

Welcome to our fourth Christian Values newsletter from our Collective Worship Councillors.

The aim of this newsletter is to tell you all about our chosen Christian Value

for Term 4: FORGIVENESS

Our focus Bible story this term is The story of Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10) which can be found in the New Testament.

We appreciate that forgiveness is fundamental to the character of God. Throughout the Bible, God is described as slow to anger, abounding in love and forgiving sin. Jesus also teaches forgiveness. Forgiveness was at the heart of everything he did and is at the heart of the Lord's Prayer. We inspire our pupils to forgive others and themselves knowing that forgiveness cannot be given or received unless it is asked for, and this must come from the heart. We ensure that our pupils understand that forgiveness can be difficult because of the hurt involved but Christians believe that they have the ability to forgive others not because they're good people or because they want to do the right thing, but because God has given us the capacity to forgive because He forgave us first. We teach our pupils that the value of forgiveness is that it allows us to be more like Christ and when we forgive we are able to move forward and have a fresh start.



"Remember the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others."

Colossians 3:13



FASCINATING FACTS

Crosses across the world

The cross is a very special symbol for Christians it reminds them of Jesus' death on the cross which brought **forgiveness** for the world.

Different shapes and designs of crosses reflect different traditions and communities across the world.

The Black and White cross comes from South Africa and was designed during the time of apartheid. The Bible teaches that people are equal in God's eyes, no matter what their background or the colour of their skin.



"For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you."

Matthew 6:14

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"Without **forgiveness** there is no future.... If you can **forgive**, then you can move on and even help the person you are forgiving to become a better person"

Desmond Tutu



TALK ABOUT FORGIVENESS TOGETHER...

Everyone makes mistakes, it's part of being human. Sometimes our mistakes hurt others and then we need to say sorry. Sometimes mistakes made by other people hurt us. When this happens we need to be able to **forgive**. **Forgiveness** can be difficult and costly but without it a new start is impossible.

Talk together about:

- A time when you needed to say sorry
- A time you didn't say sorry but wish you had
- A time when you had to **forgive** someone who had hurt or upset you
- How it feels when you are given a new start because someone has **forgiven** you

HALL OF FAME

Desmond Tutu

Desmond Tutu was Archbishop of Capetown from 1986 to 1996. Throughout his life Desmond Tutu worked tirelessly against apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid was a system that treated people differently because of the colour of their skin. People who were non-white were not given the same rights in the country as white citizens. For example they had to live where the government told them to, they were not allowed to vote, had to use separate transport, go to different beaches and use separate sports facilities.

There was much violence and oppression in South Africa during the years of apartheid, and when it finally ended in 1992 some people were left feeling bitter and angry and wanting revenge. In order to give everyone a chance to talk about the things that had happened to them Desmond Tutu set up the 'Truth and Reconciliation Commission'. Many people who had behaved badly could hear from those they had hurt. There was the chance to say sorry and sometimes receive **forgiveness**. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission helped to provide an opportunity for a new beginning for South Africa, a chance to build what Desmond Tutu called a 'Rainbow Nation' in which everyone had the same chance in life no matter what the colour of their skin.



A challenge for all:

Do you know the words to The Lord's Prayer? Would you like to learn how to sign it? Google YouTube for The Lord's Prayer signed in Makaton by Becky George. Good luck!