

Collective Worship Newsletter

April – July 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 Summer edition of our Collective Worship Newsletter!

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

Mr Gatenby led our collective worships with a thoughtful focus on our core value of truthfulness, encouraging the children to reflect deeply on what it means to be honest in their daily lives. To begin, the children were asked to pair up and chat about what truthfulness meant to them personally. They explored whether they found it easy or difficult to always tell the truth and shared their ideas with great enthusiasm. Many spoke about situations where honesty comes naturally, as well as moments when telling the truth can feel challenging.

Mr Gatenby then guided the children to think more carefully about different situations: when is it especially important to be truthful, and why can it sometimes feel hard to do so? These discussions helped the children recognise that being honest is not always simple, particularly when they may feel worried about consequences or unsure of the outcome.

Mrs Carlier led a special Collective Worship celebrating the 100th birthday of Sir David Attenborough and his remarkable contribution to wildlife, conservation and caring for our planet. The children learned about his lifelong dedication to protecting animals and raising awareness of the importance of looking after the natural world for future generations.

The worship encouraged the children to reflect on how we all have a responsibility to care for God's creation. Mrs Carlier linked this to Genesis 2:15, reminding us that God entrusted humanity with the care of the Earth. The children explored how even the smallest acts of kindness towards our environment—such as recycling, reducing waste, planting flowers for pollinators or simply caring for the spaces around us—can make a big difference when we all work together.

Mrs Carlier took a very interesting Collective Worship asking the children, "What can football teach us about the world?" Using the 2026 FIFA World Cup as a starting point, she explained how the tournament will bring together 48 teams from across the globe, with matches taking place in the USA, Canada and Mexico.

The children explored how the World Cup is about much more than football. It is an opportunity to celebrate different countries, cultures and communities while recognising the values we all share. Mrs Carlier encouraged everyone to reflect on the importance of respect, kindness and unity, reminding us that, just like in sport, we can learn from one another and build strong friendships within our school community.

It has been a meaningful half term of reflection, discussion and growth as we continue to learn how Truthfulness and Courage 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 Truthfulness and Courage, as well as key moments in the church calendar.

Rev. Jacqui shared a thoughtful and engaging message about the presence of Jesus and how we can recognise that He is with us in our daily lives, even though we cannot physically see Him.

Rev. Jacqui reflected on the story of Cleopas and the Road to Emmaus from Luke 24:13–35, where two disciples walked alongside Jesus without initially recognising Him. Through this story, she encouraged us to think about the many ways Jesus is present in our lives today—through acts of kindness, love, friendship, hope and the support of those around us.

The worship gave us all an opportunity to reflect on how we can look for signs of God's presence in our everyday experiences and reminded us that we are never alone, even during challenging times.

Rev. Jacqui took a special Collective Worship all about Pentecost, she explained to the children that it is a very special day for Christians, as it celebrates the time when God sent the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples. The children heard how the disciples were gathered together when they experienced the sound of a mighty rushing wind and saw what seemed to be flames of fire resting on each of them. This extraordinary event gave the disciples courage and confidence to share the good news of Jesus with others.

Rev. Jacqui also explained that the Holy Spirit is known by many different names and is represented by a variety of symbols, including a dove, fire and wind. These different names and symbols help us to understand the many roles of the Holy Spirit, such as bringing comfort, guidance, strength and peace. The worship encouraged the children to reflect on the message of Pentecost and how Christians believe the Holy Spirit continues to help and guide people in their everyday lives.

We would like to thank Rev. Jacqui for leading such an inspiring and meaningful Collective Worship. We always enjoy welcoming her into school and value the strong partnership we share with St Mary's Church.



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 - Harmony Pharo
Acorn Class - Havana Pharo

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





Leavers Service at St Marys Church

Our Year 6 Leavers' Service at St Mary's Church was a wonderful occasion and a fitting way to celebrate the end of our pupils' primary school journey. We are incredibly grateful to Rev. Jacqui for leading such a thoughtful and meaningful service, helping us to reflect on the many happy memories, achievements and friendships our Year 6 children have made during their time at our school. Rev. Jacqui kindly presented our leavers with their own copy of the Bible for them to keep.

We always enjoy visiting St Mary's Church throughout the year, and it is especially lovely to gather there for this important milestone. The church provides a warm and welcoming space where our school community can come together to celebrate, reflect and give thanks. Our strong partnership with St Mary's is something we truly value, and we are always made to feel so welcome.

The Leavers' Service gave our Year 6 pupils the opportunity to pause and reflect on all they have accomplished before looking ahead with excitement and confidence to the next stage of their education. While it is always sad to say goodbye, it is also a time to celebrate the remarkable young people they have become and all that lies ahead for them.

We wish all of our Year 6 leavers every success and happiness as they move on to secondary school. They will always remain a special part of our school family, and we hope they look back on their time here with fond memories. Thank you once again to Rev. Jacqui and everyone at St Mary's Church for helping to make this year's Leavers' Service such a special and memorable occasion.

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.



Summer time Gratitude

As the Summer unfolds, we seek Your joy to fill our hearts and lives. May the warmth of the sun reflect the warmth of Your love, bringing laughter, peace and cherished moments with family and friends.

Help us to embrace each day with gratitude and to find joy in the simple blessings around us.





Reflection



As we reach the end of another busy and rewarding school year, it is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on all that has been achieved in Religious Education across our school.

This year, our pupils have shown curiosity, compassion and a growing confidence in exploring some of life's biggest questions. Through discussions, storytelling, visits, celebrations and moments of reflection, they have deepened their understanding of a range of faiths and worldviews while developing respect for the beliefs and experiences of others.

One of the greatest joys of teaching RE is seeing children engage thoughtfully with ideas about belonging, kindness, justice, hope and community. Their willingness to listen to different perspectives, ask insightful questions and reflect on their own values continues to inspire us. These are skills and qualities that extend far beyond the classroom and help prepare our children to become thoughtful, respectful members of society.

Throughout the year, we have celebrated a variety of religious festivals and special events, giving pupils meaningful opportunities to learn about the rich diversity within our local and global communities. We are incredibly grateful to the families, visitors and members of faith communities who have enriched our learning experiences by sharing their knowledge, traditions and personal stories.

As we look ahead to the new academic year, we are excited to continue building on this year's successes with engaging learning opportunities that encourage curiosity, critical thinking and empathy.

Thank you to all our pupils for their enthusiasm, our staff for their dedication, and our families for their ongoing support. We wish everyone a safe, restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in September for another year of learning and discovery.

Mr Austin
RE Lead

