

Headteacher



Dear Parents & Guardians,

Following a busy first week back after the half-term break, the children have all settled back into school life very well. Please enjoy reading about what has been happening in February and what is coming up—we have a busy month ahead.

Worship, value – 'Hope' and celebrating Lent and Easter

The value **hope** is about much more than just wishing as hard as you can that things will be different. It is about believing the world can be better and being prepared to do something! As a family you may want to talk about: Your **hopes** and dreams for the future, what you can do to make them happen and what others need to do. We will be exploring these ideas in worship. We will also be following Jesus' journey through Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday through to the resurrection on Easter Sunday. The term will end with a special Easter service at St. Paul's church on Wednesday 9th April at 1:30pm to which everyone is invited. I have attached the 'Hope' home-school values for your family to share.



Year of Prayer

We continue to dedicate time to our weekly year of prayer activity every Thursday. The whole event will take us through until the summer holidays culminating in a special communal prayer from all the participating schools of which there are hundreds. The following link offers lots of information and resources including prayer walks in parts of Lancashire which you may find useful.

[Year of Prayer for Growth and Renewal | The Diocese of Blackburn](#)

Sports Update

We are eagerly anticipating the Dance competition towards the end of the month and wish the troupe all the best.

Pupils from Years 3 and 4 took part in a tennis competition at Lostock Hall Academy. Well done to all those who took part and represented our school so well.

KS2 cross country competition at Hutton Grammar School. This was really well attended and we had finishes in the top 60 out of over 200 pupils. Well done to everyone and a big thank you to Mrs Hollowood for supporting our pupils.

Our Year 5 and Year 6 sports leaders continue to support our KSI children on a Thursday lunchtime with multi-skills games. The pupils really enjoy these pupil-led sessions.

KSI football coaching. A new club has started for pupils in Year R, 1 & 2. Our Year 6 football coaches deliver training sessions for small groups over Monday-Wednesday lunchtimes. We will rotate the group next half-term so everyone gets an opportunity to take part. We say a big thank you to our Year 6 coaches.

Children's Chaplains group update

Our new Children's Chaplains group have been meeting each week with Mrs. Napier and support our local parishioners at the Warm Café 10-10:30am every Tuesday in the Church hall at St. Paul's Church. They have also delivered assemblies to each class in pairs explaining what their role is in school. I witnessed a couple of these and I was so impressed with their presentation skills—one group was so professional, remembering everything they wanted to say when the PowerPoint didn't work. This week they have written prayers of intercession to be read out during the service this Sunday. I have included these in this post. Well done to a fantastic group.

Word Guerrilla Poetry days

The Word Guerrilla spent time in every class working on performance poetry around our Christian Vision, 'Thrive in the Gift of Life'. Everyone had a fantastic couple of days using the power of language. The workshops culminated with a celebration in the school hall showcasing what each class had been creating. Year 5 & 6 completed a 'Thrive in the Gift of Life' Rap. Here are some of the words:

Thrive in the Gift of Life
Spread kindness like a butter knife

Roll the dice of life

Don't be worried let go of strife
Around the world spreading joy
Growing like a flower in spring
Being happy, loving life
We will follow ambition
If you want to be great
You don't have to be the best
Just spread kindness and show love
Filled to the brim with joyfulness.

The following week, classes continued with the poetry theme completing writing in class and sharing their poems. Thank you to The Word Guerrilla for an amazing couple of days.

Computing – LEGO Robotics

A new group of Year 4's and their parents/carers came together to learn all about coding using LEGO. They had an enjoyable and creative afternoon, building different modes of transport and programming them to complete a range of challenges.

Computing – Bebras challenge

Pupils in Year 4 have completed the Bebras challenge. The Bebras Challenge introduces computational thinking to students. Each pupil had 45 minutes to tackle a series of interactive tasks, designed to encourage logical thinking and problem-solving skills appropriate for their age. The UK Bebras Challenge is organised by the Raspberry Pi Foundation and delivered in partnership with the University of Oxford. All those completing the challenge received a certificate which was presented to them during our awards service. More information can be found here. [Home - UK Bebras](#)

Thank you to Mrs Quinton for arranging these enriching computing events.

