

# Newsletter

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week in Collective Worship we continued to think about Trust.

We enjoyed reading the story of David and Goliath, which you can find in 1 Samuel chapter 17. Goliath is a Giant, day in and day out he is taunting the Israelite Army and no-one is brave enough to fight him. David is a young shepherd boy, who trusts God and who takes on Goliath and wins.

Hearing about David gave us the opportunity to think about how trust grows over time. David's trust was in God. His trust had grown over time because as a shepherd boy he had learned that God could and would keep him safe.

We thought about how our trust in people grows over time. When we meet people and start to make friends we have to learn to trust them. The children were great at thinking about how they might start to trust a new friend, perhaps first with little things and then gradually with bigger things until they are sure that their friend is trustworthy.

As adults each of us knows the importance of learning to trust, some of us are better at it than others! And yet trust is central to us building friendships that can support and help us in the ups and downs of life, when we face our own Goliath!

This week I have had cause to think about my own Goliath, the thing that, if I let it, will taunt me and stop me from flourishing. As a Christian, my challenge is to learn to trust God as David did. My trust in God grows little by little as I trust him in small things and know that he is caring for me and watching over me.

I pray that whatever your particular Goliath, you will find people in whom you can place your trust and who will help you grow into a Giant slayer.

I would like to close by thanking all of you for supporting Children in Need. Your children looked great today, in their brightly coloured and spotty outfits. We have so far raised a whopping £595.45; your donations will make a huge difference to children across the UK. The ParentPay donation option will remain available for the weekend if you would still like to donate - <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=13124>

## Values Award

As always it was a real treat to give out Values Awards certificates in Collective Worship.

Children are continuing to show our Values in all sorts of ways, making a real difference in our classrooms and on the playground.



## Hockey

On Monday, it was a great joy to take a group of children from Years 5 and 6 to play Hockey against other partnership schools.

The children played phenomenally well, using their teamwork and enthusiasm to cover their lack of experience.

After a very tiring couple of hours, the team from The Blake School came third.

Well done to them all!



## News from all around the School

As part of their work on Michael Morpurgo's 'The War Horse', one of our Year 6 children produced a phenomenal piece of writing this week. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did –

*Witney family farm Witney, Oxfordshire*

*21st October 1914*

*To my beloved, my helpful friend, I gift you this letter.*

*Greetings Zoey, it's me Joey, how are you? Are you feeling alright without me? It's been hard, but I've got used to it. I bet it must have been emotional to bid me farewell but I'm absolutely positive when this war stuff is done and dealt with it will all be normal, yes it will all be ok. Enough about you, how's everyone else? Oh I almost forgot, the man looking after me, his name is well really long, so I call him Captain. He's rather kind hearted, he even got me checked up at the vet. Even if he bought me for £40 when I was a perfect specimen, nevertheless I have forgave him.*

*Also how's Albert? I hope he's doing fine. Last I saw him he walked quickly, then he ran, then he sprinted from the way tears flew out of the small pools of emotion. I know he knew nothing of this betrayal. He begged for him to join the army but he could only join when he was of age; I tried to pull back to him but Albert told me there was nothing we can do for now. When he looked up, I shut my eyes, I couldn't watch but I peeked as he asked Captain to take good care of me. As the defeated boy walked into the sunset I put my head down and walked away. Sorry that got upsetting but I know you're fine right? I hope you're alright. It's weird in my stable. It might be pure gold but I like our stable and it's nice not doing farm work. It is so boring, but I will stay determined; it's just one of life's tough challenges. I bet everyone goes through something like this.*

*So is farm work tiring without me? Is it like you're in dark room with no light? Sorry just know it's like that for me, but I'm ok. Well it's late now, we need rest. So for now we must part ways again (I'll get in touch with you soon)*

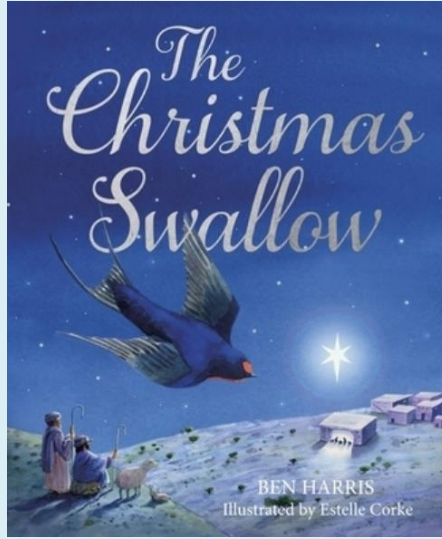
*But for now I bid farewell my hard working friend. Joey*



There is always lots going on in Year 1. They have enjoyed an autumn walk, collecting leaves and looking at colours, learning phonics, taking on new Maths challenges, as well as making angels, getting outside for PE and starting to learn their parts for their Christmas Nativity! In the midst of it all, the children managed to find time to act out an infant baptism.



In Collective Worship on Friday the children welcomed Ben Harris, the author of 'Christmas Swallow'. Ben shared his story with the children and talked about being an author. The children loved listening to the captivating story and seeing the beautiful illustrations. Copies of the book are available online, or from St Andrew's bookshop in Witney.



## The Friends events

Thank you to everyone who supported the school disco on Friday evening. The children had a wonderful time dancing and playing with their friends. Our thanks to all those who invested time and energy in planning, preparing, and running the event, and also tidying up afterwards. We know the event will have raised significant money for the school – a total will be shared in the coming weeks.

Straight after school on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December, The Friends will be holding their Christmas event. Raffle tickets will be sent home shortly, please look out for these. At the event we expect a visit from a gentleman in a red suit, some stalls, and the choir to sing. We hope you will stay after school on 6<sup>th</sup> December to kickstart your Christmas season.

## Housekeeping

Thank you to everyone who scoots, walks or cycles to school. The exercise is good for everyone and good for our planet. If you do need to drive your children to school, please do not park in the residential roads around the school, or the doctor's car park. The very large car park that adjoins our playground has plenty of space for everyone and is the best place to park to keep everyone safe.

Our school doors are open from 8:40-8:50am. Registers are taken at 8:50am. If your child is not through their own classroom door by 8:50am, please enter school via the main front office.

School uniform is grey (shorts, skirts, trousers, pinafores), white (polo shirt, blouse, shirt) and a red sweatshirt or cardigan with a school logo. Please make sure that your child comes to school in uniform. If you need help obtaining the correct uniform, please do contact the school office as help may be available. Please also make sure that your child has a coat in school every day.

**Loving, learning and flourishing in community**