



THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

**Kingsland CE (VA)  
Primary School**



# The Kingsland Times

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

## 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 **LOVE**

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)

Last year, Mr Debenham, Helen Webb (Chair of Governors) and two Y6 children were lucky enough to visit Hereford Cathedral to listen to a presentation by the Archbishop of Canterbury (Justin Welby). At the end of the presentation there was the opportunity to ask him questions. The very final question came from a child in the audience ... ‘**what is your favourite value?**’ We all listened with baited breath and after some careful consideration he said ... ‘**LOVE**’.



**PLEASE DO NOT PLAN HOLIDAYS DURING TERM TIME**

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

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### Dates for your diary

WB 12 <sup>th</sup> and 19 <sup>th</sup> October	Parents' Evening phone calls (more information to follow shortly)
26 <sup>th</sup> – 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Half term holiday
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas dinner

The full 2020 - 2021 term dates can be found on the school website (2021-2022 term dates will be available shortly) following the link: <https://www.kingslandceprimary.com/term-dates/>

Due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, our normal shared events will be arranged on an ongoing basis as the situation is constantly changing. We will endeavour to keep things as normal as possible but will understandably avoid large gatherings of people.



Every Friday, a child is awarded with "The Maths Rock" – this is given to a child who has worked especially hard in maths during the week. This week's recipient is ... **Maximus**. Well done!

### Christian Value Family Reflection

Please see below for a copy of our newly published Christian Value Family Reflection, all about LOVE.

### Worship Time with Rev. Julie

I am sure your children have told you about "seeing Julie on the TV!" Well, due to our new interactive TVs in each classroom, this is actually true! Each week, Julie is leading a Teams worship time which each class can log into on the TV screens. She is also recording a videoed worship time each week for us. It is wonderful to continue the strong connections with Kingsland Church, despite the current COVID situation.

In order to further develop the links between school, home and church, please find a link to Julie's latest videoed worship time which the children watched on Wednesday

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ab4QEv1QViY&feature=youtu.be>

We hope to further develop these links in future weeks.

### Instrumental Music Lessons

Playing a musical instrument has many educational benefits. If you would like your child to begin playing an instrument, please have a look at the Music Tuition letter on the school website which can be found [here](#) and contact the school office for further information.

### Remote Learning Resources

Further to our remote learning resources which can be found [here](#), please find detailed ideas and resources to support learning of maths Key Instant Recall Facts (KIRFs) which can be found [here](#).

### Big Question

It was great to see the children's responses to our BIG QUESTIONS over the lockdown period. We shall be continuing our series of BIG QUESTIONS as a focus for family discussions. This week's BIG QUESTION is:

**How has the LOVE that you have showed this week impacted on others?**



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

**Nate, Thomas, Scarlett and Maizie** for writing super diary entries about 'Street Child'; **Ethan** for super progress with his RWI sounds; **Owen** and **Evie** for super writing in character – well done!

### Current attendance levels – from 3<sup>rd</sup> September to 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4	Class 5	School total
98.4%	97.5%	97.1%	97.0%	94.2%	96.6%

In Herefordshire, the attendance rate is 92.4%, and nationally it is 86.2%. We are delighted that we are able to maintain attendance rates significantly higher than these levels – well done everyone!

### Admissions September 2021

Towards the end of this newsletter is a poster with information about our Open Afternoons for parents of children who are due to start school in September 2021. Please do pass the information onto anyone who may be interested.

### Birthday Treats

As you know, we love celebrating children's birthdays in school. However, as you will understand, it is critical to the safety of everyone that items being brought into school are kept at an absolute minimum. As such, it is necessary that we restrict what the children bring in for birthday celebrations.

We shall NOT be allowing cake and toys to be brought in, but children CAN (if they wish) bring multipacks of individually wrapped sweets (e.g. Haribo). These MUST be brought into school at least 3 days in advance of the child's birthday, so there can be an adequate quarantine period.

We understand that many children have had 'alternative' birthday celebrations this year due to the COVID restrictions, but thank you in advance for your understanding of these current restrictions.

### COVID symptoms

We understand that with the upcoming 'flu' season, children will display a variety of symptoms, including coughs, colds, earache etc. There are clearly difficult judgements as some of these are similar to the COVID symptoms. Please find a link to information from PHE that outlines advice about what should happen if someone displays symptoms - [https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/kingsland-ce-school/UploadedDocument/6051fa7f5e9548b185cc446e1ee31c9a/20203007\\_easy\\_read\\_household\\_isolation\\_v3.1.pdf](https://primarysite-prod-sorted.s3.amazonaws.com/kingsland-ce-school/UploadedDocument/6051fa7f5e9548b185cc446e1ee31c9a/20203007_easy_read_household_isolation_v3.1.pdf)

Government guidance clearly states that **All** persons who display **any or all** of the COVID symptoms are required to isolate away from school or their work for 10-days from onset. The only earlier return allowed within the 10-day period is for parents to supply a copy of the negative COVID test. The advice is also clear that other household members e.g. siblings of the affected child, must also stay away for 14 days from the original symptom onset.

