



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**Kingsland CE (VA)
Primary School**



The Kingsland Times

Friday 12th September 2025

Let your light shine

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine on our vision:

As God’s children, overflowing with His light, we will shine before others to inspire, nurture and bring joy so all may embrace life in its fullness to the glory of God.

Our Christian value for this half-term is **COMPASSION**

Please help your child to reflect on the importance of this Christian value

Life at Kingsland CE Primary School: life in all its fullness (John 10:10)

It has been an excellent first full week in school! Already the children are displaying fantastic resilience and determination with their learning, along with super singing in Worship Times, and kindness and compassion at playtimes. THANK YOU to all the staff who continue to work above and beyond.

If children would like to take part in our **Education Sunday** service in Kingsland Church on Sunday 21st September 11am, please click on this online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/vxfjcwqqpg>

Uniform reminder – bracelets, friendship bands and large colourful hair accessories need to remain at home please. Thank you.

PLEASE DO NOT PLAN HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME

Kingsland CE Primary School, Kingsland, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9QN

Telephone: 01568 708436

Email: admin@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk

Website: www.kingslandceprimary.com



Dates for your diary

Sunday 21st September	Education Sunday in Kingsland Church 11am – all welcome
Tuesday 23 rd September	RWI phonics session for Y1 parents, 2.45pm – see below for details
Wednesday 24 th September	YR parents meeting with Miss Corrick 5pm – see below for details
Thursday 25th September	Welcome Party for YR and Y1 Kingsland Church 2.00pm
Friday 3 rd October	Y1/2 healthy lifestyles workshop
Wednesday 22 nd October	Parents' Evening 3.30 – 6.30pm
Thursday 23 rd October	Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.30pm
27 th Oct. – 31 st Oct.	Half term holiday

The full 2025 - 2026 term dates can be found on the school website following the link:

<https://www.kingslandceprimary.com/term-dates/>

Big Question

We continue our series of BIG QUESTIONS as a focus for family discussions. This week's BIG QUESTION is:

What is compassion?



Education Sunday

We shall be celebrating Education Sunday in Kingsland Church on Sunday 21st September at 11am – all welcome. To take part, please click on this online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/vxfjcwqqpg>



**PROUDLY
SUPPORTING
THOSE WHO
SERVE.**

Armed Forces Covenant

The school is delighted that our signed Armed Forces Covenant has been formally registered. We proudly support those who serve.



Governor news: this week the Learn to Love ethos committee met to discuss and plan upcoming school-church services, the YR Welcome Party, and to review the Christian ethos of the school.

SIAMS Inspection and School Vision

As a church school, we shall be having a SIAMS inspection at some point this academic year, the basis of which assesses the impact of the school's Christian vision – details of which can be found below ...



Kingsland Church of England (VA) Primary School



Let your light shine

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:16

Let your light shine on our vision:

As God’s children, overflowing with His light, we will shine before others to inspire, nurture and bring joy so all may embrace life in its fullness to the glory of God.

Let your light shine on our mission:

Our **deeply Christian** character is lived out through Christian values which illuminate all aspects of school life, where everyone is understood and respected as a **precious child of God**. The school’s motto “**Let your light shine**” encapsulates the school’s commitment to provide a **nourishing education** which is **deep** and **broad**, equipping children for **life in all its fullness**, focussed through **wisdom, hope, community** and **dignity**. With **spiritual development** at the heart of the school, our children are **inspired** with a love of learning, enabling them to **flourish** and embrace their fullest individual potential whilst learning how to love, and empowering others to do the same.



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Let your light shine on our aims:

- Foster confidence, delight and discipline in seeking **wisdom**; open up horizons of **hope** and **aspiration**; promote the qualities of character that enable people to flourish together in **community**; and, embrace a deep **respect** and **dignity** for the equality of everyone.
- **Celebrating individualism and uniqueness**: Through God’s light, foster both children’s and adult’s uniqueness, leadership and courageous advocacy so that they can shine their light throughout the community.
- Whilst nurturing resilient individuals who are able to cope with life’s joys and disappointments and are able to engage in a lifelong search for meaning and purpose, seek human flourishing and practical wisdom through positive personal character virtues.
- **Learning to love through faith**: Promote understanding and respect for the Christian faith and for the spiritual, cultural and moral values of others, valuing and celebrating diversity and individuality.
- Provide a safe, happy, inclusive and stimulating environment for learning at the heart of the community, in which everyone is special and all are valued and equal.
- **Developing a love of learning**: Promote educational and cultural excellence, through academic rigour, innovation, creativity and deep spiritual development.
- Help children develop lively enquiring minds and a love of learning, enabling them to flourish and to find the strength through wisdom to acknowledge their weaknesses and build their resilience so they can fulfil their God given potential.
- **Opening our eyes to a bigger world**: Encourage tolerance, teamwork and cooperation, and build relationships on mutual respect and self-discipline.
- **Being part of the common good**: Work together to challenge, inspire and motivate all our children to become successful, confident and caring global citizens within our diverse world.

