

# Headteacher



Dear Parents & Guardians,

As we move into the Spring term, our focus turns to the worship value of **courage**. Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it is easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. This was a point made by some of our Year 6 pupils as they delivered their whole-school worship on courage to their parents and Carers this week. A popular story from the bible, is that of David and Goliath and pupils have been revisiting this so far this term. Reverend Margaret continues to lead whole-school worship every Wednesday morning from 10-10:20pm—Parents and Carers are welcome to join us for this peaceful time together.

## Advent Service & Nativity

Well done to all our pupils in both key stages for their fantastic performances at our annual Christmas events to celebrate the season of Advent. Thank you to all our parents and Carers for their generous donations to both St. Paul's church and the Homelessness charity Shelter (chosen by our School Councilors).

## Worship Group

Our wonderful worship group enjoyed some very productive sessions. Firstly, we made Christmas cards messages for Ezekiah: our sponsored pupil at East Meru Primary School, Tanzania. These were sent by email with the message, 'Heri Ya Krismasi' which means 'Merry Christmas' in Kiswahili. We received a lovely email back thanking the group for their kind wishes and a poster from Ezekiah (attached). I must also thank the group for performing the Christmas poem with actions at our advent service. As always we have been supported by Mrs Rose, our foundation governor, who continues to share her wisdom with the group. Thank you Mrs. Rose.



To see the amazing work of Ian and Mary Horne at East Meru community school please visit the link

[Home | eastmerucommschool](http://Home | eastmerucommschool)

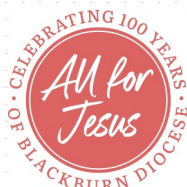
## Community Links

On the 10th November our School Council met with local councilor's to open the new peace garden on St. Paul's park. This is a fantastic space where you can sit peacefully amongst the lovely plants. Thank you to our Parish Councilors for providing this amenity for the benefit of all our community.

## Blackburn Diocese Centenary

Last week, the whole school enjoyed a whole-school collective worship via zoom from Bishop Phillip and his team. He informed all the schools present of an exciting year of celebration ahead as we mark 100 years of the Blackburn Diocese. It will be a chance to give thanks for all that God has done through his people in the Diocese of Blackburn since William Temple founded it in 1926, and an opportunity to commit ourselves a new to mission and ministry in the service of Jesus Christ across Lancashire. The theme is 'All for Jesus' and in school, Reverend Margaret will be leading some of the activities around kindness during our Wednesday worship. More information can be found following the link below.

[All for Jesus: Centenary of Blackburn Diocese in 2026 | The Diocese of Blackburn](#)



## Computing Quality Mark

As a school we place a high value on our Computing curriculum and the importance around online safeguarding and the digital world and future employment for our pupils. Over the past two years, Mrs Quinton, our Computing lead, has been busy behind the scenes working on the criteria for completing the Computing Quality Mark. The Computing Quality Framework is part of the National Centre for Computing Education's (NCCE) support to schools. It is designed to help schools review and plan how they teach the Computing curriculum. It provides a process for identifying strengths and weaknesses in the school's computing curriculum.

During this period, Mrs Quinton has made a commitment to engage with the NCCE Computing Quality Framework as a means of reviewing practice and implementing actions that will improve our school's computing curriculum. The areas accredited are: Leadership and Vision, Curriculum, Teaching, Learning & Assessment, Addressing the needs of the pupil, Workforce development, Enrichment, Destinations & Careers, Digital skills & AI and Impact and outcomes. We are now excited to announce that our application is in and we are eagerly awaiting the decision. We would all like to say a big thank you to Mrs Quinton for her efforts in putting all the evidence together and to our dedicated teachers and TA's for supporting with the process.

## Wellbeing and 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. Pippin also supports our pupils with their mental health and wellbeing by going for a walk or having a cuddle—she always puts a smile on our faces.

## Sensory Garden Opening

Our new sensory garden will officially open on Monday and can be used by everyone as a calm, peaceful place for our pupils to sit, be still and enjoy the abundance of plants and flowers for the senses.

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

Best wishes

Mr J Eccleston

Head Teacher

# COURAGE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

## TALK ABOUT COURAGE TOGETHER...

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

## THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."

*Nelson Mandela*



## READ TOGETHER...

### The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

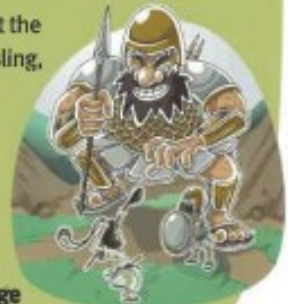
It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides. This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.



Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17



## QUIZ Wordsearch

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

|            |          |           |
|------------|----------|-----------|
| ARMOUR     | BOY      | DAVID     |
| COURAGE    | FOREHEAD | GIANT     |
| GOLIATH    | GOD      | ISRAELITE |
| PHILISTINE | SHIELD   | SLING     |
| SOLDIER    | STONE    | STRUCK    |





## FAMILY FOCUS & HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE



### Children of Courage

Each year awards are presented to children throughout the country who have shown outstanding bravery and **courage** in overcoming huge challenges in their lives. (Google 'UK children of **courage** awards' to see some examples.)

Design a nomination for a child that you know and believe should be recognised for their **courage**. Remember, there are different kinds of **courage** and different ways of showing bravery.

The nominations will be displayed in the Challenge Gallery at school.

### Example Nomination sheet



Name of child who has shown **courage**

.....

Has shown **courage** by .....

.....

This bravery should be recognised because .....

.....

.....



## HALL OF FAME

### Bravery v. Slavery



Harriet Tubman was born nearly 200 years ago in Maryland, USA. Her family were slaves which means that they had to work for the people who 'owned' them. Slaves had no pay and no rights and they could be bought or sold like property. As Harriet grew older she was afraid that she would be sold and sent far away from her family to work for strangers. She decided to try to escape. This needed great **courage** because Harriet knew that if she was caught she would be cruelly punished. After many adventures and with the help of kind people along the way, Harriet managed to escape to Canada, where slavery was banned.

It would have been safest for Harriet to stay in Canada and make for herself a comfortable and easier life, but she was determined not to forget her family and friends who still suffered as slaves in America. She made her way back and forth to Maryland not once, but *nineteen times*, facing great danger and showing amazing bravery as she helped slaves to escape to freedom. By the end of her life Harriet had helped to free around 300 slaves!

After her death Harriet received many honours for her bravery. A ship was named after her, and in 1995 the US government issued a postage stamp to celebrate her **courageous** life.



## FASCINATING FACTS

### In case of emergency – Dial 999

"Help...my house is on fire!"

"Help....there's been an accident!"

"Help.... burglars are breaking into the house over the road!"

- The emergency number, 999, was introduced in London in 1937.
- In an emergency, phoning 999 will connect you quickly to an 'emergency control centre'. An operator will ask which service you need, fire, ambulance or police. The operator will be able to track your call to discover where you are and soon help will be on its way.
- Firefighters, police and ambulance crew all risk their own lives on occasions to help other people who are in danger.
- Additional emergency services operate in some places such as mountain and cave rescue, coast guards, air sea rescue.
- Over 30 million 999 calls are made each year.
- About half of all calls are hoaxes. Not only do hoax callers break the law, they put people's lives in danger as it takes longer for real emergencies to be dealt with.

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

