

Welcome to our termly Christian Values newsletter from our Collective Worship Councillors

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

- Our Christian Value for this term is **Peace** and our focus Bible story is **The stilling of the Storm (Matthew 8: 23-27)**
- Jesus said "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Matthew 5:9) Peace making actions can range from helping to resolve conflict to creating space for stillness. Peace, in the sense of total well-being, is God's intention for the whole of creation. Throughout our Church Schools our pupils have access to Reflection Areas where they can sit, be still and talk to God. Pupils are encouraged to use these areas for not only reflection but to share with God the positive things that are happening in their lives. We believe that there are five types of peace that our pupils need to learn about through listening, discussion, exploring and modelling:
  - Peace with God, inner peace, peace between each other, peace in the community and peace in the world
  - We have Peer Mediators in our playgrounds to ensure playtimes and lunchtimes are as harmonious as they can be. The Peer Mediators are trained to help pupils work through conflict and to encourage them to express their feelings in an appropriate way.
  - We encourage our pupils to understand that finding and making peace is hard work and once it is found, it needs to be cherished. Our pupils are encouraged to see that there is a time for peace and a time to unwind at home, in school and in the community.



## FASCINATING FACTS



### The Nobel Peace Prize

Alfred Nobel was a 19th century Swedish inventor and engineer. He invented dynamite, which was used to destroy many things! Perhaps because of this, in his will, Nobel left money and instructions to award five special prizes each year. He said that one of these, the Nobel **Peace** Prize, should be given to a person, or group of people, who had done the most or best work to promote **peace** between nations.

- The Nobel **Peace** Prize is presented in Oslo on 10th December each year by the King of Norway
- The winner is given a diploma, a medal and over 1 million US dollars to carry on their work

"The Lord gives strength to His people; the Lord blesses His people with peace." Psalm 29: 11



The symbol of a dove with an olive branch has been accepted in many religions, including Christianity, as a one of love and peace. The symbol is rich in meaning.

## ★ HALL OF FAME

### Rigoberta Menchu

Very few people had heard of Rigoberta Menchu when it was announced that she had won the Nobel **Peace** Prize in 1992. However, Rigoberta was one of the bravest women ever to have been awarded this prestigious prize. She was born in 1959 into a Mayan Indian family who lived and worked in Guatemala. The Mayan people were treated cruelly by the government and the army in Guatemala. The Menchu family were Christians and they believed it was their duty to fight against such injustice. The family learnt Spanish from the local priests so they could stand up for the rights of their people. One by one the members of the family were killed in the most dreadful way by the government soldiers, first Rigoberta's 16 year old brother, then her father because he was a union leader and then finally her mother. Rigoberta knew she would be next, so she escaped to Mexico where she wrote her life story and made a film about the bad things happening in Guatemala. Rigoberta continues to this day to stand up against injustice and is now an Ambassador for the United Nations.