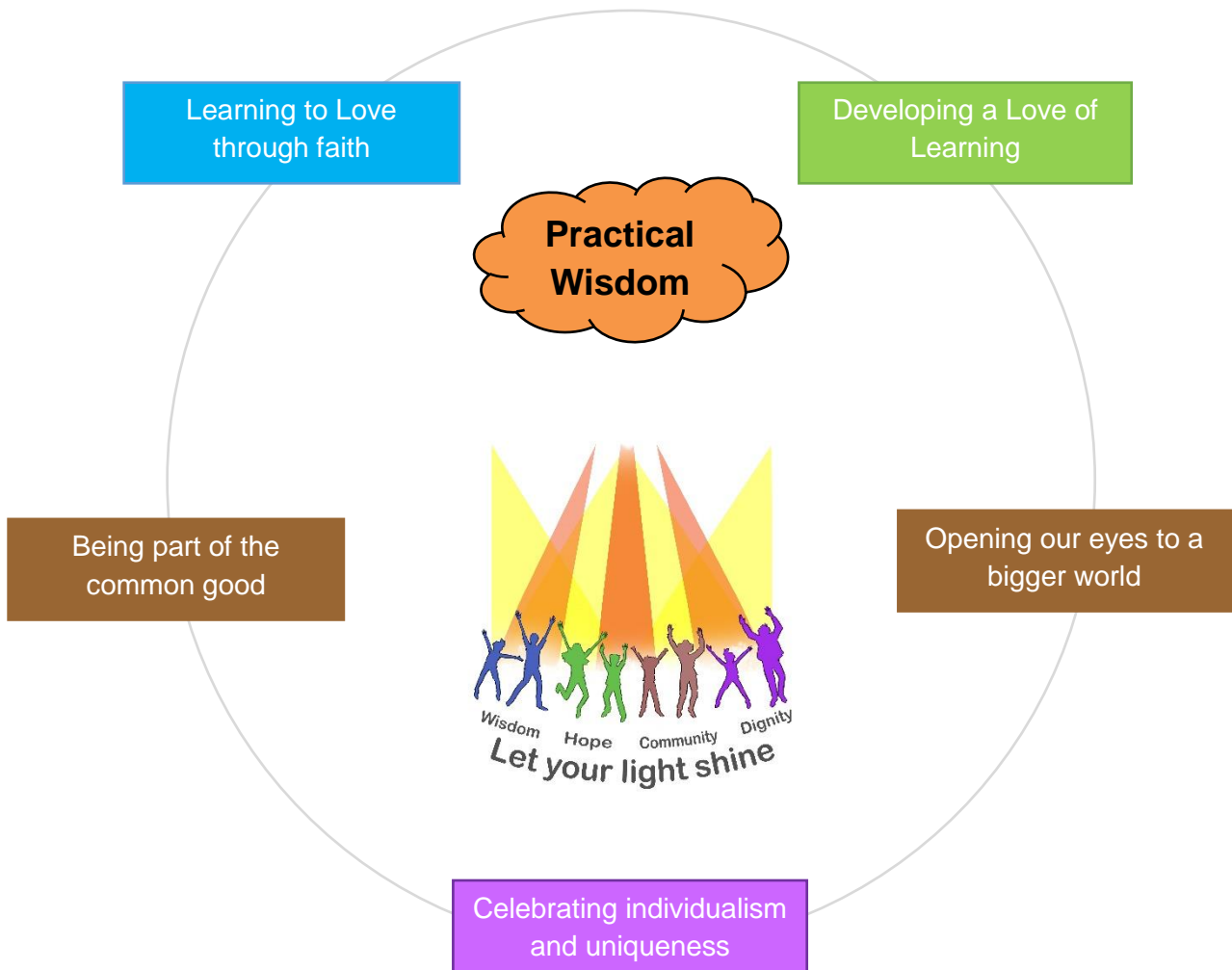


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Key Stones and Christian Values

At Kingsland CE Primary School, we embrace five **KEY STONES** which enable us to aim towards living out our vision and mission. We aim to develop **Practical Wisdom** through deeply **Christian Values** in both our children and our adults, in order to let all our lights shine and ensure human flourishing.



