

# NEWSLETTER

Issue..... 06/2014-2015

Date..... June 2015

## Professional Development Days

May I remind you of Professional Development Days for 2015 – 2016 Academic Year:

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015  
Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2016  
Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

## FOSS

We greatly appreciate their support and the additional funds, and the fun events that FOSS organise. Thank you to them – please do always support their efforts! By doing so you are supporting our school and your child's education!

Please look out for the FOSS Newsletters and news of upcoming events, particularly the Summer Fair on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June.

## One Sun, One World

Twelve of our Year 5 girls will be performing in the "Selfish Giant" at the Gala Theatre, along with pupils from seven local primary schools, on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June.

## Fundraising

The FOSS "Bags for School" collection date is Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015. Please help raise funds by returning your bag to school with any unwanted clothing and bedding items etc. Instructions for what items will be accepted as donations are on the bags.

On Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May we had our Moo-vie Day. The School Council will let you know how much we raised very shortly, in support of Christian Aid.

## Open Evening

You are invited to visit the school and classrooms, and meet your child's next teacher on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 3:30 – 5:30 pm. Pupils will

also be "moving up" for visits to their new classes on that day.

## Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural Development (SMSC)

During the first half of the summer term, and in line with our teaching of the 'British Values' of *democracy* and *mutual respect*, we have been thinking about the recent general election and also about the negative impact of stereotyping. With regard to the General Election, we looked at the importance of our democratic institutions and how our electoral system works. Pupils explored how Parliament functions and how laws are made. Our thinking about stereotypes focussed on mutual respect and how we need to avoid stereotyping in our thinking about others. We explored how stereotypes can lead to inaccurate thinking about other people.

## End of Year Reports

In line with the new national curriculum that was introduced in September of this academic year, end of year reports will follow a revised format. We will be reporting to parents as to whether pupils are '*working towards*', '*meeting*' or '*exceeding*' age-related expectations in different areas of the curriculum. In addition, for each curriculum area, next steps in learning will be included in order that you can support your children in making good progress across the curriculum. Reports will, of course, contain an overview of pupils' overall progress and development and comments from pupils themselves.

Year End Reports will be sent home on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July. If you would like to speak to your child's teacher after receiving the report, then please contact your teacher by letter or by contacting the school office.

## THANK YOU!

Thank you for your support with Sainsbury's vouchers. Through this support we are able to "top up" our resources and PE equipment.

## School Trips

Summer Term is always a particularly busy time for school trips, visits and activities outside school. We have arranged extra opportunities for sport activities at outside venues. These trips and activities offer our children wonderful extra learning experience and I thank you for your support and the children's fantastic behaviour whilst outside of school.

Thanks also to FOSS for the donation of £1,400 (£200 per class) to help reduce the travel costs of these trips.



## Class Assemblies

You are warmly welcome to attend the Class Assemblies this half term.

Dates are as follows:

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 9:15 am – Year 5**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July – Year 6 Leavers' at 2:15 pm in the school hall.** FOSS are kindly serving refreshments for the year 6 parents and pupils after the assembly.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July – Whole School 'End of Year' Worship including Year 6 presentation of Bibles at St. Mary's Church 10:00 am.**

## Church & Community Services

You are invited to our next Community Service in school for a Eucharist on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June at 9:15 am in the school hall.

You are invited to join the Sunday Services at St. Mary's Church on Sundays at 9:30 am. There will be an All Age Parish Eucharist at St. Mary's Church on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June at 9:30 am, 5<sup>th</sup> July and 2<sup>nd</sup> August. The Garden Party will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July from 2:00 to 5:00 pm.

## International News Educational visit to France

Twenty-two Year 4 & 5 pupils have recently returned from a fantastic trip to France. They spent a day at our French partner school, l'école de Buironfosse, experiencing a variety of lessons, having lunch and participating in an afternoon of sports activities in mixed French/English teams. During the five day trip they also visited les Grottes de Naour, an underground city and WW1 memorial sites. The 'Discovery week' provided the pupils a wonderful opportunity to meet their French friends in school, listen to and speak some French, understand and learn about the region and World War 1 events and have the experience of being away from home in a residential centre. The children shared their experiences in an

assembly for all the pupils, their parents and governors.

