

Newsletter October 2023

Our Christian value this term is: Community



COMMUNITY HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK TOGETHER ABOUT COMMUNITY...

There are many different kinds of community and most of us are part of several. We may belong to a school, a church, a club or a village or town. Belonging to a community means that we are not just an individual, separate from everyone else, but we are in relationship with others.

- Which communities do you belong to?
- Why is it important to you that you belong to them?
- How would life be different if you did not belong?



READ TOGETHER...

Jesus feeds 5000 people

Everyone loved to see and listen to Jesus. So everywhere Jesus went, many people followed.

One day a very big crowd gathered to see Jesus – more than five thousand people! There were men, women and children everywhere: sitting on the grass, standing under the trees, all trying to catch a glimpse of Jesus and hear what he had to say. Later when he had finished teaching, Jesus went around meeting people. Everyone was having a great day and nobody wanted to go home.

But the disciples began to worry. "Jesus, you need to send these people away now," they said, "they are a long way from home and will soon be getting hungry and we don't have any food to give them."

"It's alright," Jesus said, "You can give them something to eat."

"How can we do that?" exclaimed his friends, "It would cost loads of money to feed all these people! One young boy has donated his lunch but 5 barley loaves of bread and 2 fish won't be nearly enough."

"Tell everyone to sit down ready for a picnic," said Jesus. Then he prayed to God "Thank you for this food," he said, before he gave the bread and fish to his friends to share among the crowd. They looked at each other mystified, knowing that the bread and fish would soon run out. But they began to hand out the food...and more food...and more food, until at last they realised that everyone was happily eating. "Where did all that bread and fish come from?" they wondered. "How did so little food manage to feed so many people?"

Later, when the crowd had gone home, Jesus' friends went round with baskets to pick up the leftovers. What an amazing day it had been. They had seen Jesus teach people, help people, and somehow turn 5 loaves and 2 fish into enough food for a feast that no one could ever forget!



QUIZ

The bread we eat

The 5 loaves that the boy in the Bible story gave to Jesus were made from barley. Most of the bread we eat is made from wheat, but bread can be made from a number of different grains and have all kinds of shapes.

Match the loaf shapes with their names:

tin, farmhouse, cob, bagel, baguette, bloomer, cottage



THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

'I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; Together we can do great things.'

Mother Teresa

Can you think of a task that can be done with others but not alone?



FAMILY FOCUS

Think about Mother Teresa's words of wisdom (overleaf). What are the special gifts and talents of each member of your family?

How do each of you use your gifts and talents for the benefit of everyone in the family?

I'm good at woodwork, I make things for our house.

I love gardening. I grow fruit and vegetables for everyone.

I enjoy painting. I make pictures and cards for presents

I like singing and making up plays. I put on shows for the family.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Become a Baker

Bake some loaves of bread or bread rolls together as a family. Eat some at home and take others to school. You can find a recipe by entering 'easy bread recipes' into a search engine.



FASCINATING FACTS About bread

Bread is perhaps the food most associated with community. For thousands of years it has been an essential part of the family diet. Bread is also part of many religious and cultural ceremonies.

Jewish families celebrate the start of Shabbat (the sabbath) by eating a special loaf called challah.



In Russia, when an important or respected guest arrives at someone's home, as a symbol of welcome they are presented with a loaf of bread with a salt shaker placed on top.

In Christian worship bread has a particular significance:

- As part of the service of holy communion, a loaf of bread is broken, shared and eaten to remember Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.
- Spiced and fruited hot cross buns (so called because of the cross across the top) are eaten in Lent, the period leading up to Easter.
- At Harvest Festival a loaf in the shape of a sheaf of corn is often a focal part of the decoration of the church.



HALL OF FAME



Malala Yousafzai

Malala is now so famous that her name is known right around the world, but the life of this amazing young person began in an ordinary and unremarkable village in Pakistan. Malala Yousafzai's father was a teacher in the local community and wanted all his children to have a good education in order that they could have fulfilling and successful lives. But, Malala writes:

"Everything changed when the Taliban took control of our town in the Swat Valley. The extremists banned many things like owning a television and playing music - and enforced harsh punishments for those who defied their orders. And they said girls could no longer go to school. I spoke out publicly on behalf of girls and our right to learn. And this made me a target. In October 2012 on my way home from school, a masked gunman boarded my school bus and asked 'Who is Malala?' He shot me on the left side of my head.

I woke up 10 days later in a hospital in Birmingham, England. The doctors and nurses told me about the attack and that I had been flown to the UK for medical treatment. They said that people around the world were praying for my recovery.

After months of surgeries and rehabilitation I knew I had a choice. I could live a quiet life or make the most of this new life. I determined to continue my fight until every girl could go to school."

Malala has been true to her word and in December 2014 she became the youngest ever Nobel Prize winner in recognition of her work as a fearless and sacrificial campaigner for girls' education, not just in her own community but across the world.

Malala says "There is still a lot to do. Even today, 130 million girls across the globe do not have the opportunity to go to school."