Let your light shine

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Deeply Christian Values

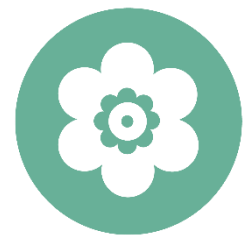
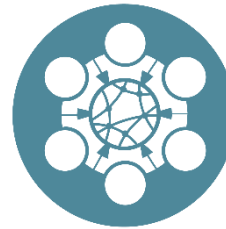
Our vision is focussed through the four key Christian elements of:

Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills

Educating for Hope and Aspiration

Educating for Community and Living Well Together

Educating for Dignity and Respect



Each half term we unpack a deeply Christian value (alongside a key British value) to help us develop a shared understanding of how to live out the school’s vision and mission, based on the Church of England’s vision for education – Educating for life in all its fullness:

Year A	
Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Educating for Hope and Aspiration	Educating for Dignity and Respect
LOVE Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs	RESPECT Mutual respect
Spring 1	Spring 2
Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills	Educating for Community and Living Well Together
JUSTICE & COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY Democracy	THANKFULNESS Individual liberty
Summer 1	Summer 2
Educating for Community and Living Well Together	Educating for Hope and Aspiration
FORGIVENESS Awareness of what it means to be British	PEACE Rule of Law

Year B

Autumn 1	Autumn 2
Educating for Hope and Aspiration	Educating for Dignity and Respect
COMPASSION Tolerance of different faiths and beliefs	KINDNESS & HONESTY Mutual respect
Spring 1	Spring 2
Educating for Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills	Educating for Community and Living Well Together
SERVICE & HUMILITY Democracy	GRATITUDE Individual liberty
Summer 1	Summer 2
Educating for Community and Living Well Together	Educating for Hope and Aspiration
RESILIENCE Awareness of what it means to be British	EQUITY & EQUALITY Rule of Law

Christian Values – Definitions

Let your light shine & Live life in all its fullness



Flourishing individuals and community



Practical Wisdom: choosing to do what you know is right



Love

Building relationships on unconditional love

Respect

Celebrating uniqueness and differences

Justice and Courageous Advocacy

Creating an active culture of justice and responsibility

Thankfulness

Seeing the best in what you already have

Forgiveness

Forgiving others as God has forgiven you

Peace

Creating hope for living well with others

Compassion

Showing care and empathy towards everyone

Kindness & Honesty

Willingly acting with generosity, empathy and truthfulness

Service and Humility

Being a responsible citizen and giving freely with modesty

Gratitude

Actively displaying thanks and appreciating others

Resilience

Sticking at it even when things are hard

Equity & Equality

Valuing everyone: fairness is not always 'sameness'

School Attendance

This week's attendance – well done Year 2!							
YR	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	School total
99%	96%	100%	94%	98.8%	99.3%	91.9%	97.1%

The school encourages all children to attend school for every session of every day the school is open to them. Thank you for your support with this.

Having excellent attendance at school is essential for children to be fulfilling their potential and flourishing with every opportunity on offer.

**MOMENTS
MATTER,
ATTENDANCE
COUNTS.**

The school's attendance policy can be found [here](#).

Please note the school is obliged to report unauthorised holiday absences to the Local Authority who will decide whether to issue a penalty notice. The school would, of course, like to avoid these situations as much as possible.



Welcome Party for YR and Y1

Parents of YR and Y1 children are invited to join us in Kingsland Church for our Welcome Party on Thursday 25th September at 2pm – as well as being welcomed to school, Rev Rosie will be welcoming children and families into the church family too.

Read Write Inc phonics session for Y1 parents

On **Tuesday 23rd September at 2.45pm**, we welcome all parents of Y1 children to a Read Write Inc phonics session with Mrs Wilson in Class 2 – an opportunity to learn how to support your child with their phonics learning and reading. Please do aim to attend if at all possible. Thank you.