We would like to thank Mrs Morgan, Mrs Armstrong and Mrs Luke-Taylor for organising and accompanying the children on this trip.

## Song for Europe

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> May, eleven Year 4 pupils represented their whole class in a 'Song for Europe'. Twenty six schools attended the Gala Theatre in Durham and sang a song in a European language. Our children, each dressed in a different sporting outfit, sang and danced to 'Le Football!' They had a wonderful experience of performing to a large audience in a theatre.

## Attendance and Absence: Requests for Holidays in Term Time

All parents of children of compulsory school age are under a legal duty to send their children to school regularly and risk prosecution if they fail in this duty. It is expected that pupils will have attendance rates of at least 95%. Our school target is 98%. The Education Welfare Officer regularly checks our registers and asks for an explanation of individual pupil rates below this level. Unless there are very exceptional reasons, she will record and follow up any attendance below this figure.

Medical: We are obliged by law to report all unauthorised or unexplained pupil absences. Therefore all absences must be accompanied by a written explanation or telephone call, as soon as possible. Where a child needs to be absent from school to attend hospital or the dentist etc. please notify school in advance and inform us whether the taking of a school meal will be affected.

Leave of Absence: Parents who wish to apply for leave of absence for their child(ren) should complete the appropriate form, available on the website or from the school office. All applications will be carefully considered on their merits and it should be noted that there is no entitlement to leave of absence from school. In exceptional circumstances the Head teacher may grant authorised leave of absence. Parents should note that national regulations were changed in September 2013 and it is no longer possible to grant authorised absence for family holidays in term time. A copy of the Leave of Absence form is attached to this newsletter for your information. This form will need to be used for all future requests for a leave of absence.

## Safety

### E-Safety

As always, the staff will be delivering half termly lessons to all pupils on an e-safety theme. A range of resources to support parents and carers in keeping their children safe online is

available on the school website. Do make yourself aware of these.

The following is a message from the NSPCC that the Local authority has asked we share with parents:

*Do You Really Know Who Your Children Are Talking to Online? Chances are that if you have a child approaching their 'tweens' they will soon be clamouring for a) a mobile phone b) a social media account c) a games console - all of which could enable them to chat to complete strangers anywhere in the world.*

*The days of a family PC in the corner of the living room are long gone. Most of us carry the internet in our pockets these days so it's not surprising that our children want the same easy access. And once children get to nine or 10 years old they are in any case eager to go online and chat to their friends without a parent watching over their shoulder.*

*However, according to Ofcom, one in ten children aged 8-11 who go online say they have seen something in the past year that was worrying, nasty or offensive.*

*We all want to keep children safe online and many parents will at some point take action, like installing filters on their home broadband to stop children seeing unsuitable material. But filters don't protect children from strangers contacting them through social media, mobile apps, or online games.*

*The NSPCC wants to see all online accounts for under-16s set up to block messages from strangers, prevent users making their location or contact details public, set profiles as private by default on sign-up, and alert children to the risks if they choose make their profile public.*

*Until these steps are taken by industry we all have to be extra vigilant about children's safety. So it's essential to have regular chats with your children about what to do to keep themselves safe, and stress that it's ok to come to you for help.*

*The good news is that lots of parents are talking to children about online safety - since the NSPCC launched its latest online safety campaign in January around 400,000 parents have spoken with their children about the issue. However, we're still concerned that some parents are missing out vital topics when they talk to their children about staying safe online.*

*For example, children have told us they want parents to talk about how to manage apps that track your location, but only one in five parents say they've covered this in online safety conversations.*

*And if parents aren't talking to children about things like location or privacy settings it can leave them at risk of online grooming. We've seen horrendous cases where offenders take a scattergun approach, targeting hundreds of children at a time online, often posing as another young person.*

