

**A community working in harmony to achieve our God – given potential.**



### January 2024 Newsletter

Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year.

We hope that you all had a good Christmas and enjoyed spending quality time with loved ones.

It has been wonderful to welcome all the children (and staff) back to school and to get stuck into some new learning. Although we love all the excitement around Christmas, it is always good to get back to 'regular' learning routines and quickly resettle them in January. This term promises to be another busy one with lots of exciting things planned.

Our focus Christian value for this half-term works well with our whole school vision as it is **Koinonia!** Koinonia is an old biblical word which links to community and fellowship. Please share the community home-schools value sheet with your child and I am sure they will tell you more.

### **Parents Evening**

This will take place on

Thursday 22nd February.

Further information will be sent out shortly.



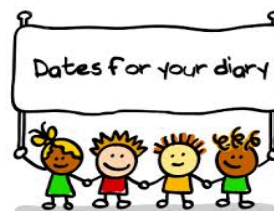
### **Attendance**

A massive well done to those who received awards and gift vouchers for having fantastic attendance last term.



Congratulations to the winner of the attendance raffle last half-term. We hope you and your family enjoyed the lovely treats!

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Three weeks of school days each year	181 days at school means	171 days at school means	161 days at school means	152 days at school means	143 days at school means
No lost learning =	9 days of missed learning =	19 days of missed learning =	29 days of missed learning =	38 days of missed learning =	47 days of missed learning =
100% attendance	96% attendance	90% attendance	85% attendance	80% attendance	75% attendance
<b>Good</b>	<b>Worrying</b>	<b>Serious Concern</b>			
Best chance of success and gets your child off to a flying start!	Less chance of success and makes it harder to make progress.	It's just not fair on your child - and could lead to court action.			
					

**Friday 9th February**  
Parents invited to Celebration Worship  
Assembly - 2.30pm

**Friday 9th February**  
School closes for half-term

**Monday 19th February**  
School re-opens

**Thursday 22nd February**  
Parents evening

**Friday 8th March**  
Parents invited to Celebration Worship  
Assembly

**Thursday 21st March**  
Provisional date for Easter Service

**Friday 22nd March**  
School closes for Easter

You may have seen on the news and social media that the government has launched a national campaign to improve school attendance.

We will be sending out a separate newsletter highlighting how we can work together to improve attendance.

*"From the first day of term to the last, the small moments in a school day make a real difference to your child. #AttendanceCounts"*

**Our school target is 97%**

**Our school attendance up until 19/01/24 is 92%**

**As the weather has turned and winter has well and truly arrived, please ensure your child has a coat on each day and is wearing appropriate footwear.**



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!



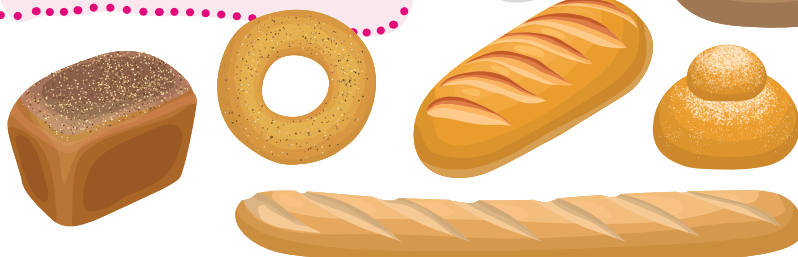
## QUIZ

### 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.



## 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 Prizewinner 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."



## 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.

