



Holmer C of E Academy – Monthly Newsletter

Value of the month: **Trust**

November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

This month our value has been **trust**. Trust is what helps us grow, learn, and face challenges together, and we encourage all our pupils to reflect on how they can build trust with their friends, teachers, and families. We are also mindful that, for the third time in as many months, our community has been affected by flooding. While this continues to bring its challenges, we are incredibly grateful for the resilience, patience, and support shown by everyone. Together, we have proven time and again that we are stronger than the obstacles in our path, and we will continue to face these challenges with optimism and unity. As the festive season begins to approach, we are looking forward to the many exciting events and opportunities we have lined up in the coming weeks. We encourage all families to keep an eye on our school calendar – there will be plenty of chances to get involved, celebrate together, and create wonderful memories.

Thank You for Supporting our Wellbeing Workshops

A huge thank you to all the parents who attended our KS2 wellbeing workshops. It was fantastic to see such a great turnout and to witness families engaging so brilliantly with this important topic. Your support and enthusiasm mean so much, and it's clear that our pupils are in safe hands. Thank you for being part of this important opportunity and don't be afraid to pop in if we can ever help!



Each week, we share a new big question for pupils to think about and discuss with others. This week, our big question has been: **What is a perfect world?** Take a moment to discuss how this might look different to different people. We would love to hear their thoughts!



Inspiring us all to create a better world

Year 3 - Over the last few weeks, we have been learning about Stone Age art which has been discovered in caves such as Lascaux in France. The children were in awe of some of the incredible paintings they saw so we used these as inspiration for our artwork. The children drew sketches of wild animals, created a background using natural materials and included their very own negative effect handprint. We think there are some budding artists in the making!



A Spectacular Advent Service at Hereford Cathedral

Last Thursday, our Year 4 pupils took part in a wonderful Advent Service at **Hereford Cathedral**, joining voices with pupils from Gorsley Goffs Primary, Lea CE Primary, Holmer CE Academy, St James CE Primary, Bishop Hooper CE Primary, and the Hereford Cathedral Junior School Choir.

The service featured beautiful readings and much-loved hymns, including *Once in Royal David's City*, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, and *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*.

Mr Duncan Barlow, Director of Music at Hereford Cathedral School, praised the event, saying:

"It was truly special to witness over 250 young voices united in song within the magnificent setting of Hereford Cathedral. The energy and dedication from all the singers were remarkable, creating a beautiful and memorable sound."

A huge well done to everyone involved, and heartfelt thanks to the teachers and headteachers for their support. We hope all who attended enjoyed this inspiring celebration of music and faith.



Parliament Week Brings the Whole School Together!

During the week beginning 18th November, our school joined the nationwide celebration of **Parliament Week**—a time dedicated to exploring what Parliament is, how it works, and how we can all make our voices heard. Our Year 6 pupils led the way, diving into discussions about what truly matters to them. The outcome? A unanimous focus on improving **Life on Land**, tying in perfectly with our Global Goal theme.

From their lively brainstorming, three political parties were formed: **The No Pens Party**, **The Reduce, Re-Use and Recycle Party**, and **The No Plastic Pollution Party**. Each party worked tirelessly, drafting compelling manifestos, creating eye-catching posters, and even producing promotional videos. Their energy and enthusiasm were nothing short of inspiring!

The week culminated in an exciting event where Year 6 delivered passionate speeches to the entire school, packed with statistics, persuasive devices, and big ideas for change. Pupils and staff then cast their votes in an official ballot box.

After an incredibly close race, the results were in... **The No Plastic Pollution Party** emerged victorious! A huge well done to all the parties for their hard work and creativity. We can't wait to see how the No Plastic Pollution Party will deliver on their promises—we seem to recall that baking might be involved!

What a fantastic way to experience democracy in action. Well done, everyone!



Eco-Committee continue to make our world a better place!

This term, our Eco-Committee has been on a mission to make a big impact on our school's environmental footprint. Inspired by the urgent need to reduce carbon emissions and combat climate change, we've decided to focus on reducing the carbon footprint of our school.

We're starting by auditing the amount of carbon our school uses to operate. This means examining everything from energy consumption and waste production to transportation and food choices. With this data, we'll be able to assess where we can make the biggest improvements and set some ambitious goals for reducing our environmental impact.

Our journey is supported by Eco-Schools UK, a brilliant organization that helps schools like ours take meaningful steps towards a sustainable future. By working together with Eco-Schools, we'll not only raise awareness in our school but also become active contributors to the global effort to protect our planet.