*So we want all parents to make sure their online knowledge is up to date by checking out our updated Net Aware guide, published this week.*

*The guide now covers a total of 60 social networking sites, apps and games popular with children and is free to access at [www.net-aware.org.uk](http://www.net-aware.org.uk)*

*The digital world is here to stay and it's our job to make sure the next generation take their first steps online safely; aware of the risks, but confident about how to get where they want to be, just as our parents once taught us how to cross the road.*

Claire Lilley

Head of Online Safety at NSPCC

### **Water Safety**

During the course of the half term, we will be addressing the issue of water safety with the children. During the school holidays, and in particular in hot weather, increasing numbers of children put themselves at risk of drowning. On average 40-50 children drown per year in the UK. To keep yourself safe, when you are in, on or beside water, always follow the **Water Safety Code**:

*Spot the dangers!*

Water may look safe, but it can be dangerous. Learn to spot and keep away from dangers. You may swim well in a warm indoor pool, but that does not mean that you will be able to swim in cold water.

The dangers of water include:

- it is very cold
- there may be hidden currents
- it can be difficult to get out (steep slimy banks)
- it can be deep
- there may be hidden rubbish, e.g. shopping trolleys, broken glass
- there are no lifeguards
- it is difficult to estimate depth
- it may be polluted and may make you ill

### **Mini-Police**

Durham Mini Police is a new project in the Durham City area which promotes greater engagement between Durham Constabulary and younger children in the community. This term, the children are looking forward to supporting the police at local events around the City and are very excited to wear their new 'Mini Police' uniforms. Recent events have included a special service at Durham Cathedral on the 16<sup>th</sup> May to mark the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Durham Constabulary and the Dogwise Event at the Houghall Show on the 17<sup>th</sup> May, where children worked with the police dogs and 'arrested' a criminal! More updates of planned events will follow in the next newsletter including details of a Top Secret mission that two lucky children will be taking part in.

### **PE Kit and School Uniform**

Thank you to everyone for ensuring that all children have their school PE kit at school. We

would appreciate it if your child has their House T-shirt in school at all times during this half term for sporting activities. Orders for uniform items can be placed on-line, please follow the guidelines on our school website. Please also ensure your child's clothing is named to enable to keep lost property to a minimum.



### **Sports Day**

Our "Sports Day" afternoon, will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July, starting at 1:30 pm on the school field. This will consist of races with some team and house activities. Additional "inter-school house/team events and activities will also be taking place in school time during June and July.

**Please note; It is lovely for pre-school children to come as spectators at the Sports Day, but we politely ask that young children are supervised at all times, and join in by watching the events and cheering for their older brothers and sisters and friends. Please do not let pre-school children use the play tyres and climbing frame etc. during this event.**

### **Christian Values**

This half term we are focussing on 'Service' as our whole school Christian Value. This will form the basis of our Collective Worship in school. We will be looking at why serving others is important and discussing with the children how they can be of service to others.

We would like our children to continue their reflection and experience at home.

Please look at our home school value sheet for Service. This will give you lots of ideas of activities you can do at home.



*Some things to think about:*

- *How are we encouraged to "find" our gifts and to use them for the good of the school and wider community?*
- *How do you show gratitude for those who serve / help you?*

### **Sun Smart School**

Can I remind you to apply a long lasting sun cream in the morning and provide a sun hat for school during the Summer months. We encourage the children to find shady areas during periods in direct sun and have a playground shade canopy for the Reception outdoor classroom. We encourage the children to be "sun aware" through discussions in lessons. As our weather is changeable, please ensure that your child has a showerproof coat with them in school each day.

### **Medication**

It is school and County Council policy that only prescribed medication can be given in school. We will administer medication, such as an antibiotic, if the prescription is to be given four times a day. Please arrange this through the school office. You will be required to complete an Administration of Medication form and the medicine must be delivered to and collected from the school office by an adult.

