



Whickham Parochial Church of England Primary School

Nurturing minds and hearts through God's love

Newsletter 21/9/23

Hello parents – We hope you have had a good summer! We have loved having your children back in school with us and have welcomed in a super group of little people to our Reception class.

Don't forget, you can find lots of school information on our [website](#) – our letters are saved on there, you can find out about our curriculum, and we have our calendar and term dates too. If you are ever in need of information, it's a good place to start! Additionally, all dates are on our E-schools calendar.

School Values

In our collective worship, we have had a chat about our values. Although our children remembered a lot of them, most couldn't remember them all, and some struggled to talk about how values affected us. We had suspected this may be the case, and have decided to slim down our values for children and to link them all under one motto "Let your light shine!" We chose this, as it relates to our aims for pupils to achieve their potential, to be happy and successful and also to make a difference in their community. It is linked to a bible verse (Matthew 5:16), but we feel it also speaks meaningfully to children of other faiths and to those with no religious background, and will inspire all of us to be our best selves.

The overarching value we link to this motto is love: love of ourselves, our families, our communities and for some, love of God. Upholding this value, we would like to have four additional values. Our staff have looked at our ethos and our aims, and some values stand out in their suitability for our school community:

Compassion – which we will call **kindness**;

Endurance – which we will call **resilience** (supporting our growth mindset);

Service – we chose this value as we have worked on service as an aspect of being an active Christian and a valuable part of a family and community, but we have also explored the importance of service for good mental health. Doing things for others gives children a sense of agency and an understanding that they have power to make changes.



We would like you to help your child be part of the process of choosing the fourth value. Our school councillors will be elected this week and next week they will talk to their class about the values they think are important to uphold in order for us to be the sort of school they would like to attend.

They will be asked to choose from the following possibilities:

joy	wisdom	hope	peace
justice	friendship	forgiveness	honesty

Feel free to chat about this at home and exert a bit of influence – and get in touch if you have strong feelings about the suitability of any of the choices as all opinions will be considered. Our first school council meeting is on 3rd October and we'll start the process of voting.

We'll let you know how it goes!

Many thanks as always for your support,

R Walton
Mrs Walton