

December Newsletter 2021

Our Christian value this term was:

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 adapted from Bible Society UK



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

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

CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

Well done to all the children who achieved certificates this term!

Finley - Worm of the Term

Iona - Worm of the Term

Star of the Week - Acorn Class for a fabulous, confident and enthusiastic Nativity performance

Beatrice - Times Table Champion

Poppy - Number Bonds Champion

Congratulations to the following children who achieved their Athletics certificates for Bronze, Silver and Gold:

Nicolas	Louisa
Freddie	Emily
Finlay	Beatrice
Ben	Iona
Hammond	Violet
Raul	Nirvana
George	Cleo

In Acorn Class, we have been very busy this December. In English we have been learning about how to write reports and the children have enjoyed writing their own reports about a variety of dragons. I have been impressed with how they have used the structure of the class model to ensure that their report matches this structure too.

Children in Acorn Class have been very enthusiastic readers this term and all are making good progress with their reading. Your time spent each evening listening to your child read is having an enormous impact.

In Maths, Year 1 and EYFS have been busy exploring 2D and 3D shape this month before moving on to exploring numbers 11 to 20. They have been developing some excellent problem solving strategies this term, including using the use of very precise maths vocabulary.

Year 2 have been looking at money, finding totals, finding change as well as finding different ways of making the same amount using different notes and coins. This week, Year 2 have moved on to multiplication and many have been busy learning their two times tables at home. Several children in Year 1 and 2 have earned their mathematics certificates this term by completing work at home using the mathematics website - well done!

To finish off our term, Acorn Class produced the best Nativity ever this week. We are so proud of your children. They have learnt their lines and thought about how best to say them, they learnt the actions and words for eight songs and then performed this in the last week of term with such gusto. The children enjoyed performing to their select audience, being able to perform it live made such a difference to the children's experience. We are lucky that being such a small school, we were able to invite a small number of adults in to watch it - something denied to a great many other larger schools again this year.



December has been another busy month for Oaks class and everyone has worked so hard.

I have been absolutely thrilled to read the children's historical diaries about the day in the life of a Roman gladiator. They used accurate facts which had been carefully researched and paired those with excellent descriptions of how a gladiator must have felt before going into battle. They were packed with our success criteria and so many wonderful (but very brutal!) ideas. They were joys to read!

Our science topic on States of Matter was filled with a wonderful mix of investigations. I was very proud to see the children using their computing skills to input their data into spreadsheets which were then converted into graphs. This is a hard skill and the children truly excelled in it.

In the last fortnight Oaks and Mighty Oaks have made excellent progress with their DT houses. We have completed our circuits for the doorbell and lights as well as starting to decorate them to add some festive cheer! I am excited for these to go home with the children today.

Thank you all for a wonderful term and I hope you have an incredibly jolly Christmas.

See you in 2022!



We've reached the end of another busy term and I am very proud of the hard work that the children have put in and all they have achieved. We have just finished writing a letter to Mr. Scrooge, asking him to support Dr. Barnardo in his drive to provide homes for the poor children of Victorian London and I am quite sure that, were he to read the children's words, his miserly heart would melt and there would be no need for the Christmas spirits to pay him a visit.

In our topic, we have been finding out about the planned housing development in Cirencester and what effect this will have on the town. The children have weighed the advantages and disadvantages and then given their own opinion of the project.

We have begun to swap our seating positions each week, so that everyone has the opportunity to work with all the other children in the class. It has been a pleasure to see the children supporting and challenging one another; at the end of each week, they write a note, thanking their partner for their help, which I think they are all pleased to receive.

It was lovely to see all the children having so much fun at the Christmas party, hosted by the lovely Mrs. Godwin - what a happy end to the year! I hope you all have a very merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in 2022.



CHRISTMAS BISCUITS

Mighty Oaks have enjoyed cooking Christmas biscuits with Mrs Davies on our last day, the school smells divine!



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all. We hope you have a happy and healthy holiday from all the staff at Bibury CE Primary School.

