



Headteacher Weekly Update 08.11.24

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all well and had a good half term. It has been great to have the children back this week for the start of Autumn 2.

Habits of Mind: Empathy and Reflection are our focus Habits of Mind for this half term and you will see the links to these in lots of the things going on in the coming weeks. We define Empathy to the children as '**Understand and care how other people feel**' and Reflection as '**Think it through and decide what's next**'. A helpful question we use as part of our shared language in school is "**How did that make others feel?**" When we have open eyes and open hearts to see and understand things from the perspective and experience of others we begin to better appreciate the potential impact of what we do or could do in building others up or in knocking them down.

Courageous World Changers: This half term in Collective Worship, closely linked to our focus on Empathy, we are exploring the idea of Courageous World Changers, looking at the stories and impact of those people through history who have walked in the footsteps of Jesus in actively and bravely seeking to change the world of those around them. We look in the Bible at how Jesus courageously changed people's lives and we look at those inspired by Jesus who have done amazing things to support and care for others in need. We will be reflecting on how we can all be courageous world changers by noticing those who are struggling and helping in whatever ways we can.

Anti-Bullying Week: Next week is Anti-Bullying Week across school and across the country. We will be engaging with this in lots of ways throughout the week. The theme this year is "**Choose Respect**" and ties in really closely with our PSHE work this half term on Celebrating Difference. **Tuesday is 'Odd Socks Day'** where schools across the country celebrate that we are all unique and special. Children are encouraged to come to school wearing odd socks and the brighter and odder the better. During the week there will be live online lessons, special assemblies and focus work on anti bullying through our PSHE curriculum.

Children in Need: On Friday next week we will be supporting Children in Need, learning about and raising money for the important work Children in Need does for children across the UK and beyond. Children are invited to wear something spotty with their school uniform that day.

Remembrance: This Sunday is Remembrance Sunday and 4 of our Year 6 pupils will be reading their own Remembrance poems within the Civic Remembrance service at the Abbey on Sunday morning. Year 6's evocative war-themed artwork and some more of the poems are on display in the Abbey. We will be marking Remembrance Day on Monday with a special Collective Worship at 11am in the school hall.



We are walking in the Footsteps of Jesus with Love Trust and Forgiveness

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Countess Mountbatten: We were honoured by a visit from the Countess Mountbatten this morning. She met our Head Boy and Girl and Mountbatten House Captains at the Abbey and was mightily impressed by the fantastic work of our Year 6 class.

Smart Watches: Technology is ever developing and smart watches are becoming smarter. We ask that to ensure all pupils remain focussed on their learning that children do not bring watches to school that have the capacity to play games, take photos or make calls. Thank you for your understanding.

Year R 2025 applications: Applications for Year R spaces in Sep 2025 are now open. Our next open morning for tours is Wednesday 27 November.

Notification of changes to pick up arrangements: A quick reminder that if there are changes to the arrangements for your children's pick up at the end of the school day please can you let us know as early in the day as possible. We appreciate there will be some emergency last minute changes but if we have a number of requests later in the afternoon it can be difficult to ensure they are all picked up and communicated on time. Thank you

Dates for your Diary: Here is the link for our Dates for your Diary. It is a live document so will update as new dates and events are added to the diary: https://docs.google.com/document/d/10-Qagv3rcTOhIIGpgLuw5Jpz_roi8-UQP-67qL45jBc/edit Please note the parents evening dates in November. Sign up for this was shared earlier this week.

Prayer: I'll finish with a Remembrance prayer, which you are welcome to join me in praying ahead of the events over the coming days.

Dear God,

We give thanks for all who serve and have served in our armed forces. We thank you for the courageous and selfless sacrifice of those who have lost their lives in the service of our country in times of conflict and war. We pray for peace and safety in those areas of our world today so troubled by war and protection of those serving in the pursuit of that peace.

Amen

Have a good weekend everybody.

Kind Regards