Y3 and Class 4 Recorders

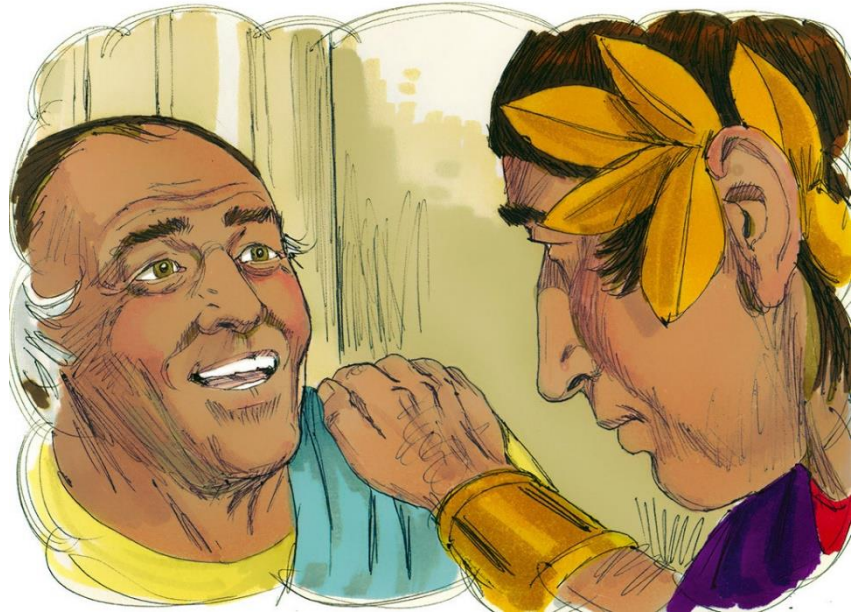
Year 3 children will be starting to learn the recorder as part of their music lessons this term. Each child will need a recorder in school every Friday please, starting on 12th September. Recorders can be purchased from the school office at a cost of £7.

Class 4 children will also be continuing with recorder lessons every Friday, and will need to bring their recorders in each week please.

Worship Time – what is compassion?

In Worship Time this week, we have considered what the value of compassion really means. Listening to the Bible story of the Unforgiving Servant (page 108 of your Storyteller Bible), we considered which character showed compassion and how the story might have been ended very differently if the first servant had showed compassion like the king.

On Thursday, we considered what small things we could do around school to show compassion – looking out for each other, using kind words, thinking about how others might be feeling – and how compassion is key to being a good friend.



Dear Lord,

Use my eyes to see new friends.

Open my mind to learn new things.

Let my heart remember you are near.

Help me to love others like you do.

Let your light shine brightly in this school.

Amen



Compassion is a gift we can give every day.

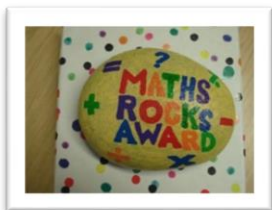
When we care for others, we help make our school and the world a kinder, better place.

What does it mean to care about someone else? Can you think of a time when someone was kind to you, or when you showed kindness to someone else?

House Tokens

Congratulations to the following children for achieving a house token!

Ambrey	Berrington	Croft	Mortimer
Poppy			



Every Friday, a child is awarded with “The Maths Rock” – this is given to a child who has especially hard in maths during the week. This week’s winner is **Niamh** ... Well done!

Congratulations go to the following children who have received Headteacher’s Awards:

Minnie for being a super compassionate courageous advocate in raising money for young lives vs cancer – well done!

YR parents' meeting

On **Wednesday 24th September at 5pm**, we invite all YR parents to a parents' meeting with Miss Corrick in Class 1, where she will talk through many aspects of life in Class 1.

Diocesan Audio Prayers

The school enjoys a strong relationship with Hereford Diocese, who have requested that the school creates audio prayers which are distributed across the entire Diocese. This week, Martha has written and delivered an audio prayer about **COMPASSIONATE COURAGEOUS ADVOCACY**, which can be heard [here](#).

Messages from the PTA

PTA

We are lucky to have an active school PTA. Please click [here](#) for information about the PTA.



*Welcome Class R parents to
Kingsland School PTA*

Please find us on;



**Kingsland School PTA
&
Kingsland School Families
Online Carboot**

**A facebook group chat has been made. Please
join the PTA page and state CLASS R. You can
then be added to the group chat.**

Bach was born in 1685 and died in 1750. He was a composer in the Baroque period.



Use the QR code to listen to Bach's cello suite in G major – a very famous piece of music.

Musician

Making Connections ...

Links between Bach and the music of The Beatles run deep. As boys, Paul McCartney and John Lennon sang in Liverpool church choirs and would have encountered Bach's church and organ music.

So it's no surprise when Bach's music seems to peer around every corner in their musical creations.

Like this moment, when one of his most joyous keyboard works, his Invention No. 8 in F, that rings out during the final section of 'All You Need Is Love'.



Use the QR code to listen to Bach's Brandenburg Concerto in D major.



Johann Sebastian Bach



Johann Sebastian Bach was born in Eisenach, Germany, where his father was a town musician. Bach came from a long line of composers – over 300 years' worth of Bachs all worked as professional musicians. By the time Johann was 10, both his parents had died, so he was brought up by his older brother, who was a church organist. Johann became a very good organist, too.