A reminder that we are not allowed to administer cough mixture, Calpol, throat lozenges & travel sickness tablets etc. and therefore children are not allowed to bring any of these into school.

### **Drama Club Play**

The Y6 Drama Club is working on a production of the story of their own play – which will be performed to friends and family in school on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July at 6:00 pm.

### **SHINCLIFFE SHOW – Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September, Shincliffe School**

It's great news that the Shincliffe Show will once again take place this September. There are 5 children's categories and we hope that you will have fun over the summer holidays creating your entries. The categories are open to children in Y6 and under and each entry is 50p. You can enter as many categories as you like and a rosette will be awarded for 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Entry forms will be available in due course in St Mary's Newsletter, on the Community Association website ([www.shincliffe.org.uk](http://www.shincliffe.org.uk)) and from Shincliffe School at the beginning of September. The Show takes place from 1:00 – 4:00 pm.

**The children's categories are**  
**Decorate a Shoe**  
**Vegetable Vehicle**  
**Hand-made Jewellery**  
**Painting / drawing**  
**Selfie Photography**

### **Help in School**

Thank you to Mrs King, Mrs Morl, Mrs Steel, Mrs Stewart, Mrs McEwan and Mrs Dee for their weekly help in running the Library. Thank you also to our "Helping Hands" volunteers; Mrs Stark, Mrs Dee, Mrs Davies, Mrs Dale, Mrs Fox, Mrs Stewart, Mrs Milburn, Mrs McEwan and Mrs Morl for their help with classroom reading.

### **Eco Group**

The ECO club has been working hard this term to make sure all the classes in Key Stage 2 save as much electricity as possible. So far Year 3 have won ECO class of the month for March and April although Y4, Y5 and Y6 have also been

good at remembering to switch off lights, projectors and computers when they are not in use as well. In the summer term the ECO club will also include KS1 in monitoring to see which class is the most ECO friendly. As well as doing this the ECO club continue to recycle any card and paper so that everyone at Shincliffe is doing their best to help the environment.

### Sports Premium Spending

Sport Premium is an amount of money which the government has agreed to allocate to schools for the academic years 2013-14 & 2014-15. The funding amount schools receive is based upon the number of children of primary age the school has. The sport premium is to be used to increase the quality & breadth of PE & Sport provision, and increasing participation in PE & Sport.

At **Shincliffe CE Primary School**, we strive to promote healthy and active lifestyles and aim to provide sporting opportunities for all our pupils.

The 2014-2015 Sport Premium funding for **Shincliffe CE Primary School** was **£8925**. The money was used for:

1) Investing in the Durham & Chester-Le Street School Sport Partnership ([www.durhamclsssp.org.uk](http://www.durhamclsssp.org.uk)) Basic Service Level Agreement to provide the school with the following:

- A full organised annual programme of competitions/tournaments/festivals in **addition** to the National School Games.
- Access to a set amount of transport to festivals/competitions as agreed
- Participation, inclusion and excellence opportunities
- Access to the gifted & talented multi-skill academy for Year 5 & 6 children
- CPD for curriculum physical education for staff.
- Provision of a minimum of 4 x 6 week blocks of curriculum and/or after-school activity in a variety of sports.
- SSP Network meetings to support PE Co-ordinators / PLTs in their role developing PE & sport within
- Promotion and development of links to local sports club
- Access to Team Durham (Durham University) assemblies
- Central co-ordination of school sport programmes in SSP area

2) Investing in the Durham & Chester-Le Street School Sport Partnership ([www.durhamclsssp.org.uk](http://www.durhamclsssp.org.uk)) Enhanced Service Level Agreement to provide the school with the following:

- 30 hours of High Quality PE Teaching support
- 60 hours of High Quality coaching support
- Bespoke menu of CPD opportunities for staff
- Quality assurance of sports coaching

### The additional ways we will be using our Sport Premium Funding this year:

- We have paid for a gymnast specialist to come into school. She has been working alongside the teachers to demonstrate how to teach gymnastics effectively - upskilling our teachers and also delivered extra-curricular sessions for children.
- CPD identified for staff and money used to cover supply costs.
- Funding an active-fitness programme for KS2 children.
- We will be investing in new equipment to deliver the gymnastics curriculum.

