

# Newsletter

## News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

Psalm 23 is a very famous and well-known Psalm and is one that we often return to in school.

'The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.'

As we continue to explore this month's Value of Hope, this Psalm provides lots of reasons why Christians can have Hope, even when times are hard and the road is tough.

The imagery used in the Psalm would have been commonplace to those who first read this Psalm, shepherds were a familiar sight and the protection they offered to their flocks was vital. In twenty-first century Oxfordshire we do not perhaps see many shepherds, but we can still understand the safety of the sheep that was afforded by a vigilant shepherd. Christians believe that God offers them that same safety and that gives Hope, whatever challenges they are encountering.

For me however, at this very busy point of the school term (and the academic year), I have Hope because of God's promise to lead me to quiet waters and green pastures – places of rest. I shared with staff this week a poem by Dr Sangster, which refers to 'the art of taking Minute Vacations, slowing down to chat with a friend, to pat a dog, to read a few lines from a good book.' Taking such opportunities provides each of us with a moment to breathe and perhaps to regain some perspective. In our hectic lifestyles, taking a moment to pause in 'green pastures' does indeed refresh our souls.

I was delighted to hear the children in Year 4 talking about the poster they had created (see next page) exploring how they can bring hope. Their ideas gave us all food for thought and left us with a challenge to see how many ways we can bring hope to those around us. It was been a real encouragement to me to see children around school bringing hope to their classmates by cheering them on, encouraging them, helping them and offering comfort. Such things will not only change that moment, but will bring hope for the future too. Well done to everyone for bringing a bit more of heaven to the earth.

## Values Awards



Well done to all the children who were given a Values Award in Collective Worship this week.

Although it has been cold and the days have been short, your children are continuing to work really hard when they are in school, and their perseverance and courage is rightly being celebrated.

## News from Around the School

The children in Year 4 have been thinking about our Value for the month, Hope. Together the children thought about how they can bring hope. The children shared their ideas with the rest of the school in Collective Worship this morning – it was a great way to start the day.



## More News from Around the School

The children in Year 2 enjoyed a visit today from Ieuan's tortoise, that he brought in to show the class. The children's Show and Tell topic has been animals and their habitats. Ieuan spoke about his tortoise's diet, how old he was and how he does not hibernate because he lives indoors! When they got the tortoise, he was only the size of a 50p coin.



## News from the Governors

Since September the Governors have recruited two new members, Andy Reid who is the Associate Vicar at St Mary's Cogges and Clare Huggard who is Mum to Evie in Year 1.

This week, as well as having their monthly Governing Body meeting, governors were in school carrying out monitoring visits, to satisfy themselves that the school is making progress against their development priorities. Part of their monitoring involved talking to your children. Governors were very impressed by your children's enthusiasm and confidence as they shared about their learning and the impact of our strapline on their day-to-day life in school.

*Loving, learning and flourishing in community*