

Welcome to our termly Christian Values newsletter from our Collective Worship Council.
The aim of this newsletter is to tell you about our chosen Christian Value.

FRIENDSHIP & FELLOWSHIP

Our focus Bible story is the friendship of Ruth and Naomi in the Old Testament.

The story of Ruth and Naomi is about deep friendship and loyalty. Naomi, an Israelite woman, moved to Moab with her family during a famine. Sadly, her husband and two sons died there, leaving her with her two daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah.

Naomi decided to return to Bethlehem and urged Ruth and Orpah to stay in Moab and start new lives. Orpah left, but Ruth insisted on staying with Naomi, saying, "Where you go, I will go. Your people will be my people, and your God my God." So, Ruth went with Naomi back to Bethlehem.

To support them, Ruth worked in the fields, where she met Boaz, a kind man who later married her. This marriage brought hope and happiness back to both Ruth and Naomi. Their story highlights the strength of loyalty and love, showing how friendship can bring new life even in hard times.

The Bible offers a beautiful and practical guide on how to live with love, especially in friendships. It describes love as patient and kind, free from envy, boasting, and pride. These qualities are foundational to healthy relationships, showing us how to support, understand, and care for one another.



Friendship bracelets are usually handmade and given to a special friend. According to American tradition you must wear the bracelet until the cords break and it falls off naturally. In this way you honour the love and hard work your friend put in to making it.

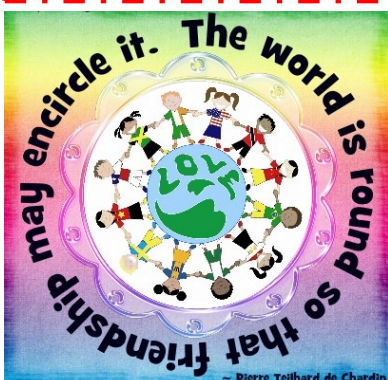
Use your imagination to make the best friendship bracelet ever – using knotting, threading beads, twisting ribbon, whatever you can think of. The more original the better! We would love to see your creations in school before you give them to a friend.



A prayer for friendship to share

Loving God,
Bless my life with the gift of friendship.
For those who have chosen to be my friends, I am grateful.
Let our love, respect and affection for each other flourish.
Make me a good friend, one who is loyal and caring and ready to forgive.
To you, who are our truest friend, I pray.
Amen

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7)



Talk about FRIENDSHIP together

Learning to be a good friend, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime. Talk together about how friends come in all shapes and sizes. Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally.

