variety of explorer foods and made s/mores over the fire.



More cooking followed the next week with a visit from Kitchen Club. The Easter theme was a particular favourite with the creation of egg sandwiches, chocolate nests and hot cross buns. Yum Yum!

We have been busy in Science learning about Polar habitats and how the weather conditions mean that polar animals have to cope with the harsh conditions. This has tied in well with our History topic on explorers where we have also looked at the quest to reach the South Pole by Roald Amundsen and Captain Scott. The children were surprised to learn about quite how hard it was to reach the South Pole over 100 years ago.

Acorn Class have taken part in a Money Sense session with NatWest Bank recently where we looked at what we use money for. We talked about where we keep money and the different ways we can spend it (in cash, by card and over the internet). The children enjoyed looking at how we spend money and the differences between spending money on what we want and what we need. To finish our workshop, we looked at all the things we would need to pay for if we had a pet. Perhaps some of the children have asked you about this?!



Finally, we have reached the end of our swimming programme for this year and I am thrilled to see how much progress they have made with their weekly lessons. All of the children can now swim across the small pool (some with aids and some without). Some of the children have even progressed into the big pool and I could not be prouder of all their efforts and determination this year. Well done Acorns.

OAKS CLASS

Maths

In maths this term, Oaks have been busy exploring fractions. Year 4 have been focusing understanding a whole and counting beyond 1. They have further developed their mathematical understanding of proper and improper fractions and mixed numbers and converting between them. They have recently begun looking at equivalent fractions and how to add and subtract two or more fractions. Year 3 have also been looking at fractions this term. They began by comparing and ordering unit fractions and non-unit fractions and have recently begun counting fractions on a scale and number line.



History

This term, Oaks and Mighty Oaks have been learning all about the Stone Age. They have explored how life has changed for people during different periods of the Stone Age, including the Early, Middle and New Stone Ages (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic) and thought about



why the period was called the Stone Age. In recent lessons, Oaks and Mighty Oaks have looked at what archaeological evidence there is from the period, particularly in the form of artefacts and monuments, for example, the Neolithic settlement at Skara Brae. To further engage them in this unit, Oaks and Mighty Oaks had the chance to experience a wonderful trip to Oxenwood Outdoor Education Centre where they got the chance to dive further into this time period.

DT

Oaks and Mighty Oaks have spent the last few lessons looking at different types of moving mechanisms that can be found in pop-up books. They all have been busy making these types of mechanism, for example, box fold, mouth fold, rotator, flaps and a pull tab. During this process, they have also been evaluating what they like and dislike about each mechanism and have started to consider whether they would like to use them in their own pop-up book they will be creating at the end of term and the start of next term. They will be working in small groups or pairs to create their own pop-up book which links back to our previous History unit, the Mayan civilisation.



OAKS CLASS / MIGHTY OAKS

Key Stage 2

We all enjoyed our trip to Oxenwood Education Centre where the children gained a better understanding of what life was like in the UK during the Stone Age. The highlight of the day was an encounter with a Mesolithic man, who had constructed a temporary shelter in the woods. He approached us cautiously and then went on to construct a fire before cleaning and cooking a fish and carrying out repairs to his spear. We also examined a Neolithic round house, struck flint and steel to make sparks and threw spears to catch our lunch (some imagination was required).



Three of our children took part in a sports Panathlon at Cirencester College on Thursday, 14th March. They all participated fully in the events, representing our school well, and were delighted to return with medals and a fifth place result. Well done, boys.

MIGHTY OAKS CLASS

In mathematics, both year groups have now completed their work on fractions, decimals and percentages and begun a unit on measurement. Both groups are currently working on area, before year 6 work on volume and then both groups move on to analysing statistical information in tables and graphs.

In English, we have been working on non-fiction this term. The children have all written informative texts about a topic of their choice and a recount of our history trip; we will be producing some persuasive writing linked to our science encouraging people to keep themselves healthy. As part of this writing, we have continued to work on the range of sentences and punctuation that is used and on using organizational and layout devices to structure our work.

In science, we have continued to learn about the circulatory system. The children have made models representing the movement of oxygenated and de-oxygenated blood around the body and we have investigated what happens to our heart rate during exercise, suggesting scientific reasons for this. We will conclude this unit at the start of next term.

LITTLE ACORNS CLASS



Little Acorns

@BiburyCofEPrimarySchool

NEW PRESCHOOL

Opening April 8th 2024
Morning Only - 9am to 12pm
Stay All Day - 9am to 3pm

Led by early years specialist staff for 3 - 4 year old children to develop the skills needed for a successful start to school

- Early reading, writing, and maths
- Listening, communication and social skills
- Opportunities for creativity and play
- Gross and fine motor skill development

Spaces are limited so contact us as soon as possible to book your place.

Call 01285 740268

Follow us on social media



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