### Junior Neighbourhood Watch

Since the start of the Summer term, Year 5 have been taking part in the Junior Neighbourhood Watch Programme. Every Monday afternoon we have a visitor to the class who comes to tell us about different aspects of keeping ourselves, and others, safe. We have had some very interesting visitors so far. St John's Ambulance came and taught us how to put people in the recovery position. A police officer also visited us and informed the class of the steps that they need to take to contact the emergency services. Jet and Ben caused great excitement when they came into school to warn us of the dangers that strangers can pose. The class have learnt a lot from these visits so far and are looking forward to what they will find out next!

### School Dinners

We request that parents pay half termly in advance for school dinners if possible, on receipt of an invoice. For those parents who wish to pay weekly, please forward the correct amount in a sealed envelope to school on **Monday** mornings. Weekly paid meals are £9.75 per week. Durham County Council's school meals service reflects excellent value for money for a child's daily meal and we are always delighted how much our children enjoy their school dinners.

## Dates for your Diary

Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June	First day of second half of Summer term 2015, Impressions Photographer for Y6 Year Book. Fit & Fun Club resumes, KS1 French Club resumes
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Y4 Pilgrimage to Durham Cathedral. KS2 Change for Life Club resumes
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	KS2 Primary Athletics Tournament at Maiden Castle
Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Community Worship - Eucharist 9:15 am. Bags2School collection. Nature Rangers Y1, Nick Pickering Football Club resumes, Y6 Drama Club resumes. SRE Consultation Evening 5:30 pm
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	Simply Sport Breakfast Club resumes. FOSS School Disco
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 Girls Netball club commences. KS2 Durham Dash after-school event
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 Class Assembly, Y4 Bushcraft Skills, Y6 Leavers' service at Durham Cathedral
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June	Y5 Girls - One Sun, One World at the Gala Theatre, Y3 Egyptain Study Week
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June	Y2 visit to St. Mary's Lighthouse. Y3 Egyptian Potter
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 visit to the Great North Museum
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception class visit to the Great North Museum, Y5 visit to Beamish Museum
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> June	Y3 Road Safety Training commences, Y2 Swimming Taster
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Final French Club, Final KS1 Fit and Fun Club
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	Final KS2 Change for Life Fit Club
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	KS2 Mini- Olympics at Maiden Castle
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> June	Y4 Groovy Greeks at Darlington Civic Theatre. Final Nick Pickering Football, Final Nature Rangers Club
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June	New Reception Class visits and Lunch
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	FOSS Summer Fair 1:00 - 4:00 pm
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	Framwellgate and Durham Johnston Schools' Transition Day. Class transition day. Open Evening 3:45 - 5:00 pm
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	New Reception Class visits and Lunch, KS2 "Let Us Entertain You"
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Individual Pupil Reports sent home.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Sports Day 1:30 pm school field
Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Drama Club Performance 6:00 pm school hall
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July	Teddy Bears Picnic Lunch
Saturday 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 leavers' Party at Splash, Stockton
Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July	Y6 Leavers' Assembly 2:30 pm
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	Leavers' Service St. Mary's Church 10:00 am. Final Day of Term for children
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July	PD Day for Staff
	<b>FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY</b>
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	August Bank Holiday
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September	PD Day for Staff
Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	First day of Autumn Term Academic Year 2015-16
Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Shincliffe Show
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Final Day of Half Term
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	School re-opens for second half of Autumn Term

## Christian Values Questionnaire

Thank you to all of you who took the time to complete our recent Christian Values parents' questionnaire. The feedback given, along with discussions with pupils and staff, is hugely helpful to us in our thinking about the values that are important to us as a school. *Compassion, endurance* and *friendship* were the three values that parents felt were of highest importance and these are values we will seek to develop in our work with the pupils over the coming terms. Whilst these are values of clear importance to Christians, they are also values held in high regard by people of all faiths and indeed those who do not have a faith.

