

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 HOPE and our focus Bible story is The story of Noah's Ark (Genesis 6:9-9:17)

Christian hope is rooted in God's love for us. Christians believe that:

- God has our best interests at heart; God will never leave us
- God will provide for us when we are in need
- God knows us (even the number of hairs on our head!)
- God promises us a better life to come
- When we are in our darkest time, God is there, and will help us
- Hope is grounded in the character of God

We have high hopes and aspirations for our pupils' future, our school and our community. We also understand that faith gives us hope for both now and for the future, and that this hope brings confidence. Hope for us means that there is always a future whatever situation we are in, because God promised to never leave us, to always love us, and to help us in times of need.

We see hope shown in the Christian narrative in many ways:

- The resurrection of Jesus gives us hope for eternal life
- The Gospel stories tell of hope, for example the woman who touched Jesus' robe ("If I just touch his clothes I will be healed.")
- The rainbow after the flood is a sign that God will never break His covenant (promise) of love with us
- God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt, when slavery seemed their destiny
- The lost coin and the lost sheep tell us of the lengths God will go to bring us back to Him

We develop our value of hope through: never giving up on our pupils; wanting the best for them academically and in their character; helping them see light despite the darkness; investing in our Health and Wellbeing teams and learning about the importance of prayer.



FAMILY
FOCUS

Spiral of Hope

Start with a circle of paper or light card and draw a spiral. On the spiral write a **hope** or dream that you have that will make the world a safer, cleaner or more healthy place to live. Cut along the lines until you get to the centre, leaving a circle in the middle. Make a hole in the middle so you can hang your spiral from a thread. (You may want to practice drawing a good spiral on some scrap paper before you start.)



READ TOGETHER...

God's Special Promise

The world that God had made was a beautiful, colourful place – brimming with life and bursting with good things. It was his precious gift given with all his love. God **hoped** that people would care for it and care for each other but now they were doing just the opposite! They were quarrelling, fighting, and spoiling everything. God saw that there was only one thing to do; to begin all over again.

But God also saw that not everyone on the earth was wicked. There was one man and his family trying to do their best to look after the world and to look after each other and to listen to him. The man's name was Noah. God told Noah to build an ark – a huge, magnificent boat. Noah was mystified because he lived miles from the ocean and was not sure why he would ever need a boat. As word got around about the enormous boat Noah's neighbours made his life miserable with their taunts and jibes. Sometimes Noah was tempted to lose **hope**, but he knew from experience that he could trust God for the future, so he and his family kept on building.

When the work was finally finished God told Noah to gather two of every kind of creature as well as all his family together and set up home in the ark. It took a long time but Noah had to just keep on trusting God. And then the first raindrops began to fall, followed by showers, then torrents and finally floods. On and on it rained for forty days and forty nights. When Noah was beginning to lose **hope** of ever seeing the sun again, the rain suddenly stopped. Noah sent out a dove and when it did not return he knew that the bird had found dry land on which to build a nest. They were safe at last! And then a wonderful thing happened. God sent a rainbow - a beautiful, colourful bow in the sky. It was a sign of **hope** and promise. The world had been washed clean, and was all ready for a new beginning.

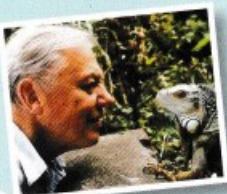
Bible story based on Genesis 6-9:17

HALL OF FAME

Sir David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is best known as a natural history film maker. He has made expeditions all over the world to watch and film wildlife in its natural habitat. His many TV documentary programmes have allowed us all to understand the wonder of nature and the importance of conserving the natural environment if species are to survive.

Sir David has shown us the impact humans have too often made on the natural world and the consequent struggle of wildlife to survive. His **hope** is that we leave future generations a planet that is healthy and inhabitable by all species.



"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." Romans 15:13