

# Collective Worship Newsletter

January – March 2026

*We believe, we achieve, we succeed in God's family.*

With God, all things are possible. Matthew 19:26

THANKFULNESS ~ COMMUNITY ~ COMPASSION ~  
TRUTHFULNESS ~ COURAGE ~ FORGIVENESS

## Welcome

Welcome to the Spring edition of our Collective Worship newsletter!

Throughout this term, our worship has focused on our values of thankfulness and forgiveness and we have been so proud of the thoughtful reflections and discussions taking place across the school. Mrs Fallon and Mrs Carlier have led some wonderful and thought-provoking assemblies exploring these important values.

Mrs Carlier began one assembly by asking the children whether they thought awards encourage people to help others. This sparked an interesting discussion about motivation – do we do kind things because we might receive a reward, or because it is the right thing to do? She explained that the Bible teaches us that faith is shown through our actions, not just our words. Christians believe that living out their faith means showing kindness, generosity and compassion every day, even when no one is watching and no reward is offered. The children reflected on how small acts – helping a friend, including someone in a game, saying sorry, or showing forgiveness – are powerful ways to put faith into action. The message was clear: doing good comes from the heart, and true service does not need applause.

Mrs Fallon led a beautiful collective worship inviting the children to reflect on something that can make their hearts feel lighter, their smiles feel brighter and their friendships stronger. She encouraged the children to take time to think about and share the things that bring them happiness and joy. Each child shared one thing they were thankful for, ranging from family and friends to pets, hobbies and simple everyday moments. The children were also given time to reflect on how they feel when someone thanked them – many shared that it makes them feel proud, valued and happy. It was a thoughtful and uplifting time together, reminding us all that gratitude not only blesses others but also changes how we feel inside.

Mrs Carlier also delivered a very informative and sensitive assembly about current events in the Middle East. She explained that in recent days the region has been in the news due to increased disagreements between some countries. The area has seen involvement from Donald Trump and the United States, and leaders around the world are encouraging calm and urging countries to work towards peaceful solutions.

Although these events are happening far away from the UK, many people across the world feel affected. Mrs Carlier carefully explained that the issues are complex, but that many organisations and world leaders are focusing on communication, keeping people safe and finding peaceful ways to resolve disagreements. The assembly reminded the children of the importance of prayer, understanding and hope during uncertain times, and encouraged them to think about how they can be peacemakers in their own communities.

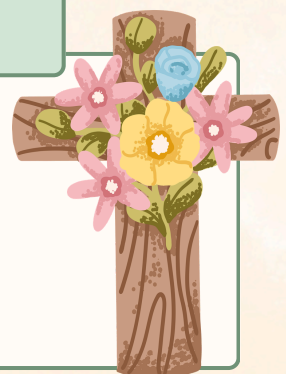
It has been a meaningful half term of reflection, discussion and growth as we continue to learn how thankfulness and forgiveness can shape our words, actions and relationships.

## Our Favourite Hymns

- One more step along the world I go
- This little light of mine
- Give me oil in my lamp
- My lighthouse
- Here comes Jesus' riding into town.
- Risen, Jesus is risen
- He's Alive, He's Alive
- Our God is great big god.

## Contact Info

For any questions about Collective Worship please contact Mrs Walker or Mr Austin who will be only too happy to help.





## Collective Worship with Rev. Jacqui

We have been delighted to welcome Rev. Jacqui into school several times this term, where she has led a series of wonderful and inspiring assemblies linked to our school values of Thankfulness and Forgiveness, as well as key moments in the church calendar.

Rev. Jacqui began by exploring Matthew 4:18–22, when Jesus calls his first disciples with the words, "Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of people." She encouraged the children to think about what it truly means to follow Jesus in our daily lives – by being a good friend and showing God's love through positive qualities that help friendships grow and flourish.

As we approached Lent, Rev. Jacqui helped the children understand that this is the 40 days leading up to Easter – a time to prepare our hearts as we remember Jesus' death on the cross and celebrate His resurrection. She spoke about how Jesus defeated death and saved us from our sins, and reflected on [Leviticus 19:17–18](#), reminding us to love others as we love ourselves, to let go of grudges, and to choose forgiveness.

In another thoughtful assembly, Rev. Jacqui explored the theme of temptation. She invited the children to consider what might tempt them during the school day, prompting some honest and reflective responses. She explained that temptation can sometimes feel like two different voices inside us – one saying, "Go on, do it!" and the other gently asking, "Is this the right choice?" She asked the children which voice they should listen to.

To bring this idea to life, Rev. Jacqui shared the example of Scar and Mufasa from *The Lion King*. Scar represented the voice that tempts us to make poor choices, while Mufasa symbolised wisdom, love and guidance. When asked which voice helped Simba become the king he was meant to be, the children confidently answered, "Mufasa." It was a powerful reminder that we all face choices every day, and that we can choose to listen to the voice that leads us towards courage, kindness, honesty and responsibility.

## Family Service

Service is held at St Mary's ~Church, Woodham Ferrers every Sunday morning at 11:30am. All are welcome.



1st Sunday Holy Communion,  
2nd Sunday Morning Prayer,  
3rd Sunday Morning Prayer,  
4th Sunday Holy Communion.