Recognised symptoms of COVID are:

- a high temperature (37.8)
- a new cough where you keep on coughing. This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more episodes of coughing in a day
- losing or there being a change to your sense of smell or taste

We understand that the 'coughing' criteria are quite vague - it will be up to parents at home to decide whether children fit these criteria before attending school. We are aware that a positive COVID test within school may result in having to close a bubble, resulting in many children having to isolate for a 10 day period. It is essential, therefore, that close consideration of the above symptoms are adhered to.

## **COVID-19 Contingency Planning**

With the ongoing COVID-19 situation, the school is putting together contingency plans for a variety of scenarios, including a bubble closure and a whole school closure. As you know, attending school is, once again, mandatory, and we are fully aware of the school's responsibility to maintain learning for all our children. There are many aspects to consider, including staffing and changing government guidance.

Our [Remote Home Learning Resources](#) have already been published on the school website for any children who are currently unable to attend school. These will continue to evolve as the term progresses.

At this stage, we are asking parents to consider what preparations are required before a possible bubble-closure ... obviously, we very much hope that this will not be needed, but it is best to be prepared. As such, we ask that you consider the following questions:

- Do all of my children who attend Kingsland School have access to an individual device (laptop, computer or tablet – NOT a mobile phone) which connects to the internet? We aim to ensure that every child has access to device – so if you have two children at the school, two devices will be needed.
- What software will I need to access the online learning? Devices will need to be able to open PDF documents, Zip files, Word documents and video files. Printing lots of sheets would not be required given the aim for every child to have access to a device.

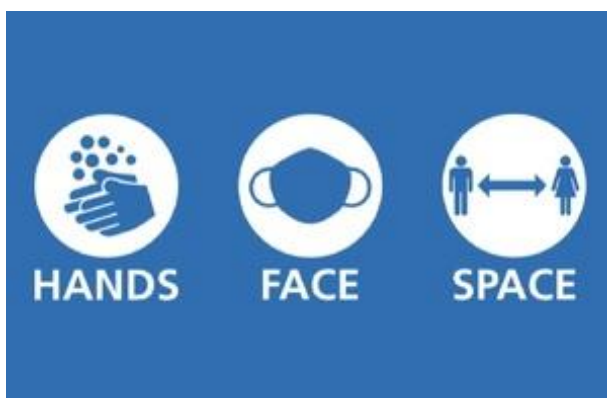
We, therefore, ask that parents contact the [teacher@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:teacher@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk) email address to let us know if each of your children do NOT have individual access to a device (laptop, computer or tablet – NOT a mobile phone) which connects to the internet. If your set-up at home is adequate, there is no need to respond. If a reply is needed, please let us know how many devices are required – we are currently investigating a variety of possibilities. We are unable to guarantee to provide a device, but we shall do our very best – if you feel you are able to invest in suitable technology, it may be worth considering this now.

We shall contact you once our contingency plans are finalised. Thank you in advance with your support during these difficult times.

### **House Tokens**

**Congratulations to the following children for achieving a house token!**

<b>Ambrey</b>	<b>Berrington</b>	<b>Croft</b>	<b>Mortimer</b>
Harry	Nicko	Amelia Harry	Aidan



### **Parents' Evenings**

If you haven't yet returned the Parents' Evening return slip, please find a copy of the letter towards the end of this newsletter and return the slip to the school office as soon as possible.

Please be aware that the school phone line will be busy between 4.00 – 6.30pm on the following dates in October due to the parents' evening phone calls: 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>.

**The online booking system for parents' evenings will go live on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September. The emails will now be sent during the AFTERNOON rather than the evening.**

Please see the information below from Herefordshire Council about Free School Meals. If you think you are eligible, please contact Mrs Lewis in the school office.

## About free school meals

All primary school children in Reception year, Year 1 and Year 2 in Herefordshire are entitled to school meals. Free school meals are available to children in other year groups if you or your partner receive benefits. If you receive benefits and your child is in Reception year, Year 1 or Year 2, please complete a free school meals application form, as the school can get extra funding if you do. You only need to complete one application form for all your children, even if they attend different schools within Herefordshire.

## Who can apply for free school meals

You can apply for free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support or Income Based Job Seekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Universal Credit if NET earnings do not exceed £7,400
- Pension Guarantee Credit
- Child Tax Credit, where Working Tax Credit is NOT in payment AND your annual income does not exceed £16,190 (as determined by HM Revenues and Customs)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (A four week payment when your employment has ceased or your working hours reduce below 16 a week)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

## How to apply

If your child or children attend school outside the county, your application for free school meals should be made to the relevant local council, even if you live in Herefordshire.