STARS OF THE WEEK

Congratulations to our Stars of the Week.



ACORN CLASS

Acorns Class have had a busy month. In Geography we have been learning about the changing seasons and how the different seasons bring different weather, We have been learning about weather forecasts as well as how weather differs across the United Kingdom. Earlier in the month we enjoyed a trip to Westonbirt Arboretum with our friends from North Cerney School. We worked together to look for signs of Autumn as well as identifying six key trees from their leaves and their seeds.



This month Acorn Class have spent some time with Wren Class at North Cerney. We have had joint English and Maths lessons working together on letters, poems and lots of Maths problems. It is wonderful to watch both sets of children enjoying each other's company every week and helping each other to learn.



We have made good use of the outside learning area this term with explorations into gravity, colour mixing, pattern and storytelling. EYFS and Year 1 have also enjoyed their trips to Forest School each Friday with Miss Law and Mrs Emmerson.

Swimming has been very successful this term with all children making good progress developing their confidence in the water and swimming with aids across the pool.



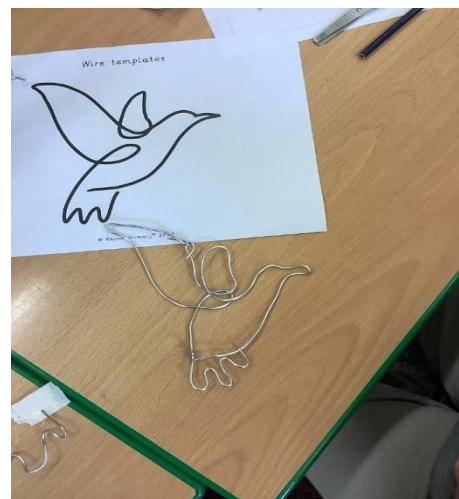
In Design and Technology we have made some moving pictures using levers, pivots and sliders. The children in Acorn Class enjoyed designing and making their own individual pages and showing

their friends. Finally, in Science we have had great fun learning about our five senses. We have tasted new things, smelt good and bad smells, touched a variety of textures, been led around the playground blindfolded and listened for loud and quiet sounds in the churchyard. We have managed to cram an awful lot of learning into four weeks and we are looking forward to what next month brings.



OAKS CLASS / MIGHTY OAKS

This term, Oaks and Mighty Oaks have used a variety of materials to create sculptures inspired by a range of artists. They have used materials such as soap, wire and recycled materials. In recent lessons they have worked in pairs and created shadows of positive words and phrases such as friendship, be kind and respect. In a previous lesson, Oaks and Mighty Oaks have also reflected on their past sculptures. Below are a few examples of the soap and wire sculptures they have made.



Geography

Since the start of term, Oaks and Mighty Oaks have been looking at the Amazon region of South America. They have explored the effects of deforestation in the Amazon and have created their own 'Save the Rainforest' campaign that explained how the rainforest is being damaged, how it is being protected and lastly, why the Amazon is important. They have all worked in different groups, assembling posters and created informative PowerPoint presentations to engage the class!



English

Oaks class have been busy building sentences to our narrative story 'Bike Boy'. They have used a range of writing techniques to engage the reader, for example, they have used pathetic fallacy, metaphors, similes, kennings and personification to really extend their stories. In the next few days, Oaks will begin to independently plan their own story of a young child growing up and heading into the big, wide world.

MIGHTY OAKS



All of KS2 enjoyed a trip to the Living Rainforest in Newbury where we learned about the adaptations of plants and animals who live in these conditions. We also learned just how warm and humid the rainforest is!

In science, we have continued our work on forces. We considered which type of string would provide the quickest route for messages carried by balloon and found that kite string had the least friction, with the balloon travelling along this the most quickly. We have also investigated water resistance by changing the shapes of plasticine and found out how levers can be used to reduce the amount of effort needed to lift a load.



In English, we have been writing poetry in rhyming couplets about 'the most annoying animal on the planet' and next week the children will be writing their own poem using the skills we have been using.

In maths, year 6 have completed their unit of work on calculation and will soon begin work on fractions, whilst year 5 are close to completing their unit on multiplication and division.

We concluded our work in RE by drawing together all that they have learned about Islam and considering what they think Muslims would consider most important, and comparing this with what they think is important in their own lives.

STEM ENTHUSE PARTNERSHIP



Along with 6 other schools in the area, we are taking part in a STEM (Science, Technology Engineering and Maths) project which will bring some exciting opportunities over the next couple of years, and, we hope, going forward to the future. This year, our focus is on the raising of awareness of STEM and encouraging more pupils to aspire to careers in STEM relating jobs.

Part of the project will involve looking at careers and we will be holding an 'aspirations' event later in the year where children will have the opportunity to learn about different careers. We will also have a STEM club and introduce science activities that the children can carry out during break times. Please look out for further information

FOREST SCHOOL

Can you spot our giant woodland face? We had fun creating some dens and getting muddy.