We're excited about what's to come, and we can't wait to share our progress with you. Keep an eye out for updates as we continue our mission to make our school greener and more eco-friendly! 🌍♻️

Let's reduce, reuse, and reimagine a sustainable future!

Turning the Tide: A Bright Future for Our EYFS Outdoor Area

Although facing another flood was a challenging experience for our school, we are thrilled to share some positive news that has emerged from it. Thanks to a generous £2,000 funding grant from the **Hereford Community Foundation**, we've been able to transform this setback into an opportunity for growth and improvement.

As part of our flood repair and replacement efforts, the grant has been used to enhance our **EYFS outdoor area**, creating an even more engaging and inspiring environment for our youngest learners. A significant portion of the funding has gone towards the purchase of a beautiful wooden roleplay area, which is sure to spark imaginative play and bring endless joy to our children.

The new additions are already making a huge difference, turning what could have been a difficult recovery process into a moment of excitement and renewal. Thank you to the Hereford Community Foundation for helping us make this possible.

We can't wait to see the creativity and adventures our children will enjoy in their new outdoor space. Together, we're building brighter days—rain or shine!



Herefordshire
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



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Year 2

In Year 2, we have especially enjoyed our RE lessons this half term, where we have been exploring what Christians believe God is like. During this topic, we visited Holmer Church and Vicar Wayne shared some wonderful parables from the Bible that helped us understand how Christians see God as both loving and holy. He told us about how God shows his love through caring for people in the story of the Lost Coin.

Back in class, we have used our Voice 21 skills to discuss what we learned from different parables and shared thoughtful reflections on how these ideas help Christians feel close to God. The children offered kind and insightful thoughts about how showing love and kindness in our own lives can reflect what we learned about God. This has been a meaningful and reflective half term, and the children have really enjoyed asking big questions and sharing their ideas.



Year 1

Throughout November, we have been reading 'The Robot and the Bluebird' by David Lucas. The children have really enjoyed learning all about bluebirds and showcasing their knowledge in a fact file. Alongside this, they have explored what it might be like to be a robot which included expressive dancing. In P.E, our focus has been fitness, and the children are gaining an understanding of how our bodies work when exercising. They have practiced their balancing skills and worked together in pairs to evaluate their skills and support each other. In preparation for our upcoming Carols around the Christmas tree event, we have been busy singing our hearts out learning some new songs which we hope you will enjoy with us on Wednesday 18th December.



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Year R

In EYFS this month, we have been looking at 'Snow and ice' and have been lucky enough to have experienced a flourish of snow. The children loved going into our outdoor area and playing in the snow, taking a particular interest when it melted. Our literacy book 'Blue Penguin' linked beautifully to this seasonal weather, what a festive feeling we've had.



Year 4

Year 4 have had a fabulous month, where we have enjoyed a wellbeing session focused on resilience with our parents. Both classes did a wonderful job of performing their class assemblies this month, focused on the school value for November – Trust. We have had a brilliant time in our music lessons this term, developing a range of music skills with Bym. The children have loved learning about the dynamics of music, whilst playing a variety of instruments.



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Year 5

Year 5 have had an incredible month filled with excitement and music! We were thrilled to be invited to take part in an *iSingPOP* concert, joining four other local schools for this special event. In preparation, we spent time in school learning the songs, perfecting the dance moves, and exploring the positive messages behind each piece. The highlight of the experience was coming together with all the schools for a fun-filled day of rehearsals, leading up to our grand performance at Hereford Cathedral. Surrounded by friends, families, and our peers from other schools, we proudly showcased the songs and dances we had worked so hard on. It was an unforgettable experience that brought joy to everyone involved!



Year 6

During November, Year 6 pupils have been building on their prior learning of working collaboratively to produce presentations. This has provided them with valuable skills that they are now applying to the exciting challenge of creating a whole class website. This project allows pupils to work together, combining their strengths and creativity to showcase their collective talents.

Class 6D have chosen 'Art' as their focus, delving into a range of artistic expressions. They explored Street art, abstract art, and are also investigating how the written word and music, including rap, can serve as forms of artistic expression. This diverse range of subjects offers the pupils a unique opportunity to understand and appreciate different creative mediums, encouraging them to think critically about how art can influence and reflect society.

Meanwhile, 6TP have decided to centre their project around one of the United Nations' Global Goals, specifically focusing on the preservation of endangered creatures found on land, in the sea, and in the sky. In addition to raising awareness about these endangered species, the class is also addressing the issue of pollution and exploring practical ways to reduce its impact on the environment. This multi-faceted approach not only educates pupils about biodiversity but also empowers them to take positive action in safeguarding the planet for future generations. Through this initiative, they are developing important skills in research, problem-solving, and advocacy, all while contributing to a global cause.



