

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week in Collective Worship we continued to think about our Value of Honesty.

We chose to spend some time looking at some verses from Psalm 139. The Psalmist is thinking about his relationship with God, and he recognises that God knows all about him and has always known him.

In particular we looked at verses 15 and 16 of the Psalm,

'My body was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place, when I was woven together. Your eyes saw my unformed body; all my days were written in your book, before one of them came to be.'

We reflected together on why this verse is relevant to our thoughts on Honesty. I shared with the children my view that Honesty begins with being honest with ourselves, about who we are. I then talked to the children about how, when it is hardest to be honest and we are worried about what others may think of us, we should remember that we are valued, because we are known by God and he values us.

Christians believe, and it is a principle that underpins our thinking and decision making at The Blake, that every individual is unique and is made and valued by God. That belief means that even when things go wrong, or bad choices have been made, children continue to be loved and treated with dignity and respect.

In an environment where every individual is welcomed unconditionally, honesty can be hard, but it is not something to be afraid of.

I would like to close by reflecting on the many years that Simon has spent as Vicar of St Mary's Cogges and the support that he has been to our whole school community, through good times and the hard times. Simon has shown us what it means to live according to our Values and as well as being part of our community, he has welcomed us all into the wider Church community. We will miss Simon enormously, but we wish him well in his new ministry.

Values Awards

Congratulations to the children who this week received a Values Award. As everyone gets more tired, it can be harder to make the right decisions and live out our Values. Well done to all the children who this week have worked hard to show our Values in their words and their actions.



Christmas dates

Our children in Early Years will perform their nativity to their parents at 6pm on Tuesday 10th December in the school hall.

Our children in Year 1 and Year 2 will perform their nativity to their parents on the afternoon of Wednesday 11th and the evening of Thursday 12th December.

Our children in Year 3 and Year 5 will have their carol service on the afternoon of Wednesday 18th December in St Mary's Cogges.

Our children in Year 4 and Year 6 will have their carol service on the afternoon of Thursday 19th December in St Mary's Cogges.

More details to follow.

Good-bye from Rev Simon Kirby

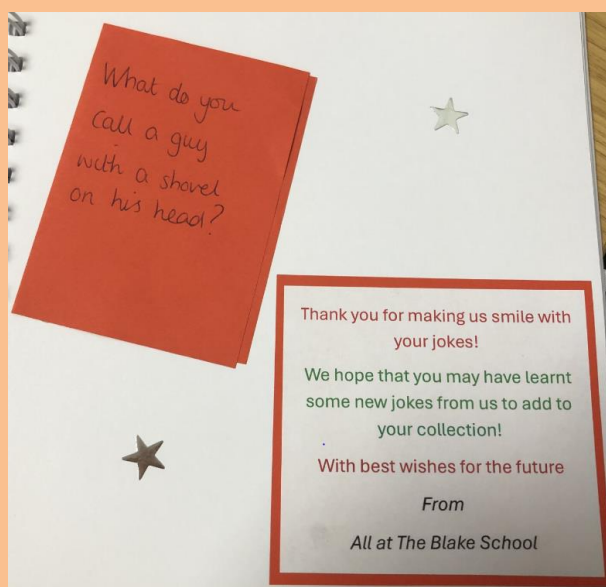
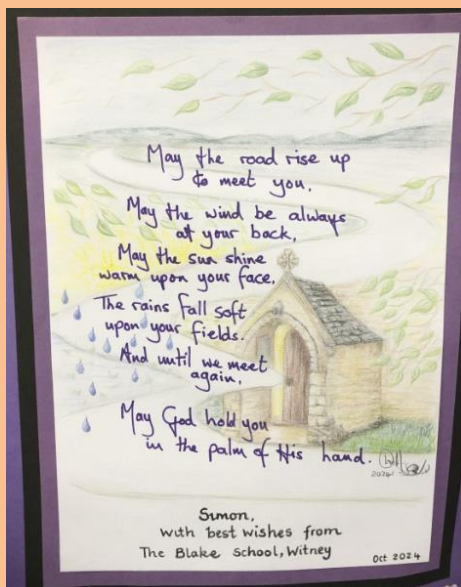
At the moment I'm surrounded by boxes, as we prepare to move out of Cogges Priory and into temporary accommodation as we plan where we're going to live in the future.

I step down as Vicar of Cogges at the end of this month and am starting my own business helping people to help people. As we're putting some of our things into storage we're sorting out drawers and cupboards. It feels like an episode of Stacey Solomon's TV show "Sort Your Life Out" and is quite therapeutic, as we take lots of trips to charity shops and the tip. However the main thing it does is remind me of lots of happy occasions such as family parties and holidays as I find old brochures and photos from the past.

Remembering good times from the past gives me great joy and I have many happy memories from my times in The Blake School. Telling my terrible jokes (that occasionally got a laugh), visiting Quinta one year with Year 6, welcoming Year 1 to the church for their weddings and talking in Collective Worship about Jesus and the difference He makes to my life.

One of the last things that I will do as Vicar of Cogges is to take a communion service at the church, when we will remember all that Jesus has done for us through his love. I will finish the service by asking God to bless the people of Cogges Church and my hope is that God will bless the students, staff and community of The Blake School now and in the future.

Take care and thank you for the memories Simon.



Thank-you Simon for being such a special part of our community. We have really valued your love, your care and even your jokes! Thank-you for sharing your life and faith with us all – we ask for God's blessing on you.

News from Around the School

Our new outdoor classroom continues to be well used by children across the school. This week, the children in our Early Years classes lit the fire pit to warm their pumpkin soup. In school, the children have been reading the book 'Pumpkin Soup' and so this week it was time to taste some soup for themselves.

The whole school was drawn to the smell of the fire and the delicious pumpkin soup made by Mrs Noel.



Loving, learning and flourishing in Community