Welcome to the latest Christian Values newsletter from our Collective Worship Team. The aim of this newsletter is to tell you about our chosen Christian Value for this term.

Our focus Bible story this term is Jesus and the 10 Lepers (Luke 17: 11-19) which can be found in the New Testament.

THANKFULNESS

The word 'thankfulness' is not a common word in the Bible, but the Bible does tell us that God loves and cares for us in many different ways in all aspects of our lives. We encourage our pupils to respond to this gift with thankfulness and praise. Songs of thankfulness and praise are at the heart of our Christian worship. We use worship songs, bible stories, Christian Festivals such as Harvest, prayers throughout the day (e.g. lunchtime, home time) and current affairs to help the children realise and understand the importance of saying and most importantly, feeling thankful. The Parable of the Lost Coin is a short and simple story that Jesus told to teach those listening primarily about God's love for us but also the importance of being thankful and persevering. You can watch a version of the story here:
https://youtu.be/6L92cqnNDSA



Do you have good manners? Do you always remember to say please and thank you to others? Why is it important that we remember to do this? When we say **thank you**, we're not just using good manners – we're showing that we notice and appreciate the kindness of others. Saying **please** reminds us to ask with respect, not demand. These small words carry big meaning. As Christians, we believe that showing thankfulness is a way of honouring God and loving others. Jesus often gave thanks – to God and for others. When we use our manners, we reflect God's love and kindness in our everyday lives.

WORDS OF WISDOM

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

"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; His love endures forever." Psalm 107:1

There are lots of stories about thankfulness in the Bible. Here is a version of our focus story for this term for you to read together:

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

FAMILY FOCUS

This term, we're inviting families to create a **"Thankfulness Jar"** at home – a simple way to help children (and adults!) grow in the Christian value of thankfulness. We hope this activity helps you to pause and reflect on God's goodness in everyday life.

What You'll Need:

- A clean jar or container
- Strips of paper
- Pens or pencils
- Optional: decorations for your jar (stickers, ribbon, labels)

How It Works:

Place the jar somewhere central in your home – maybe on the kitchen table or by the front door.
Each day, every family member writes down one thing they are thankful for and places it in the jar.
You could do this after dinner, before bedtime or at any quiet moment in the day.
At the end of the term open the jar together and read the notes out loud. Reflect on all the blessings, big and small.