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This month our Christian value has been **TRUST**. We show this through our service to others and through our courageous advocacy.

TRUST

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK TOGETHER about Trust

Trust is a really important value. It must be earned. If we do not **trust** someone it is very hard to build a good friendship with them. Talk together about:

- people who you know that are **trustworthy**
- practical ways that we can show others that we are **trustworthy**
- why it is important to be able to **trust** others when working together as a team

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"Trusting someone is like knowing you can jump and they will be there to catch you"

Anon



FASCINATING FACTS

The Royal National Lifeboat Institute (RNLI)

When the crew and passengers of boats get into difficulty at sea, they can **trust** the lifeboat crews from RNLI to try their very best to rescue them. Many of the crew and coastguards are volunteers.

- There are over 230 lifeboat stations all around the coast of Britain & Ireland
- Crews are on call 24 hours a day, every day of the year. They must be ready to drop what they are doing at a moments notice to go out on their lifeboat



READ TOGETHER... The Storm on the Lake

The disciples were just exhausted. All day crowds and crowds of people had been following Jesus, listening as he taught them about God's love and watching as he healed people who were ill. Now the sun was beginning to set over the Sea of Galilee. Seeing how tired his friends were, Jesus said, "Let's get in a boat and go over to the other side of the lake."

They rowed away from the shore while Jesus went to the front of the boat and lay down. The waves lapped gently against the side of the boat, lulling Jesus into a peaceful sleep.

Suddenly the wind began to blow dark clouds across the sky. The waves weren't so gentle anymore. The little boat began to pitch and rock. The men looked anxiously across the lake. But Jesus still lay sleeping in the front of the boat.

The wind blew stronger. Great gusts rocked the boat. Spray from the waves soaked everyone inside. But still Jesus lay sleeping in the front of the boat. By the time they reached the centre of the lake, the wind had turned into an angry gale that whipped the waves so high that they washed right over the boat. Jesus' friends were terrified. They thought they might drown. But still Jesus slept on.

Finally, one of Jesus' friends went and shook him awake. "Master," he cried, "don't you care if we drown?" Jesus looked around. He listened to the howling wind. He felt the cold, stinging spray of the waves. He saw the fear in the faces of his disciples.

Jesus stood, stretched out his arms to the wind and the waves, and commanded: "Peace! Be still!" At once the wind died down and the waves became completely calm. Turning to them, Jesus asked the disciples: "Why are you so afraid? Do you not **trust** me?"

Bible story based on Mark 4:35-41



QUIZ Crack the code

Answer the clues to find the letter corresponding to each number and then fill in the message.

Thrown in a board game

1	2	3	4
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Jam is stored in this

5	6	7
---	---	---

Opposite of dark

8	9	10	11
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Used to carry money

12	13	14	15
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Break the code to discover the message in the story:

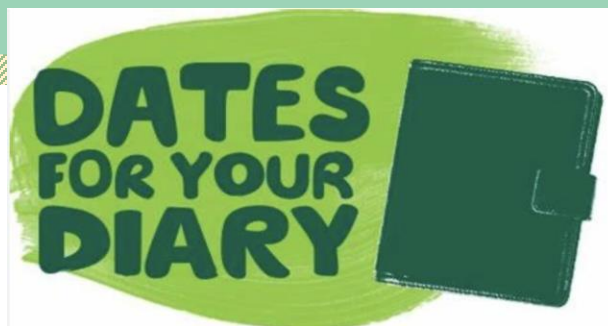
16	17	18
----	----	----

1	2	14	3	2	12	8	4	14
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11	7	13	14	11	4	1
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5	4	14	13	14
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December 2024	Event
Tuesday 3rd	Y5 Cathedral Christmas Workshop
Friday 6th	Wear What You Want Day
Tuesday 10th	Y4 Donkey Service at Cathedral Year 2 Play 2pm
Wednesday 11th	Y2 Christmas Play 6pm
Thursday 12th	Y2-6 Pantomime PTFA Christmas Disco
Friday 13 th	PTFA Christmas Fayre
Monday 16th	Y1 Elves and The Shoemaker
Tuesday 17th	YR Nativity 10am
Wednesday 18th	Y1 Carols around the tree 2:30pm
Thursday 19th	YR Elves and The Shoemaker
Friday 20 th	School closes for end of term



January 2025	
Monday 6 th	School reopens
Tuesday 14th	Young Voices Birmingham
Tuesday 14th	RWI Parent Phonics Workshop led by Specialist.
Friday 17th	1P Class Worship
Friday 24th	1PM Class Worship

“You are the salt of the earth; you are the light of the world.”