Special services are held for Christmas, Easter and Remembrance Sunday or when there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

## Prayer Leads

Oak Class - Francesca Smith  
Chestnut Class - Poppy Hagger  
Acorn Class - Lilly-May Smith

This half term our Prayer Leads carried out their duties wonderfully and we are grateful to them for leading us in prayer each day.





## Easter Performance

This term Mrs Fallon put together our wonderful Easter Performance around "The First Easter."

It was early in the morning, just as the first light of day began to touch the horizon. The air was cool and still, and the streets were quiet. A few women made their way to the tomb, carrying spices to honor the one they loved and lost. Their hearts were heavy, their steps slow.

But when they arrived, everything was different from what they expected. The great stone that had sealed the tomb was rolled away. The place where His body had been laid was empty. And then came the words that would change the world forever: "He is not here—He is risen."

This was the first Easter message—a message not shouted from palaces or proclaimed by rulers, but spoken to ordinary people in a moment of wonder and awe. It was a message of hope stronger than despair, of life more powerful than death, of love that could not be buried.

The women ran to tell the others, their sorrow turning into joy with every step. The news spread from one heart to another, carrying light into places that had been filled with darkness.

The first Easter message is still the same today: no matter how deep the night, the morning will come. No matter how final the ending seems, there is always the promise of a new beginning. And in that promise, we find courage, peace, and joy that never fades.

The whole school took part in the performance and learned about the importance of Easter for Christians. Well done to everyone and a big thank you to Mrs Fallon on her final performance.

## St Mary's School Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for our school and all who are part of it.

Help us to build a kind and caring community.

Teach us to show compassion and to forgive others.

Give us courage to do what is right,  
And help us to always speak the truth.

We are thankful for our friends, our families,  
And all the blessings You give us each day.

May our school be a place of hope and love,  
where we believe, we achieve, and we  
succeed in Your family.

Amen.

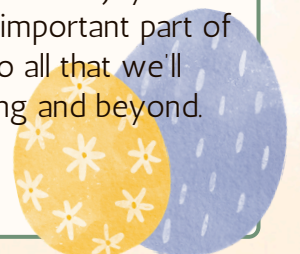


## Springtime Gratitude

As spring unfolds around us, we're reminded that this season is one of renewal, growth, and fresh beginnings. The longer days and blooming landscapes invite us to pause, reflect, and appreciate the people who make our journey meaningful.

We are deeply grateful for your continued support, trust, and connection. Because of you, our community continues to grow stronger, brighter, and more vibrant. Your engagement, encouragement, and belief in what we do inspire us every day.

May this season bring you renewed energy, fresh opportunities, and moments of joy. Thank you for being such an important part of our story. We look forward to all that we'll accomplish together this spring and beyond.





## Easter Performance Photos

Please take a look at a selection of photos from our wonderful performance of The First Easter.





## Celebrations

Chinese New Year, also known as the Spring Festival, marks the beginning of a New Year on the traditional Chinese calendar. It is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture and 2026 marks the Year of the Horse.

We celebrated this special occasion in school with a variety of exciting activities throughout the day.

Our PE lessons had a festive twist, as the children enjoyed Chinese dancing sessions with Mr Thomas, learning new moves and rhythms inspired by traditional celebrations.

At lunchtime, everyone was treated to a delicious Chinese Taster Menu. The menu included Sweet and Sour Chicken, Chow Mein, Egg Fried Rice, Prawn Crackers, Spring Rolls, Seaweed and Mango Cupcakes as a special treat. A huge thank you to Mrs Richardson for cooking up a storm and helping to make our celebrations even more memorable!

Throughout the day, the children also took part in a range of creative classroom activities. These included practising Chinese writing, completing Year of the Horse colouring sheets, designing beautiful Chinese lanterns, making paper fortune cookies and creating fantastic horse collages.

Take a look at some of the wonderful creations – we are so proud of the children's enthusiasm and creativity as they celebrated this important cultural festival together!





## Reflection

As we come to the end of the Spring Term, it has been a pleasure to reflect on the many special moments we have shared together during Collective Worship. Worship remains a central part of our life as a Church of England school, offering a time each day for our community to come together, reflect, pray and grow in our understanding of Christian values.

Throughout this term, our worship has focused on our values of thankfulness and forgiveness and we have been so proud of the thoughtful reflections and discussions taking place across the school. Through Bible stories, reflection and prayer, pupils have explored how these values can guide the way we treat one another both in school and in our wider communities. It has been wonderful to see the respect shown during these times and to hear the thoughtful responses from our pupils.

As we move towards Easter, our worship has helped pupils reflect on the Christian story of Jesus' journey to the cross and the hope of the resurrection. The message of Easter reminds us of the power of love, forgiveness and new beginnings – values that continue to shape our school community.

Thank you to all staff and pupils who contribute so positively to Collective Worship each day. Your participation helps to create a calm, respectful and reflective space where everyone feels valued and included.

We wish all our families a peaceful and joyful Easter break and look forward to continuing our journey of faith and reflection together in the Summer Term.

Mr Austin  
RE Lead

