Welcome to the Christian Values newsletter from our Collective Worship Team.

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

Our Christian Value for this term is Peace and our focus Bible story is The stilling of the Storm (Matthew 8: 23-27)

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.



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



Quiet is Powerful!

Scientists say that moments of silence can help the brain grow new connections and reduce stress. Even a 2 minute quiet break can help children feel calm and learn better! To help our message continue at home, you might enjoy a **2 minute "quiet corner" time** (no screens, just calm) together.

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



Some countries greet each other with wishes of peace:

Shalom (Hebrew) means "Peace"

Salaam (Arabic) means "Peace"

Pax vobiscum (Latin) means "Peace be with you"

Perhaps your family could try using one of these at home this term!

Modern Role Models

Scilla Elworthy - born 3 June 1943 (living)

A modern British peace-builder and activist, she founded the Oxford Research Group in 1982 and later the charity Peace Direct, working globally to support people building peace in conflict zones. She shows that peace is not just for the past - it's alive today.

Jo Berry - born 1957 (living)

Jo Berry is a British peace-builder who suffered the tragic loss of her father in the 1984 Brighton hotel bombing. She chose a remarkable path of reconciliation: meeting the man responsible, seeking to build bridges rather than bitterness. She founded the charity *Building Bridges for Peace* in 2009. Her story is a powerful example of how one person's choice for peace can transform trauma into hope and connection.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Matthew 5:9

A gentle reminder that Christians believe peace begins in our hearts and spreads through our words, actions and choices.