French Day

We had a wonderful day celebrating all things French last Friday, including making face masks for the Carnival of Nice, designing French fashion outfits, learning the French for colours and the weather and singing songs in French. We all dressed up in red, white and blue and enjoyed a croissant from the French bakery served by some of our Year 4 pupils.



Hedgehogs released at St. Paul's!

Last week we invited Mary from Leyland Hedgehog Rescue to visit our Forest School session. She brought along Spike and Poppy to meet the children before we released them near the hedgerows on our school field. Poppy escaped before we had a chance to set up the camera! We are hoping we have some footage to show our pupils this week. Thank you to Mary for sharing her knowledge with our Year 3 pupils.

March

This month we look forward to World Book Day, Year 5's whole-school worship, the choir performing at Let's Go Sing in Blackpool, the dance competition and a special FOSPS event—Women's appreciation day.

Finally, if you have any queries or concerns do please get in touch with the office, your class teacher or myself.

Let us all continue to 'Thrive in the Gift of Life' at St. Paul's.

Best wishes

Mr J Eccleston

Head Teacher

Prayers of intercession

In our prayers today, we put all thoughts, worries and hopes into the hands of God.

We place into the hands of God the life of this Church, the people around us and those who are not here today.

We place into your hands those who are in danger because they are homeless. Let us care for people that are homeless, make them thrive with your help. Look after adults and children that are suffering because they are homeless. Give them a good life, let them have the things that they need, help them thrive in the gift of life.

Lord, in Your mercy

We place into your hands, the people in our community, for the children who take part in Scouts, Cubs, Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows and for the people who are part of our Church. Children's Chaplains, who attend weekly and visit the Warm Café, who wrote these prayers. We pray for those who attend Church and for those who can't make it and for everyone around us because working together is key for us to thrive.

Lord, in Your mercy

We place into your hands the elderly, if they are hurt or sick give them a quick recovery. Please take care of them so they stay healthy and they can be blessed by God. Let them be the happiest version of yourself and be close to you God.

Lord, in Your mercy

We place into your hands, the teachers in our school, if they are struggling with their class, let us pray for our education and getting more knowledge for the teachers and students.

Lord in Your mercy

We place into your hands the people who are affected by wars over the world. Help us to become better people and to help our neighbours and love one another. Lord, help us to become like you, to be kind and caring.

Lord, in Your mercy

We place into your hands all the animals. Please help us to keep our world clean and free from rubbish because this is harmful to wildlife. Help them to find shelter that is safe and food to keep them full.

Lord, in Your mercy

We place into your hands the sick, please help people who are suffering in this time and let them get better and to thrive. Please help people who need your help and medication and people who can't afford their medication. We ask for your peace and comfort and strength to help unwell people. Heal them and help them through their struggles at this time.

Lord, in Your mercy.

HOPE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK ABOUT HOPE TOGETHER...

The value **hope** is about much more than just wishing as hard as we can that things will be different. It is about believing that the world can be better and being prepared to do something!

The character Noah in the story opposite, was willing to look silly in front of his neighbours by building a huge boat even though he lived miles from the ocean, because he **hoped** and believed that God had a plan. As a family you may want to talk about:

- your **hopes** and dreams for the future
- what you can do to make them happen
- what others need to do

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"Learn from yesterday, live for today,
hope for tomorrow"
Albert Einstein



READ TOGETHER... God's Special Promise

The world that God had made was a beautiful, colourful place – brimming with life and bursting with good things. It was his precious gift given with all his love. God **hoped** that people would care for it and care for each other but now they were doing just the opposite! They were quarrelling, fighting, and spoiling everything. God saw that there was only one thing to do; to begin all over again.

But God also saw that not everyone on the earth was wicked. There was one man and his family trying to do their best to look after the world and to look after each other and to listen to him. The man's name was Noah. God told Noah to build an ark – a huge, magnificent boat. Noah was mystified because he lived miles from the ocean and was not sure why he would ever need a boat. As word got around about the enormous boat Noah's neighbours made his life miserable with their taunts and jibes. Sometimes Noah was tempted to lose **hope**, but he knew from experience that he could trust God for the future, so he and his family kept on building.