Nursery aged children attending a Herefordshire Council maintained nursery, may be eligible for free school meals but must be receiving education before and after lunch to be entitled to free school meals.

We usually process applications within 48 hours and you will receive a letter confirming your entitlement, unless your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 as your child will already be receiving a free meal. We will also inform your child's school. Please note, we cannot backdate applications.



# Kingsland C.E. Primary School



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## **RE: Parents' Evening online booking system**

September 2020

Dear parents,

Due to the COVID pandemic, we are having to restrict visitor access on the school site. As such, our October parents' evenings this year will consist of a direct phone call with class teachers. The online booking system will continue to be used (instructions below). In addition to booking a time slot, please return the slip below with the phone number that you would like class teachers to be phoning for the parents' evening conversation.

For each child you have at the school, you will receive TWO emails during the evening of **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> September**. Each email will be an invitation for one of the dates below. Simply click on the link for the day which you would like to receive a phone call and book a time slot (10 minutes each) from the choices given. You will need to book a slot for each child you have at the school, following the links in the DIFFERENT emails. If you have more than one child at the school, please take care that you book the right child with the right teacher! It is not possible to book in siblings from the SAME email link – the link is specifically for a certain teacher. Due to restricted phone lines, a maximum of two teachers can conduct conversations at the same time.

**Class 1 – Mrs Green:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October; Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

**Year 1 – Mrs Wilson:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October; Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October

**Year 2 – Mr Powell:** Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October; Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

**Year 3 – Mrs Smith:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October; Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October

**Class 4 – Miss Powis:** Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October; Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October; Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October

**Class 5 – Mrs Pritchard:** Monday 12<sup>th</sup> October; Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> October; Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October

We would ask that you try to have a small gap between slots if you are booking for siblings, just in case we run slightly late. Once you have booked, you will be sent a confirmation email with the time / date, for your reference. **If you are unable to book a slot or if you do not receive the email links, please contact Mr Debenham immediately.**

Please note that in order to ensure a smooth running of this revised system, teachers will be required to stick strictly to timings.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Debenham

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### **October Parents' Evening**

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Year group: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number for class teacher to call: \_\_\_\_\_

Second choice phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

# 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



*“ ... the quality of education provided is exceptional”*

*“Pupils’ experiences go far beyond what they learn in lessons.”*

*“Pupils’ behaviour exemplifies the aim ‘Learn to love.’”*

*(Ofsted March 2020)*

Ofsted: OUTSTANDING (March 2020)

SIAMS: OUTSTANDING (March 2018)

## OPEN AFTERNOONS 2020

**Do you have a child due to start school in September 2021?**

**You would be most welcome to visit school on one of our Open Afternoons (please bring a face mask):**

**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 4.30pm**

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 3.30pm**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> November 3.30pm**

**Please contact the school office for more details**

**(booking is essential): 01568 708436**

**[admin@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk](mailto:admin@kingslandengland.hereford.sch.uk)**

## Important notice

# Reception admissions for 2021-2022

**Do you have a child born between  
1 September 2016 and 31 August 2017?**

If so you will need to  
apply for a school place  
by **15 January 2021**  
(to commence  
September 2021)



Applications can be completed from  
14 September 2020 online at:  
[www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reception-class-admissions](http://www.herefordshire.gov.uk/reception-class-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](mailto:schooladmissions@herefordshire.gov.uk)



# Test and Trace

23 September 2020

Dear parents and guardians,

This is an important letter to share some information on how we can work together to make sure we can continue to give children and young people the best education in the safest way possible.

One important part of ensuring the safety and wellbeing of pupils, parents and our communities is testing for coronavirus. We all have a duty to make sure that the right people have access to get tested at the right time. Every time a test is used inappropriately, a person with Covid-19 symptoms may miss out on getting tested.

Therefore, I ask that you all follow these principles:

- You should only book a test if your child has any of these three coronavirus symptoms:
  1. **a high temperature:** any new high temperature where your child feels hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure the temperature)
  2. **a new continuous cough:** coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
  3. **a loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste:** a noticeable loss of smell or taste or things smell and taste different to normal
- Your child **does not need a test** if they have a runny nose, are sneezing or feeling unwell but do not have a temperature, cough or loss of, or change in, sense of smell or taste because these are not normally symptoms of coronavirus.
- If you are unsure about whether to get a test, please check the official list of symptoms on the NHS website, which is reviewed regularly:  
[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/)
- Only the person with symptoms should get a test. You do not need to get a test for anyone else in the household unless they also have any of the three symptoms listed above. All members of the household need to self-isolate whilst waiting for the test result.

