

Newsletter Term 1 - September 2025

Our Christian value this term is: Thankfulness.



THANKFULNESS

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK ABOUT THANKFULNESS TOGETHER.

'Count your blessings' is an old saying, but it reminds us to be **thankful** and not take things for granted.

As a family you may like to talk about

- Remembering to let other people know when you are **thankful**
- Not taking things for granted
- Practical ways of showing gratitude
- How it feels when someone **thanks** you!

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"God gave you a gift of 86,400 seconds today.
Have you used one to say **thank** you?"
Anon



READ TOGETHER...

The Man Who Came Back

Jesus was travelling along the dusty roads towards Jerusalem. At each village he was welcomed by people, happy to see him and listen to his teaching. But today, as he entered the village he saw in the distance a small group standing apart from the crowd. They were calling out, "Jesus, Master, help us, please make us well." These poor people had a disease called leprosy. They were terribly ill and no-one in the village wanted to go near them.

But Jesus didn't ignore them. He stood among them and prayed for them. As each of them went on his way they began to notice that their whole bodies were healing up. They were so excited that they immediately rushed off to share their good news. Well, nine of them did. The tenth turned and fell on his knees in front of Jesus and **thanked** him for what he had done.

"I healed ten people with leprosy today", said Jesus to the man. "Where are the others?". But then he smiled "Well at least you came back to say **thank** you!".

Bible story based on Luke 17:11-19



QUIZ

Jumbled Words

Unjumble the words (that are known as anagrams), to discover words from the story.

- r sleep _____
- per day _____
- net _____
- sly rope _____
- heed al _____
- had kent _____
- sue js _____



FASCINATING FACTS

Have you ever thought about how many people we have to **thank** for some of the everyday things that we take for granted? For example the milk we drink.

Thank you Mum & Dad for buying the milk,

Thank you supermarket workers for stacking the shelves and operating the cash tills,

Thank you lorry driver for bringing cartons of milk to the supermarket,

Thank you workers in the packaging factory,

Thank you milk tanker driver for collecting the milk from the farms and bringing it to the factory,

Thank you farmers for milking the cows.



★ HALL OF FAME

Tom Daley

Tom has become very well known as an expert diver. While still at school he won medals at swimming events across the world.

Happy times - Tom learned to swim when he was 3 years old and to dive when he was 7. Tom's parents soon realised that their son had a great gift as a diver and they did all they could to help him develop his talent.

Difficult times - For many years, Tom's father coached him, but sadly he became very sick and died when Tom was just 17.

Painful times - Like many athletes, Tom has also had to cope with great sadness in his life as well as some serious sports injuries.

Thankful times - Tom has been BBC Young Personality of the Year on three occasions. He loves his sport and is full of **thanks** for the people who have helped him to become a first class athlete.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Thank you chain

Think about how an everyday item reaches you: Where does it come from? Who was involved in making it? Who should you **thank**?

Make a **thank** you chain and bring it to school to hang in the Challenge Gallery.



FAMILY FOCUS

Time to say "Thank you"

Draw a clock face for your family to fill in together.

Choose one day and ask every one to think, as the hours tick by, about one thing in each hour that they would like to say **thank** you for.

Draw a picture of what you are **thankful** for in each segment.



ACORN CLASS

Acorn Class have made a very positive start to our new academic year. Our EYFS children have made an excellent beginning to their school journey and they are a credit to our school with their enthusiasm in lessons and tenacity in learning. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 have also made a solid start and they are rising to the challenge of their new year groups.

In Maths, EYFS have been learning to subitise (identify an amount without counting) as well as learning to count larger amounts carefully. Year 1 have been learning about numbers to 20 and beyond and have been practising counting forwards and backwards. Year 2 have been learning more about place value with numbers to 100, ordering and comparing these numbers using maths language correctly.



In English, EYFS have already learnt ten sounds and they are making great progress blending these sounds together to read and write simple words. Year 1 and Year 2 have been developing their writing skills using an Irish myth called The Song of the Sea. Having practised different sentence structures and vocabulary, the children are writing their own version of the story this week. I have been particularly impressed with their vocabulary and enthusiasm !