Regarding the identity of Shincliffe as church school we are delighted that parents feel welcome to attend school events and appreciate the ethos of the school. We continue to develop our links with communities at all levels and Mrs. Morgan, our International Co-ordinator, is in the process of setting up a new link with partner schools in Brazil. KS2 children have recently returned from a visit to our partner school in France. A summary of responses is included below.

<i>Numbers expressed as percentages</i>	<b>Strongly Agree</b>	<b>Agree</b>	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>Strongly Disagree</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
The school is a Church of England School.	75	25	0	0	0
The school is a good <u>Church</u> School and helps my child develop morally, spiritually, socially and culturally.	69	31	0	0	0
The school is based on clear Christian Values.	56	38	6	0	0
Prayer and Collective Worship is central to the life of the school.	72	28	0	0	0
I feel welcome to attend any of the school's Services e.g. Community Worship, School Eucharists.	75	22	3	0	0
Pupils are provided with opportunities to develop spiritually through high quality acts of collective worship.	63	34	0	0	3
Visitors from other organizations provide opportunities for pupils to develop morally, socially, culturally and spiritually through collective worship e.g. Sports, Police, Charities etc.	66	31	0	0	3
The school has excellent links with the local church and clergy.	75	25	0	0	0
As a parent I feel able to enjoy and participate in the Christian ethos of the school.	75	22	3	0	0
The school has links with the local, national and global communities.	56	41	0	0	3

## **ABSENCE REQUEST FORM**

Due to the legislation introduced in September 2013, we are no longer able to authorise any holidays during term time, except in exceptional circumstances.

If you feel that your request falls into the exceptional circumstances category, please complete the form below and your request will be considered, on an individual basis, by the Governing Body.

<b>A. Pupil Details</b>			
Name:		DOB:	
Address:			
Class :			

<b>B. Leave of Absence Request Details</b>			
Start date of requested leave:		End date:	
Return to school date:		No. of days:	
What are the <u>exceptional circumstances</u> for your leave of absence request that you wish the school to consider?			
Name of parent / carer (print):			
Signature:		Date:	
Name of parent / carer (print):			
Signature:		Date:	

<b>C. For School Use</b>			
Current attendance %:			
Previous LOA this academic year:			
Does the LOA request time coincide with SATS:			
Any mitigating / aggravating circumstances (Including any ongoing medical issues):			
Is the LOA approved?:	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	
If <b>YES</b> - Number of days to be authorised for this LOA application:			
Signature of Head Teacher:		Date:	
Register Code to be used for this LOA:			

**School term dates are set well in advance and can be obtained from the school office or from the school website**



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

**TALK ABOUT SERVICE TOGETHER...**

Jesus was called the 'servant king'; his mission was to **serve** God and to **serve** all those people he met, through his teaching, his example and the way he led his life.

Who are the unsung heroes who **serve** us?

- at school
- at home
- in our clubs

How do you **serve** others?

- at school
- at home
- in your clubs

**THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom**

"There is more happiness in giving than receiving"

The words of Jesus recorded in Acts 20.35 - The Good News Bible



**READ TOGETHER...**

**Queen Esther serves her people**

When King Xerxes, the ruler of the mighty land of Persia, was looking for a wife, Mordecai immediately thought of his cousin, the wise and beautiful Esther. Mordecai's family was Jewish, but he warned Esther not to tell anyone about this as he knew that there were powerful people in the land who hated Jews. Mordecai took Esther to the palace gates to be presented to the king, and, sure enough, as soon as King Xerxes saw Esther he fell in love with her, and the humble Jewish girl became a queen.