Johann Sebastian Bach held three major jobs in his life: first he worked for a duke, then for a prince, and finally, he became director of music at the St. Thomas Church and School in Leipzig, Germany. Even though his job in Leipzig kept him very busy, in his spare time, Bach conducted a group of musicians who liked to get together to perform at a local coffee house.



of the Month

During his lifetime, people thought of Bach as just an ordinary working musician. No one really knew much about his music until 100 years after his death, when another composer, Felix Mendelssohn, conducted a performance of Bach's St. Matthew Passion.

Bach is now seen as one of the greatest geniuses in music history. He wrote all kinds of music — for organ and other keyboard instruments, orchestras, choirs, and concertos for many different instrumental combinations.





Kingsland CE Primary School

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OPEN MORNINGS

Do you have a child due to start school in September 2026?



You would be most welcome to visit school on one of our Open Mornings:



Thursday 18th September at 9.30am

Wednesday 22nd October at 9.30am

Tuesday 25th November at 9.30am

Please contact the school office to book a place
(bookings are essential): 01568 708436

admin@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk



School of
SANCTUARY AWARD
Welcoming People Seeking Sanctuary



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Reception admissions for 2026-2027

Do you have a child born between
1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022

If so you will need to apply for a school place
by 15 January 2026
(to commence September 2026)

Applications can be completed from
15 September 2025 online
(scan QR code) or visit:



www.herefordshire.gov.uk/schools-education/primary-school-admissions

Please note: a place at a nursery does not
guarantee a place at the associated primary
school, therefore you must still apply.

For further information please contact the school
admissions team on 01432 260926 / 261574 or
schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk

Class teacher post

Kingsland CE Primary School

Y5/6 Class Teacher

Salary: M1 – M4 (ECTs are welcomed to apply)

Hours: 0.8 (Monday – Thursday), fixed term until 31st August 2026 (with the possibility of extending this term for the right candidate)

Location: Kingsland CE Primary School, Kingsland, Leominster, Herefordshire HR6 9QN

Commencing: 1st January 2026

Closing date: Wednesday 8th October 12pm

Interview date: Thursday 16th October 2025



Are you looking for a unique opportunity to 'let your light shine?'

Kingsland CE Primary School is a popular, innovative, high performing, rural school set in an idyllic Herefordshire village, 3 miles west of Leominster. The school provides children with firm foundations based on a strong Christian ethos which permeates everything that we do, aiming for both children and adults to 'let their lights shine'. Kingsland CE Primary School strives to offer all its pupils every opportunity to live life in all its fullness; it has a consistently high academic record with additional strengths in sport and the arts – we are proud to hold the School Games Platinum sports' award and the International School Award, as well as being a Lead Music School.

The governors and headteacher require an inspirational and highly motivated classroom teacher to join our committed team, for our mixed aged Y5/6 class. The successful candidate will have excellent subject knowledge, a passion for teaching and learning, high expectations for all children, will support the Christian ethos of the school, and will be willing to go the extra mile.

We can offer excellent CPD opportunities, supportive mentorship, and are eager to encourage all teachers to develop as effective school practitioners and leaders.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All post holders are subject to a satisfactory enhanced Disclosure Barring Service confirmation.

Visits to our fantastic school are welcomed.

For further information, to arrange a visit or to request an application pack, please telephone 01568 708436 or email Sue Lewis at slewis@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk

Dear Parents / Guardians,

The Leominster Safer Neighbourhood Team would like to invite your child to a **free** event where they will be able to meet the local policing team whilst taking part in sports activities.

Time & Date: 13:30 – 15:30 **Friday 31st October 2025**

Venue: Wigmore High School, Ford Street, Wigmore, HR6 9UN

We will also provide drinks and a snack **free** of charge.

This event is for years 5 and 6 pupils only. The plan is to have lots of fun! All they need to do is turn up and have suitable PE clothing.

To sign up please scan QR code or email Leominster.snt@westmercia.police.uk to request consent form

Once all replies have been received, we will allocate your child a place and confirm by email.

Kind Regards



Leominster Safer Neighbourhood Team

Police Academy Sports Stars

Meet your local Police Officers

For 9-11-year olds

Free

Sports Activities and Fun!

Half Term 31st October 2025



Spaces Available



2 - 4 year olds

No consumables charge

Funded and non funded spaces

Term time only

Early starts available

Call or message to arrange a visit

01568 708560



Eyton Hall Farms.

Email: fhdfarms@btinternet.com

£95per ½ lamb box. (Roughly £8-9per kg)

Our last ½ lamb boxes contained
9 cutlets
6 chops
2 shoulder joints
2 leg joints
Mince

The meat comes in a box 39x30x14 cm-
which is roughly the size of one shelf of
your average fridge.

