

Newsletter

News from Mr Edwards-Grundy

This week in Collective Worship it was my great joy to read the children one of my favourite stories – ‘You are Special’. The story is about the Wemmicks, who give one another stickers for doing amazing things and dots when they get it wrong. The story is a modern day parable, helping children to understand that God values and loves them ‘just because’, there are no qualifications necessary.

If you want to listen to the story again with your children, you can watch the story [here](#).

The story led in to our Bible passage, which was all about a Pharisee and a Tax Collector. (The story can be found in the Gospel of Luke, chapter 18) The Pharisee prays and thanks God that he is not like other people, he lists his good deeds and celebrates being more ‘worthy’ than the Tax Collector at his side. The Tax Collector prays, recognising that he is unworthy and in need of God’s mercy.

At the end of the story Jesus says ‘I tell you that the Tax Collector, rather than the other, went home justified before God.’

All too often, we judge ourselves by the impossible standards that we set for ourselves and then we ‘show off’ our achievements, as if they are the things that give us value. God’s way is not our way. As with the Wemmicks and the Bible passage, God is in the business of showing mercy.

God does not place impossible demands on us, neither does he value us on the basis of what we have done, or achieved. The Easter story shows us that God loves us, just because.

As it was for the Pharisee, God’s love even for the most undeserving is completely counter-cultural. It is a hard lesson for us to learn for each other and perhaps even harder to learn for ourselves!

God’s mercy is however a wonderful thing to receive. At the end of a long week, filled with the usual mix of highs and lows, reflecting that God’s love for me is ‘just because’ is a great way to bring the week to a close.

I would commend the Wemmicks to you – they are not so very different to you and me. And like the Wemmicks, we too need to hear that we are special.

*Knock knock,
who’s there....?*

*What do you get
if you cross...?*



Comic Relief

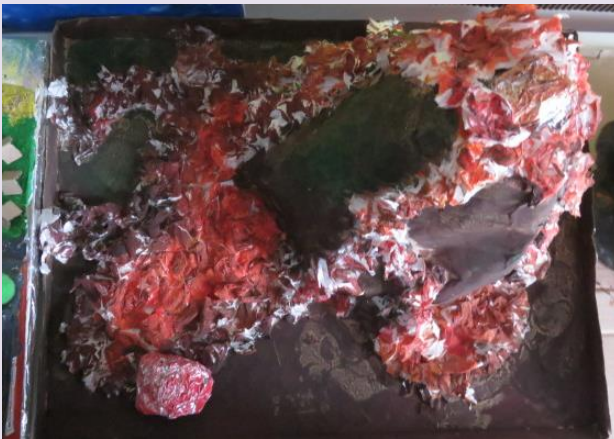
Thank you to all the children for sharing some great jokes during today – there was laughter all over the school.

Thank you also to everyone who donated to Comic Relief. Our current total is £289.96. If you wanted to donate but it just didn’t happen today, our ParentPay link will remain open over the weekend - <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=14185>

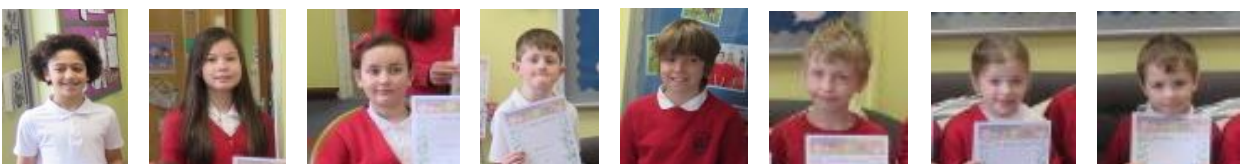
Our favourite joke? Why is a seagull called a seagull?
Because if it flew over the bay, it would be called a bagel!

News from Around the School

The children in Year 6 are continuing to learn about volcanoes. Today in Collective Worship they were able to talk very knowledgeably about earthquakes, tectonic plates and the earth's crust. Their models and pictures were amazing, as you can see from the photos below.



Well done to all the children who received a Values Award this week – by living our Values you are making our school community a better place.



Loving, learning and flourishing in Community