

# Headteacher



Dear Parents & Guardians,

As we step into the second half of the Autumn term, our focus turns to the worship value of **Compassion**—a timely and meaningful theme as we prepare for the Christian season of Advent. We celebrate this special Christian season with many events in school and highlights include the KS1 Nativity, the KS2 Advent Service and our Christmas jumper and dinner day. The homeschool values sheet for **Compassion** is attached



## Worship Group

I will be starting our worship group on Monday 17th November 12-12:30pm and will be supported by our wonderful governor, Mrs. Rose. If your child would like to be part of our school worship group (Years 3, 4, 5, 6) then they need to fill in the attached form. This can be printed and handwritten or typed and emailed. We do have copies in school in each class for the children to bring home. The group will help deliver worship to different classes and will write to and make zoom calls with our sponsored pupil Ezekiel in Tanzania, Africa. You can find out about the wonderful work the founder, Ian Horne, has done by following this link



[Home | eastmerucommschool](https://www.eastmerucommschool.co.uk)

## Anti-bullying Week: 17th-21st November

We will be supporting this awareness week in school from Monday 17th November. This year the theme is Power for Good and the anti-bullying alliance says, 'Every year, bullying impacts the lives of countless young people and silence helps it grow. That's why this Anti-Bullying Week, we're empowering young people to use their Power for Good to safely speak up and raise awareness when they see bullying, face to face or online.

Lasting change needs all of us. From playgrounds to parliament, our homes to our phones – we all have a part to play. Together, we can use our Power for Good to end bullying – for good.'

[Anti-Bullying Week 2025: Power for Good](#)

## Cake and Craft sale for Cancer Research and Children in Need

Florence and her Year 6 class mates are organising a Cake and Craft sale on Friday 14th November with all proceeds going to Cancer Research UK and Children in Need. Children can bring in £1 for a combined cake and donation. (including any allergies). Thank you to Florence, Katie and Connie for setting this up and for sharing the event in collective worship on Friday.



## Remembrance Service

We were honoured to take part in the Remembrance service at Lostock Hall Cenotaph. Katie and Ava L from Year 6 showed great respect as they joined the community in remembering those who served. Our school wreath was laid with pride.

## Autumn 1 half term review

### Year 6 Residential to Robin Wood

Our Year 6 pupils had an unforgettable experience at Robin Wood Outdoor Centre. They embraced a range of adventurous activities, from climbing and canoeing to team-building challenges, all while developing resilience, independence, and friendships. The staff were incredibly proud of their enthusiasm and behaviour throughout the trip. Well done everyone!

ryone

## Forest School Adventures

Year 2 and Year 5 have been enjoying the wonders of nature through our Forest School programme. From building dens to exploring seasonal changes, pupils have developed confidence and curiosity in the outdoors. These sessions continue to be a highlight of the week for many!

## Reading with Pippin

Reading continues to be a priority in school and we are thrilled to have Mrs. Benson and the lovely Cocker Spaniel, Pippin, supporting this. Every Friday afternoon, Pippin listens to pupils read, creating a calm and encouraging environment that helps build confidence and fluency.

## Football League Participation

Well done to our Year 5 boys and Year 5/6 girls who represented the school in recent football league matches. Their teamwork, sportsmanship, and determination were commendable.

## Clubs and Activities

Last half-term saw a fantastic range of clubs in school. Year 1 pupils enjoyed Target Sports thanks to our partnership with the South Ribble Active Sports Team. Some Year 2 children are currently taking part in Multi-Sports sessions after school, and our Girls Coding Club, led by Mrs. Quinton, continues to inspire future tech leaders. Our Children's Chaplains group, run by Mrs. Napier, will also get underway again in the coming week. These pupils help support pupils with their wellbeing at break and dinner times with reflective and spiritual guidance.



## School Council Elections

We're excited to announce our new School Councillors! These pupils are eager to represent their classmates and help shape the future of our school. We look forward to seeing their ideas and leadership in action.

## Sensory Garden Near Completion

Our new sensory garden is almost ready! Located on the front yard, it features a variety of grasses and fragrant plants designed to be enjoyed by the whole community. We're just waiting on the new seating before we officially open this peaceful space.

## Year 5 Visit to Blackburn Cathedral

Year 5 had a memorable visit to Blackburn Cathedral, where they explored its stunning architecture and learned about its history and role in the local community. It was a valuable experience that enriched their understanding of faith and heritage.

## Choir Rehearsals for Let's Go Sing

Our new School Choir is in full swing, rehearsing for the exciting Let's Go Sing performance in March 2026. Their enthusiasm and dedication are shining through, and we can't wait to see them perform on the big stage!

Thank you for continuing to support our school community helping to enable us to 'Thrive in the Gift of Life' at St. Paul's.

Best wishes

Mr J Eccleston

Head Teacher

'I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly' John 10:10



### Worship group

In a few words tell me why you would like to be a part of this important and special group at St. Paul's.