In Science, we have looked at different parts of the body and we have had great fun learning about our sense of smell and our sense of sight so far. Last week we had a great session making both pleasant and unpleasant smells using tuna, garlic, vinegar, orange, bath foam, toothpaste etc !

In Geography, we have been investigating the weather and our changing seasons. We have used rain gauges, thermometers and anemometers to measure the weather. We have learnt about how the wind changes the weather and what a north, south, east or west wind means for our weather. We are looking forward to our trip on the 9th October to Crickley Hill where we will look at the effects of seasonal change on the animals and plants.

In DT we have been making moving pictures using levers, sliders and flaps which was great fun. EYFS have also had extra junk modelling sessions which have produced all sorts of models. In computing, we have been looking at e-safety using the website ThinkuKnow for 4 - 7 year olds. Do have a look at the website as it has lots of useful information for parents too and is promoted by the police.

Thank you for supporting your children in their transition into school, especially with hearing them read . They have all made a super start to the year.

OAKS & MIGHTY OAKS CLASS

Maths - Oaks class have launched into a busy new term and we are delighted that they are all showing determination with their learning. They have all been given their first targets in English writing which they have been working on whilst writing an adventure story. You can read our collaborative story so far in this newsletter.

In music, we are learning to read staff notation and they have been playing along to some music from South Africa using glockenspiels and recorders. I am hoping that some children will want to continue recorder playing next term, playing along to some Christmas music.



On Wednesday, 24th September, the children were treated to a performance from Claire Hammond, who is a professional concert pianist. She introduced them to a variety of composers and their pieces. Finally, to an accompaniment of "Oohs" and "Aahs" from the children, she opened up the piano to demonstrate how the mechanism works and then played while they watched the hammers moving up and down on the strings.



Year 5 and 6

Our science topic this term is forces and we have begun by learning about gravitational pull and how force can be measured in Newtons. This week, we investigated the effect of air resistance on different falling objects.

Our approach to learning in RE has changed this year: we have adopted a more investigative approach to people's worldviews. This term we are finding out why Christians believe in the Trinity and what this means to them.

OUR VERSION OF 'THE FIREWORK MAKER'S DAUGHTER' (The different colours represent text written by different children)

A thousand miles ago, many many years away, there lived a firework-maker called Lalchand and his daughter. They lived in a small, thriving village nestled in the well of mountains that swallowed the moon, stars and sun, consuming the sky. The river cut the whole valley in half. The mountains, which hid secrets, were enticing.

On the edge of the lake, next to the village, there was a small, messy cabin where Lalchand made his fireworks: the cupboards were stuffed; lots of liquids covered the floor; powerful papers filled the shelves and decorative dyes were scattered on the table.

When she came of age, Lila started to make fireworks – Speedy Seahorses, Prowling Panthers and Shooting Stars, exploding with colour.

One day, months later, she wondered, "What happens if I mix the powders?" She mixed phosphorous and morning dew. She stirred in gold and zinc thunder. Finally, she dropped in some ice magnesium. Bubble. Fizz.



Bang! Lila merged her potion. Luminous wisps of fire began to rise. Then spirals formed and finally a massive supersonic flash happened and disappeared.

Proudly, she rushed to show Lalchand (her father).

However, despite her success, Lalchand was overheating with frustration. "You'll never make a firework again," he mumbled.

"B...b...but it's my dream and you always wanted my dreams to come true," she cried. "Why, though?"

"It's too dangerous," he said.

"It's dangerous for you too. What's the difference?"

"You're a girl."

They stared at one another with silence filling the air between them.

Lila's soul was pierced but she didn't want to give up on her future job. She knew she had to get the secret that all firework makers knew but Lila had no idea what that secret was. She could not ask her father what it was as he had forbidden her from knowing.

When her father was sleeping, she went in his room and found the key and went down to the workshop. She opened the cupboard and unlocked some drawers and read every book there.

Finally, she found a huge book called "How To Create Magical Fireworks". She opened it and began to read. Her heart thumped as she found the answer. The secret of firework making was hidden in the fires of Mount Merapi.