Mordecai often sat by the palace gates hoping to hear snippets of news about his cousin. For some time, all seemed well. But Haman, a wicked and powerful man in the court of King Xerxes, became angry with Mordecai because he would not bow down and honour him. Haman hatched a cunning plan. He began to tell the King bad things about the Jews living in his land and eventually he persuaded Xerxes that all the Jews should be killed. Queen Esther was beside herself with grief. She loved her people very much but felt powerless to help them.

King Xerxes noticed how terribly sad his queen had become, and begged her to tell him why she was so upset. Esther said she would explain if he and Haman would come to a feast that she prepared the following evening. When the grand banquet was over King Xerxes asked once again. "My dear Esther, you promised to tell me the reason for your sorrow." Esther summoned all her courage in what might be her last act of **service**. She told the King about Haman's plan to kill all of the Jews, which would include herself. King Xerxes was furious at the prospect of losing his beloved and beautiful Esther and ordered Haman to be arrested.

And so it was that Esther's name will be forever be remembered for her willingness to risk everything in the **service** of her people.

Bible story based on Book of Esther



**QUIZ Word Fit**

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| ESTHER   | FEAST   |
| XERXES   | GATES   |
| HAMAN    | KING    |
| MORDECAI | QUEEN   |
| JEWS     | SERVICE |
| PERSIA   | SORROW  |
| CUNNING  | WISE    |





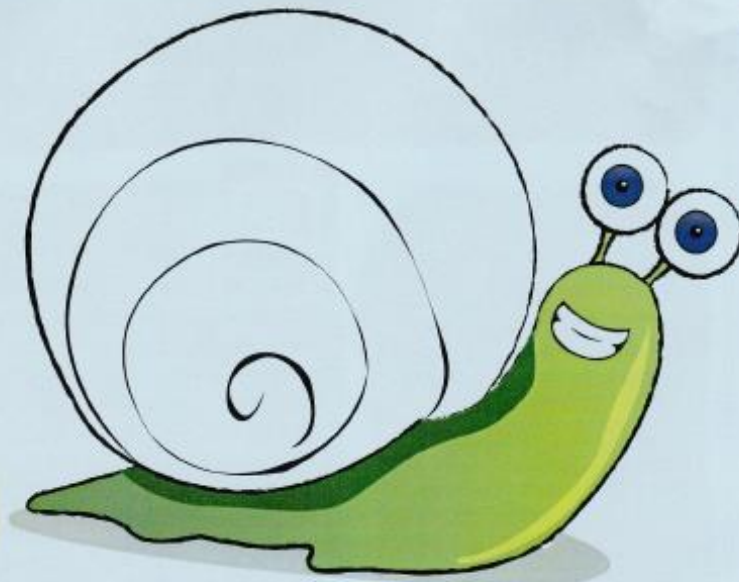
## FAMILY FOCUS

### Service with a smile

Complete a 'service snail'.

Living a life of **service** is about keeping your eyes open and looking out for ways to make others smile.

Draw a large smiley snail. Can you fill in the spirals on the snail's shell with ways in which as a family you serve each other in one week? When the snail shell is full take it to school to display in the Challenge Gallery.



## HALL OF FAME

### JK Rowling OBE

Joanne K Rowling is best known for writing the series of fictional novels about Harry Potter, stories which captured the imagination of children across the world. She was awarded the OBE for her "services to children's literature".



JK Rowling wanted to use some of the money she had earned from her books to help orphaned children in Eastern Europe, she founded The Lumos Foundation and funded work to transform the lives of disadvantaged children living in huge, poorly funded orphanages. With her help beautiful, well equipped homes have been established, run by foster parents who love and care for young children.



## FASCINATING FACTS



### OBE Award

The OBE, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, is an honour and medal awarded to people who have **served** their country or local community, often as volunteers.

- the first honours were awarded by George V in 1917 to people who had **served** their country in World War 1 but were not soldiers
- over 800 OBEs are now given each year
- OBEs are awarded for **service** such as:
  - o helping disabled children and their families
  - o working on nature conservation projects
  - o bringing relief to carers of very sick relatives
  - o protecting and caring for our country's important buildings
  - o providing animal welfare

