

# Newsletter Term 1 2021

Our Christian value next 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.

Illustration by David J. Reilly



#### 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                 | ROAD |
| 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                                    | ---- |

## DATES TO REMEMBER

01/11/21 - Term 2 begins

20/12/21 - 03/01/22 - Dec Half Term

04/01/22 - INSET Day

21/02/22 - 25/02/22 - Feb Half Term

28/03/22 - INSET Day

11/04/22 - 22/04/22 - April Half Term

02/05/22 - Bank Holiday

30/05/22 - 01/06/22 - May Half Term

02/06/22 - Bank Holiday

03/06/22 - Bank Holiday

22/07/22 - INSET Day

25/07/22 - 02/09/22 - Summer Holidays

## BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Happy Birthday to Ava-Rose, who had her birthday in September and to Freddie for his birthday in October! ☺



## ACORNS

This month Acorns have been busy writing letters and writing poetry using metaphors. They have created some very descriptive letters and poetry using the techniques we practised as a class. In Maths, we have been busy learning our number bonds and Year 2 have tackled column addition for the first time. Early Years have also been industrious this month, learning all the phonics sounds for phase 2 and are beginning to write short phrases already!

Earlier this month we embarked upon a trip to Lea Wood to explore the changing seasons as well as honing our plant and animal identification skills. We were joined by North Cerney School and the children thoroughly enjoyed rekindling and making new friendships as they worked together.

In Science we have been busy learning about our skeletons and our five senses. We have performed investigations into smell, taste, touch, sight and hearing allowing us plenty of opportunities to develop our scientific skills.

In Design and Technology, we have been investigating pivots, levers and sliders and we have made windmills to demonstrate these techniques. Swimming has been a huge success this term with all of the children making rapid progress in the pool in terms of water confidence and swimming skills.

The children have worked incredibly hard this term and deserve their half term holiday of rest and relaxation. I am looking forward to next term already and hopefully the return of our traditional Nativity in the church.

## OAKS

Oaks class have had a lovely term exploring some exciting topics across the curriculum.

Our English journey has seen us writing a dream in the character of the BFG with lots of wonderfully creative made up words to entertain the reader. We have also just finished a set of instructions on how to keep the mind and body healthy and happy. Children researched things like diet, sleep and exercise before writing their steps to success.

The children have all worked so hard in our maths lessons. We have completed several topics including Place Value and Addition and Subtraction. The class have become column method superstars after using it every lesson for a fortnight!

Our art lessons have focused on drawing techniques and we have been sketching still-life, landscapes and portraits with excellent results. I have been extremely impressed with the attention paid to getting the correct proportions and shading into their work.

Science has been an intriguing sequence of investigations into magnets. Oaks have set up and carried out experiments to answer questions like 'What materials are magnetic?' and 'Does the size of the magnet impact the strength?'. Some very interesting results and thoughtful explanations.

## MIGHTY OAKS

Well, we've reached the end of a busy half term of learning and I'm sure the children are all looking forward to a well-deserved break.

Mighty Oaks have all written some lovely 'quest' stories this term as well as instructions linked to our Roman topic. They have also shown themselves to be expert scientists, investigating different kinds of forces and thinking about how these affect our daily lives. I look forward to checking our quiz results to find out who is our expert on Roman history and will award the prize when we return to school in November.

On Wednesday, 13th October, the children in Key Stage 2 took part in a K'Nex workshop where they were asked to design an eco-friendly house. It had to have at least 4 rooms, at least 2 'eco' features and be accessible to all. The students all engaged enthusiastically with their projects and produced some very creative results.

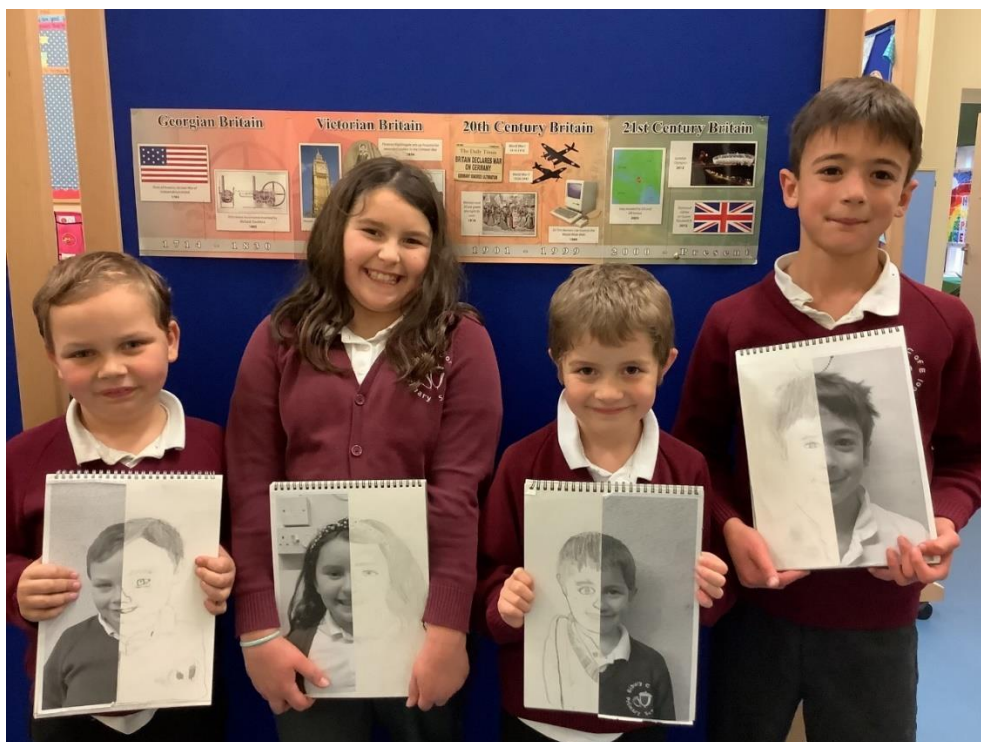
Once the children had all spoken about their finished models, Mrs. Kelly chose her top three and then a final winner. Congratulations to our 3 top pairs: Evie and Alex, Ben and Raul, and particularly to Theo and Freddie whose design will represent our school in the final. This workshop has fired up the children's enthusiasm for engineering and they have asked if they can have a K'Nex club next term, which we hope to provide.

Have a happy and healthy half term and we will see you in November.

## GALLERY

Here are some photos of what we have been getting up to this term.

Oaks Art techniques sketching self-portraits.





Early Years building their city using our wooden blocks. Great construction!



Cross Country Atheltes!





Saying goodbye to Mrs Godwin ☹️



Storytime in our new playground in our new story telling chair!





Having fun at breaktimes 😊



On our way to our lovely cricket grounds for PE





KS2 in their K'Nex workshop where they were asked to design an eco-friendly house.





