



Newsletter November 2024

Our Christian value this 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.

Bible story based on Luke 10:29-37



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 **R O A D**
- 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 -----



FAMILY FOCUS

Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness is often appreciated most when it is offered at unexpected times.

Choose one week this term for your family to have "a random acts of kindness" week, and do something kind for someone each day. Try to do it without telling people it was you!



www.randomactsofkindness.org



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



Helping hands

As well as being kind and showing **compassion** in what we say, it is often what we *do* that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person's hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown. Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.



FASCINATING FACTS

What a difference **compassion** and kindness can make! Numerous charities help people who have been hurt, are ill or suffer through lack of resources. Below are just 3:

- **World Vision** encourages individuals and groups to 'Sponsor a Child' in an area of the world where food, health and education cannot be taken for granted. For just 75 pence a day the life of a child, in for example Uganda or Bolivia, can be transformed by providing help to grow food, source clean water, improve health services and pay for education.

www.worldvision.org.uk

- **Help for Heroes** was set up after many British soldiers returned from war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. By giving to this charity the public show their **compassion** for the soldiers and their families and recognise the service they gave on behalf of us all.

www.helpforheroes.org.uk

- **Help the Hospices.** Sometimes when people become very ill they go to a hospice which will provide them with care and **compassion**. Often hospices are maintained by donations from people who admire and value their service or who have had a relative who has been helped by the hospice.

www.helpthehospices.org.uk



HALL OF FAME

A famous bear with a spotty scarf



Pudsey Bear became a national mascot in 1985. He was designed by Joanna Ball and she named him after the small town in Yorkshire where she lived and went to school for many years, Pudsey.

When we see Pudsey Bear we immediately think of Children in Need. This charity has grown enormously since it began and raises millions of pounds every year. Thanks to people all over the country, children in the UK and across the world have come to know real kindness and **compassion**, made possible by generous donations to the charity. www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey

ACORN CLASS

Acorn Class have been busy learning about the Great Fire of London this month. We have looked at the causes of the fire, why it spread so quickly and the consequences (positive and negative) for London. The children have really enjoyed this topic and we are looking forward to building our own Tudor houses next week to finish off our work.

In Science, we have been looking at different materials. We have used our senses to look at the properties of different materials as well as learning new scientific vocabulary such as waterproof, absorbent, rigid and flexible.

In Forest School we have been looking at the seasonal changes in the wood. The children have enjoyed looking at frost as well as observing the changing colours of the trees.

In English, Early Years have been learning about digraphs - two letters which make one sound. They have made great progress in learning how to write phrases and short sentences using their sounds. Year 1 and 2 have been writing a narrative based on the book, Toby and the Great Fire of London. I am looking forward to looking at their final independent write where they can show off their new skills.

Finally, in RE we have been learning about how Christians celebrate Christmas. We have learnt about the Christmas Story and we are busy using this knowledge to help us practise for the Christmas Show.

OAKS CLASS

English

In English, the children have been looking at the story of the Iron Man. The children have just finished writing their independent story based around the Iron Man.

Maths

The children in Year 3 and Year 4 have just finished their Addition and Subtraction topic in maths and have completed an end of unit assessment. Year 3 are about to move onto their new topic of Multiplication and Division. Year 4 have just started, and almost finished, their topic of Area and will also be moving onto Multiplication and Division. Both year groups have also been doing lots of times tables practice and are encouraged to take part in our Times Table Rockstars challenge that end at 08:00 on the 20th December.

Science

This month we have started our new science topic all about Earth Rocks. So far this term, we have looked at experimenting with different rocks, how we use rocks to make food and the three main types of rock. We have also introduce the Scientist of the Week where a selected child is able to wear our lab coat and glasses for the lesson.

Geography

Our geography topic this term is all about what makes the Earth shake, rattle and roll! So far this term, we have looked at what causes earthquakes and volcanoes. We are about to start looking into the reasons for their locations as well as the impact this can have on the environment and people living there.

French

This term in French we are learning how to talk about animals! We have learnt how to say 10 different animals in French and we are now going to start looking at how we put this knowledge into different sentences!

RSHE

The theme for RSHE this term is Keeping Myself Safe. The children have been considering what the words 'danger', 'risk', 'hazard' and 'dare' and how they can respond in an appropriate way to these things.

ART

In art, the pupils have all been learning and practising different stitching techniques in readiness for making their own stockings. Much patience and care has been required and I have been really impressed by how successful they have been. Now knowing what they are able to do, the children produced plans this week for the designs of their pieces, which we will begin next time.

MUSIC

In music, we have been learning about key elements of Indian music - the rag, tal and drone and have been improvising our own rag and drone using glockenspiels and recorders.

We have also begun to practise learning Christmas carols (yes, already) in preparation for our Christmas concert at Cirencester Baptist Church.

KS2/MIGHTY OAKS CLASS

Mighty Oaks

In English this term, we have been building complex sentences with subordinate clauses and using these in our writing of scary stories. We have also explored other techniques for building suspense such as short sentences, onomatopoeia, powerful verbs, personification and simile.

In science, we have begun our learning about the Solar System; we have found out some factual information about the planets, explored how ideas have changed over time (noting key astronomers in history) and made a 'scale' model to represent the distances between planets in the playground. We will now turn our attention to why we have night and day, seasons and moon phases.



In this picture, you can see the relative distances from the sun of the first 5 planets - Neptune is at the other end of the playground!