All our livestock are fattened exclusively on our organic herbal ley farming system- meaning they get to eat a massive variety of grasses, legumes and herbs keeping them healthy and tasting great! If you would like to order a ½lamb box, please do so by the 26th September.

Please contact Leanna Dale to Order
email: cheekychicken103@hotmail.com
Phone: 07742355239 or speak to me at school.



Eyton Hall Farms.

Email: fhdfarms@btinternet.com

£314 per box
our last beef boxes contained*

10x 500g mince
6x 500g stewing steak
1x1.6kg silverside joint
1x1.5kg Topside joint
1x1.8kg chuck roast
1x1.8kg brisket Roast
1x1.5kg corner cut. Topside Joint
2x400g Rib eye steak
3x400g Rump Steak
2x250g Fillet Steak
5x 300g Sirloin Steak
2x550g Shoulder steak

The beef comes vacuum packed and
labelled in a box sized 39x30x40cm

All our livestock are fattened exclusively on our organic herbal ley farming system- meaning they get to eat a massive variety of grasses, legumes and herbs keeping them healthy and tasting great! If you would like to order a beef box, please order by 26th September.

Please contact Leanna Dale to Order
email: cheekychicken103@hotmail.com
Phone: 07742355239 or speak to me at school.

OCTOBER HALF TERM INTENSIVE SWIMMING LESSONS

Our intensive lessons are perfect for children aged 4+ who are new to lessons, or children on our Learn to Swim programme wanting to progress to the next stage.

Designed to help build confidence, improve technique, and have fun, all in just 4 sessions!

Get 50% OFF your booking — only £15.75 total for 4 lessons!

That's just £3.94 per session!*

To view days and times visit www.haloleisure.org.uk/whats-on

Limited spots – don't miss out!
Call us on 01432 842075, or pop in to your local pool to secure your child's place.

*Terms & conditions apply.

Book before
26th October
GET 50%
OFF!

halo



INTERESTED IN JOINING A SWIMMING CLUB?

We are recruiting swimmers for our

ACADEMY SQUAD

Ages 7 to 9 - Level 7 or above
A great way to supplement current swimming lessons

CONTACT US @ membership@herefordswimming.club
www.herefordswimming.club/

Worship Videos

Our 4-week series explores 'Changes'

Aut 1 - New School Year

Aut 2 - If only - what can we change? (Ecclesiastes 11:3-5)

Aut 3 - Collecting Change (calling of Levi/Matthew)

Aut 4 - Jesus Changes Lives (Jesus heals a leper)



wk 3 What do you treasure?

Jesus once said, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21).

What do you think Jesus meant by this?

- You can do this activity as a group and display your responses.
- Draw a large heart or use heart shaped sticky notes.
- Write or draw the different things that you treasure the most. They could be people, places, items or emotions and ideas.
- Is there anything missing that you would like to treasure?
- Share your heart filled with treasure with other people.

wk 4 Leaf Prayers

Now that the leaves are changing colour and falling to from the trees, you could use them to help you to pray.

- Find a leaf that has changed colour.
- Then think about things that have changed in the past for the better.
- Write one of them on the leaf.
- Repeat for other leaves.
- How big a pile of leaves can you gather to remind you of changes that you can be thankful for?
- You might like to turn these into a thanksgiving prayer to God.



wk 2 If only

How often do you check the weather in a day? Try counting it up one day. The weather is one thing we can't control. It affects how we feel too. What's your favourite weather?

Prayer Spaces in school has some great activities to help you reflect upon different themes. You can find them here: [Weather Series - Prayer Spaces In Schools](#)



Courageous Advocates

The Leprosy Mission

This charity works across the world to make a difference to people's lives who affected by leprosy today. You can find out more about how they help people through their schools webpages with activities and ideas for you to explore, including lessons plans and a worship pack that you could lead for your school. leprosymission.org.uk



Spiritual Thinking

What do I wish I could control to make things better?

What do you value the most in your life?

What is the hardest change you've ever had to go through?

Spiritual Sounds

[Tim Hughes - Whole World In His Hands - YouTube](#)

A great song by Tim Hughes that celebrates that God is in control. A powerful song to listen too when you are thinking of giving up or asking 'if only'.

