

Welcome to our termly Christian Values newsletter from our Collective Worship Councillors.

The aim of this newsletter is to tell you about our chosen Christian Value for this term.



Our Christian Value for this term is **COMPASSION** and our focus Bible story is
The Parable of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)

Christians believe the Bible teaches that God is a God of compassion and that God feels the suffering of His people. God's compassion is expressed in His mercy, kindness, patience, grace, forgiveness and love. Many Christians believe they are called by God to be compassionate people. In essence, compassion is a feeling of sympathy, empathy and a need to take action to relieve the suffering of those close to us and further afield. We encourage our pupils to be compassionate and conscientious 'Agents of Change' at home, in school and in the local community. We want them to be inspired to act for something they feel compelled to change. Throughout the Trust, we develop our value of compassion through modelling it to one another and understanding that it is a call to action. We show compassion locally through supporting local foodbanks and other local charities. Nationally and internationally we have supported charities such as Children in Need, Sport Relief and then beyond our shores we are partnered with Nyansakia village in Kisii, West Kenya. Over many years we have been able to make a positive difference to the village and its school through our fundraising efforts.



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 10:25-37



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

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

"Clothe yourselves in compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience." Colossians 3:12

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

Aesop