

*Do Everything with Love*  
*(1 Corinthians 16:14)*

January Newsletter 2020

### Update from Mrs Christopher

Happy New Year to you all! The children have made a very positive start back to school this week and I think we are all happy to be back in a routine.

At school, the new year started with a whole school Art day. Each class became a Guardian of one of our Gospel values and made a symbol to represent it. Our thanks go to Mrs Dale- our Art & Music leader- who planned the ideas and organised the resources needed. She has written a report below with more details. The symbols will be displayed around the hall when they are all completed.

And so, the new year has begun with new year's resolutions being started and possibly being restarted! My hope for the year is that we can all work together in order to guide, support, listen to and challenge our children so they can become the best they can be and leave our school as resilient, self- regulated learners as well as kind, caring individuals. The strategies we put in place at school are there to enable this vision to become reality so we thank you for supporting us, when necessary, in carrying these out. As we all know, working together is crucial to achieve the best for our children. I have attached the Parent/ Visitor Code of Conduct along with this newsletter for reference and this is also available on the website. Last year, at this time, I shared this personal favourite Bible quote which encapsulates all I would ask from anyone who enters our school and works with our precious children:

'As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.' Colossians 3:12-17

Happy new year everyone, may it bring good health and God's blessings to us all.

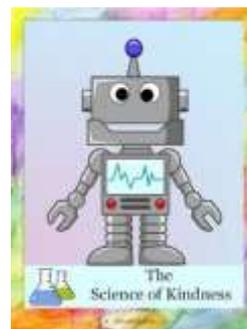
Mrs Christopher

### Mrs Dale's report on ART DAY - 7th January 2020

We started the new year with an inspirational Art Day based on our Plymouth CAST Gospel values. We explored the meaning of the values through group discussion, images and poetry. Each year group will now become guardians of one of our values and we have brought them to life with 3D images to be displayed around the school.

The children in Maple class are the guardians of *Kindness*.

Together we have designed a kindness robot, a character that is programmed only to be kind. This links to developing our understanding of different characters in our storytelling topic Once upon a time.



Elm class are the guardians of *Forgiveness*.

Each child had a mosaic tile to design which will then all fit together to decorate a large wooden cross.

Sycamore class are the guardians of *Humility*.

They have discussed the humble birth of Jesus and represented Mary his mother surrounded by stained glass windows made from patterns using coloured tissue paper.



In Beech class the children are the guardians of *Peace*.

Children have used mod roc to create a giant white dove with a wire frame to hover over miniature doves.



Children in Oak class are the guardians of *Courage*

They have designed a powerful 3D lion's face collage using fabric, feathers, wool and tissue paper.



Willow class are the guardians of *Integrity*.

They are making a Tree made with clay and paper leaves with own unique designs on.



Rowan

class are the guardians of *Compassion*. For our Library area the children have created soft fleecy cushions, each child making a square and then four pieces will be sewn together.



Every child in school has also designed a jigsaw piece which we will put together as a Justice jigsaw to show we all believe in fairness and equality.

### SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE

At the 'Meet the teacher' session in September, you all heard about our key priorities for improvement this year: Reading, Maths and promoting independent learners. Last term our focus on Reading included the High 5 challenge introduction. I am pleased to say that we have seen a very positive impact on the children's reading as a result. End of term assessments showed an improvement in their comprehension skills. We now want to improve the children's stamina to read a set amount within a short time so will be introducing weekly 60 second reads. Please keep encouraging the High 5 reading and signing the reading records - the goal certificates are a real incentive to the children and ultimately, they are becoming better readers and enjoying reading. We now have some children with 100 reading signatures- superb!

For Maths, we will continue to provide opportunities for children to reason and solve word problems so that they become increasingly confident in using the correct vocabulary and discover for themselves the steps which work or don't work. In all of areas of learning, we encourage independence by encouraging the children to develop enquiry skills and by providing opportunities for them to research. Thank you to all of you who take this a step further by following up topic work at home and providing further opportunities to motivate the learning.

### School library

I'd like to introduce our volunteer librarian- Mrs Annette Chaffey who comes into school once a week to help the children change their books and to keep the library well organised. The children and staff are all very grateful to her for this voluntary support.

### Early Reading Workshop

Maple & Elm class did a phonics workshop for parents to show how reading is taught at school. This which was gratefully received by all who attended. The powerpoint used in the presentation is available on their class website pages.

### PTFA News

Our PTFA chair, Vernay Lines, will be stepping down from this role due to other commitments. On behalf of us all, I'd like to thank Vernay for all the time she has given, the creativity she has shared and the great enthusiasm she has always shown when doing this role.



### Parents Online Safety Information

Please see links on the website class pages which lead to tips re. online safety for your children.

### IMPORTANT DATES

Please note some Child, parent, teacher meetings are on different days as listed below

28/1/20 & 29/1/20 Willow (Year 5) Parents evening

30/1/20 & 3/2/20 Sycamore (Year 2) Parents evenings

3/2/20 & 4/2/20 Maple (YR), Elm(Y1), Beech(Y3), Oak(Y4), Rowan(Y6) Parents evenings

27/1/20 Holocaust Memorial Day                      11/2/20 Safer Internet Day

17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> February Half term

24/2/20 INSET day

25/2/19 Children return to school

## ECO NEWS from Isobelle & Keira



We have composed an Eco Song to remind us to look after our world.  
Here are the words which we all want everyone to know and learn:

*From my heart to the world, from my feet to my head  
Not gonna act like a pirate and be careful instead  
We point to the north star and sing Alleluia Eco World.*

*We pray to God not to litter at all  
And remember be kind and do everything with love.  
From my heart to my world, from my feet to my head  
Not gonna be a pirate and be careful instead.  
We point to the North star and sing Alleluia eco world.*

*We do eco songs just like this and we tell you the right things to care for our world.  
This is a serious problem, all hands on deck. You need to come and help the eco group and pray.*