[Iona - Treasure \[1994\] - YouTube](#)

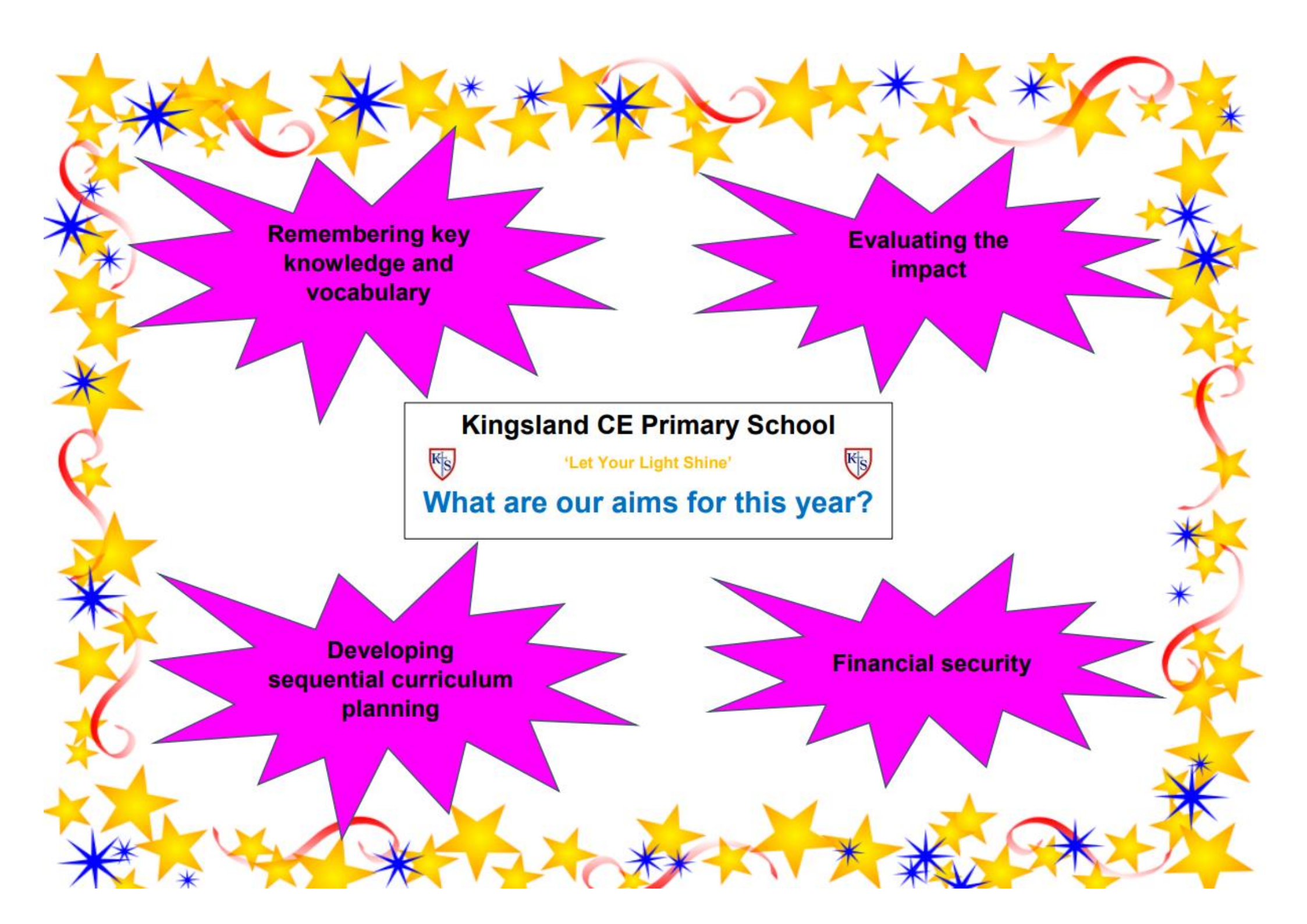
Listen to 'Treasure' by Celtic rock band Iona. This is based on the Bible verse, "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:21).



School Improvement Plan 2025 – 2026 Summary

Knowing more and remembering more – a sequential curriculum – evaluating the IMPACT