Also, how will you support and develop our Christian vision 'Thrive in the Gift of Life' and values (Respect, compassion, perseverance etc) across school?

Thank you. Mr Eccleston

[illegible]

# COMPASSION

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value COMPASSION. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

## TALK ABOUT COMPASSION TOGETHER...

**Compassion** is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try to help.

Talk together about:

- how we can show **compassion** and kindness to one another at home
- recognising when friends at school need us to listen and act with **compassion**
- stories in the news demonstrating how strangers show **compassion** in times of natural disasters
- how nations show **compassion** to other nations at times of disaster or need by sending money or volunteers to help



## THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."

*Aesop*



## READ TOGETHER...

### The good Samaritan

When someone asked Jesus the question, "Who is my neighbour?" he told a story that surprised everyone who heard it. The hero was from Samaria but those listening were mainly Jews. (Jews and Samaritans usually kept well away from each other.)

"A man set out on foot from Jerusalem to a town called Jericho", said Jesus. The crowd murmured and exchanged knowing glances. They knew this was a lonely, dangerous road, a favourite place for robbers to attack travellers. "As the man reached a rocky and desolate place, a gang of robbers leapt out and beat him. They took all that he had and left him bleeding and bruised. To the man's relief, he saw in the distance a priest from the temple. A priest is bound to help me, thought the man. He waited until the priest came a little closer and then called out, 'Thank goodness it is you. Please Sir, take me to safety.' But to his amazement the priest hurried past pretending not to see or hear him.

As the poor, injured man grew weaker and weaker in the burning midday sun, he once again heard footsteps. Looking up he saw a Levite, another of his own people. 'Please Sir, please help me', he called out. Surely this Levite would take pity on him, but to his horror the Levite just kept on walking.

The man had almost given up hope when he felt a gentle touch on his shoulder. A stranger, a Samaritan, had bent down beside him and was bandaging his wounds and giving him sips of water to drink. The Samaritan helped the man on to his own donkey and slowly, carefully took him all the way to an inn. There he paid the innkeeper to look after the man until he was well. The man never forgot the **compassion** and kindness of the Samaritan stranger."

"Who do you think was a good neighbour?" asked Jesus.

Bible story based on Luke 10:25-37



## QUIZ The Stranger on the road was kind....

Change one letter in the word to answer the next clue.

- |                                                                    |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| The traveller was attacked as he walked along the                  | ROAD  |
| Watching from the rocks was a small creature like a frog           | _____ |
| The Samaritan _____ the innkeeper to look after the man            | _____ |
| The Samaritan acted with courage. He was _____                     | _____ |
| We sometimes talk about the _____ of friendship (rhymes with pond) | _____ |
| Wrap tightly with a bandage (rhymes with find)                     | _____ |
| The Samaritan in the story was                                     | _____ |



## FAMILY FOCUS

### Random Acts of Kindness

Kindness is often appreciated most when it is offered at unexpected times.

Choose one week this term for your family to have "a random acts of kindness" week, and do something kind for someone each day. Try to do it without telling people it was you!



[www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org)



## HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



### Helping hands

As well as being kind and showing **compassion** in what we say, it is often what we *do* that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person's hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown. Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.



## FASCINATING FACTS

What a difference **compassion** and kindness can make! Numerous charities help people who have been hurt, are ill or suffer through lack of resources. Below are just 3:

- **World Vision** encourages individuals and groups to 'Sponsor a Child' in an area of the world where food, health and education cannot be taken for granted. For just 75 pence a day the life of a child, in for example Uganda or Bolivia, can be transformed by providing help to grow food, source clean water, improve health services and pay for education.

[www.worldvision.org.uk](http://www.worldvision.org.uk)

- **Help for Heroes** was set up after many British soldiers returned from war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. By giving to this charity the public show their **compassion** for the soldiers and their families and recognise the service they gave on behalf of us all.

[www.helpforheroes.org.uk](http://www.helpforheroes.org.uk)

- **Help the Hospices.** Sometimes when people become very ill they go to a hospice which will provide them with care and **compassion**. Often hospices are maintained by donations from people who admire and value their service or who have had a relative who has been helped by the hospice.

[www.helpthehospices.org.uk](http://www.helpthehospices.org.uk)



**World Vision**

Building a better world for children



IN SUPPORT OF  
**HELP for  
HEROES**



## HALL OF FAME

### A famous bear with a spotty scarf



Pudsey Bear became a national mascot in 1985. He was designed by Joanna Ball and she named him after the small town in Yorkshire where she lived and went to school for many years, Pudsey.

When we see Pudsey Bear we immediately think of Children in Need. This charity has grown enormously since it began and raises millions of pounds every year. Thanks to people all over the country, children in the UK and across the world have come to know real kindness and **compassion**, made possible by generous donations to the charity. [www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey](http://www.bbc.co.uk/pudsey)