When the work was finally finished God told Noah to gather two of every kind of creature as well as all his family together and set up home in the ark. It took a long time but Noah had to just keep on trusting God. And then the first raindrops began to fall, followed by showers, then torrents and finally floods. On and on it rained for forty days and forty nights. When Noah was beginning to lose **hope** of ever seeing the sun again, the rain suddenly stopped. Noah sent out a dove and when it did not return he knew that the bird had found dry land on which to build a nest. They were safe at last!

And then a wonderful thing happened. God sent a rainbow - a beautiful, colourful bow in the sky. It was a sign of **hope** and promise. The world had been washed clean, and was all ready for a new beginning.

Bible story based on Genesis 6:1-9:17



QUIZ Word Search

Find the words from the story of Noah.
12 creatures are also hidden in the word search. They were on the boat!

- | | | |
|-------|----------|---------|
| NOAH | CREATURE | FORTY |
| ARK | DAYS | HOPE |
| BOAT | DOVE | NEST |
| BUILD | FLOODS | PROMISE |
| | GOD | RAINBOW |
| | | WORLD |

P	R	O	M	I	S	E	T
A	A	C	G	K	D	U	P
R	I	B	F	R	O	G	J
R	N	J	H	G	O	D	D

L	Q	R	O	B	O	A	T	L	E	K	A	N	S
G	O	A	T	O	U	A	M	F	O	R	T	Y	T
D	L	R	O	W	Z	I	H	O	P	E	D	T	S
P	M	K	C	A	M	E	L	X	N	E	L	F	E
O	L	I	O	N	E	V	O	D	S	K	E	O	N
E	R	U	T	A	E	R	C	A	R	B	E	Z	M
V	X	A	Y	G	I	R	A	F	F	E	B	Y	W

The Basket of Dreams

This beautiful sculpture is on the hills overlooking Lake Wakatipu in New Zealand. It is called the Basket of Dreams and is made from a spiral of steel. Spirals can remind us that we have a choice about the way we live. We can either travel inwards towards self-centredness where we only try to think of ourselves or we can travel outwards towards the world and other people.



FAMILY FOCUS

Spiral of Hope

Start with a circle of paper or light card and draw a spiral. On the spiral write a **hope** or dream that you have that will make the world a safer, cleaner or more healthy place to live. Cut along the lines until you get to the centre, leaving a circle in the middle. Make a hole in the middle so you can hang your spiral from a thread. (You may want to practice drawing a good spiral on some scrap paper before you start.)



FASCINATING FACTS

Rainbows

After a shower of rain we sometimes see a magnificent rainbow arched across the sky.

- rainbows are the reflection of the sun in the rain droplets in the sky
- they are curved because raindrops are round
- they are multi-coloured because each raindrop splits the sunlight into a spectrum of colours
- the colours of the rainbow are always in the same order – red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet – and red is highest in the sky
- an easy way to remember the order is using the mnemonic '**R**ichard **O**f **Y**ork **G**ave **B**attle **I**n **V**ain'. The first letter of each word is also the first letter of the colour.



HALL OF FAME

Sir David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is best known as a natural history film maker. He has made expeditions all over the world to watch and film wildlife in its natural habitat. His many TV documentary programmes have allowed us all to understand the wonder of nature and the importance of conserving the natural environment if species are to survive.

Sir David has shown us the impact humans have too often made on the natural world and the consequent struggle of wildlife to survive. His **hope** is that we leave future generations a planet that is healthy and inhabitable by all species.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Make a 'hopes and dreams' catcher

- Dream catchers are traditionally made from a looped willow branch onto which a net or web is woven. The net is then decorated with feathers, beads and other decorations. According to American Indian folklore, as we sleep, dreams are caught in the net and with the first rays of sunlight any bad dreams are burned away.

Find a long twig that can be bent and tied to make a hoop or frame. Use natural string or thread stretched across the frame to make the net and then decorate it creatively to catch all the **hopes** and dreams you can!