Ofsted (O): Overall effectiveness – what is it like to attend the school?		SIAMS (S): How then shall we live and learn together?
A	The Quality of Education – Love to Learn (O) Wisdom, Knowledge and Skills (S)	
1	Curriculum	Leaders to identify the key knowledge, skills and subject vocabulary they want pupils to learn and remember in the foundation subjects so that pupils can achieve as well as they do in English and mathematics Curriculum content to be reviewed to ensure that all content is well sequenced to enable pupils to learn progressively
2	Outcomes for Pupils	Further improve outcomes in some aspects of core subjects by refining elements of teaching and learning practice
B	Behaviour and Attitudes – Love to Learn (O) Community and Living Well Together (S) / Dignity and Respect (S)	
1	Behaviour	Continue to develop resilience and excellent learning behaviours
2	Attendance	Continue to improve attendance and persistent absence whilst maintaining pre-emptive actions to ensure minimal school suspensions
C	Personal Development (O) Character Development: Hope, Aspiration and Courageous Advocacy (S)	
1	SIAMS Agenda	Further embedding the ... revised Christian values timetable; opportunities to develop an active culture of justice and responsibility; opportunities for spiritual development within the curriculum; & develop the inclusivity of the school prayer and prayer boxes
2	RE teaching and learning	Review and embed new RE syllabus and assessment procedures
3	Mental health and wellbeing	Development of restorative practice principles; achievement of ARC Silver Award
4	Climate action	Development of simple climate action wins, and a shared responsibility for climate action progression
D	Leadership and Management (O) Vision and Leadership (S)	
1	Foundation subject & strategic leadership	Senior leaders will ensure that subject leaders have sufficient opportunity, and the skills needed, to check the quality of curriculum delivery, and its impact on pupils' learning; Subject leaders to carry out regular monitoring checks on how well their subjects are planned and delivered – planning / book monitoring & Pupil Voice; self-evaluate the school against the new Ofsted framework, in order to identify next steps.
2	Safeguarding	Embedding efficient and effective safeguarding record keeping systems that can be accessed by all, through My Concern
3	Governors	Develop procedures and quality of 'evaluating the impact'
4	Financial security	Tight budget monitoring and implementation
5	Outward-looking opportunities	Create opportunities for the school / staff / children to further develop an outward-looking ethos – Lead Music School, Armed Forces Covenant, ARC Silver Award
E	Early Years (O) Love to Learn	
1	EYFS curriculum	Continue to revise, refine and evaluate the EYFS curriculum to identify the key knowledge, skills and subject vocabulary which children should know and remember, based on the revised EYFS Framework 2025



**Remembering key
knowledge and
vocabulary**

**Evaluating the
impact**

Kingsland CE Primary School



'Let Your Light Shine'



What are our aims for this year?

**Developing
sequential curriculum
planning**

Financial security



Kingsland CE Primary School

Let your light shine

“Let your light shine before others that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
(Matthew 5:16)

Christian Value Family Reflection

Welcome to our Christian Value Family Reflection which offers some suggestions, thoughts and ways into exploring and reflecting on the value of this half term: **COMPASSION**



This half term's Christian value is:

COMPASSION

Educating for Hope and Aspiration

A prayer of COMPASSION

Jesus help my eyes to see, all the good you send for me. Jesus help my ears to hear, calls for help from far and near. Jesus help my feet to go, in the way that you will show. Jesus help my hands to do, all things loving, kind and true. Amen

A reflection on COMPASSION by Clare Traynor, Foundation Governor

What is compassion? The concept of compassion is sometimes used interchangeably with sympathy - a feeling of distress or pity for the suffering or misfortune of someone else. However, compassion goes further than sympathy; it embodies the desire to help. So, compassion is more than a feeling; it is a desire to care, to listen, to help and to act.

Compassion in action ... What are your instincts if you see a friend fall and cut their knee? When we see someone hurting, we want to offer them our hand. We help them up, and if we can, we try to fix the problem. This is compassion in action. It is the instinct to reach out when someone is hurting, even if we don't have the perfect words.

Compassion in the Bible - There are many stories in the Bible that illustrate compassion in action. One of these is **The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)**: Perhaps the Bible story we know best which demonstrates compassion is the parable of the Good Samaritan, or in your Storyteller Bible, The Kind Stranger (page 104). The Samaritan crossed not just the road but also cultural boundaries to care for someone in need. The Samaritan didn't hesitate; he saw suffering and responded with mercy, even when others passed by. As Christians, this is a story we look at frequently, and when I think of what I would do, I feel confident I would follow the Samaritan's example, but what would you do?

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector (Luke 19:1-10): In this story, Jesus shows compassion to a tax collector called Zacchaeus. Tax collectors had a reputation for being liars and thieves, yet Jesus chose to dine at Zacchaeus' house and show him compassion.

This act transformed Zacchaeus' life, prompting him to give half his wealth to the poor and repay those he had wronged. This story teaches us that compassion can ignite positive change in even the most hardened hearts, but more than that, it also teaches us we should also be compassionate to people who we may not think deserve it. For me, this is the most challenging example of compassion in action.

Closing thoughts - In our busy world, compassion asks us to slow down. Whether it's your parents' weary eyes after a hard day or a friend's silence that speaks volumes, I hope your compassion tunes in to these signals of suffering and helps you to connect with each other.

Finally, compassion begins with ourselves. There is an often-used phrase that rings true - **you cannot pour from an empty cup**. To be compassionate toward others, we must learn to extend that same grace toward ourselves. We must forgive our own missteps and speak to ourselves with kind words.