- If the person with symptoms' test comes back positive, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 14 days and **only get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms.**
- If a pupil in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, anyone who is advised to self-isolate **does not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.**

No one else in the same class or bubble as the symptomatic person needs to take any action unless advised by the school. Schools have detailed guidance and access to a Department for Education and Public Health England helpline for advice and support.

Contacts of a person who has tested positive must follow the guidance carefully and in full, which means they must stay at home for 14 days. This is because it can take several days following contact with an infected person before an individual develops symptoms or the virus can be detected. Students should only book a test if they get symptoms.

The NHS has produced some guidance to help parents understand when their child can and cannot attend school which you may find useful: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/healthy-body/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

It is vital for children's learning and future opportunities that they are able to return to school and college. It is therefore vitally important that all we work together and do our bit to make this possible.

Yours sincerely,



**Professor Viv Bennett CBE**

Chief Nurse and Director Maternity and Early Years | Public Health England

Head of World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre for Public Health Nursing and Midwifery

Follow me on Twitter: @VivJBennett



**Dr Susan Hopkins**

Interim Chief Medical Officer | NHS Test & Trace

Deputy Director | Public Health England

Consultant in Infectious Diseases & Microbiology  
Royal Free, London

## Would you have kept your child off school before Covid?

YES

Keep your child off school

Keep your child off school and at home

Speak to 119 or go to the [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) website and arrange for a self test to be done

Your child and your household must self-isolate until you have the result of this test

Speak to their specialist team about testing criteria if you haven't already seen or spoken to them or had a letter in the post telling you when to be concerned



Kids who are otherwise well with:

- Runny noses
- Sore throats without a fever
- Mild colds

Can go to school as normal

Don't book a test if you don't have the three Coronavirus symptoms.

NO

Do they have

1. A new continuous cough?
2. A fever (high temperature over 37.8°C using a thermometer)?
3. A complete loss or change of smell or taste

NO

Does your child have an underlying chronic medical condition such as cystic fibrosis?

NO




YES






YES

# COVID-19 (coronavirus) absence: a quick guide for parents/carers



What to do if....	Action Needed	Back to school
....my child has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Child should get a test</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	....when child's test comes back negative and symptom free for 48 hours
...my child tests positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> </ul>	...when child feels better, and has been without a fever for at least 48 hours
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child self-isolates for at least 10 days from when the symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms)</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inform school immediately about results</li> </ul>	They can return to school after 10 days even if they have a cough or loss of smell/taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks once the infection is gone.
	<p>*Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/">www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/</a></p> <p>For further information: <a href="mailto:gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net">gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net</a>  <a href="https://gov.uk/backtoschool">gov.uk/backtoschool</a></p>	

What to do if....	Action Needed	Back to school
Somebody in my household has COVID-19 (coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child should not attend school</li> <li>• Household member with symptoms should get a test</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	... when household member test is negative, and child doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms
Somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) - even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	... when child has completed 14 days of self isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days
NHS Test and Trace has identified my child as a 'close contact' of somebody with symptoms* or confirmed COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Child self-isolates for 14 days (as advised by NHS Test and Trace) - even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> <li>• Rest of household does not need to self-isolate, unless they are a 'close contact' too</li> </ul>	...when the child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during those 14 days
We/my child has travelled and has to self-isolate as part of a period of quarantine  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do not take unauthorised leave in term time</li> <li>• Consider quarantine requirements and FCO advice when booking travel</li> <li>• Provide information to school as per attendance policy</li> </ul> <p>Returning from a destination where quarantine is needed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates for 14 days - even if they test negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	When the quarantine period of 14 days has been completed for the child, even if they test negative during those 14 days
	<p>*Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/">www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/</a></p> <p>For further information: <a href="mailto:gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net">gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net</a> <a href="http://gov.uk/backtoschool">gov.uk/backtoschool</a></p>	

What to do if....	Action Needed	Back to school
We have received advice from a medical / official source that my child must resume shielding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Contact school as advised by attendance officer / pastoral team</li> <li>• Child should shield until you are informed that restrictions are lifted and shielding is paused again</li> </ul>	When school / other agencies inform you that restrictions have been lifted and your child can return to school again
I am not sure who should get a test for COVID-19 (coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Only people with symptoms* need to get a test</li> <li>• People without symptoms are not advised to get a test, even if they are a 'close contact' of someone who tests positive</li> </ul>	
...somebody in my household has COVID-19 (Coronavirus) symptoms*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Household member with symptoms should get a test</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates while waiting for test result</li> <li>• Inform school immediately about test results</li> </ul>	...when household member test is negative, and child doesn't have COVID-19 symptoms*
...somebody in my household has tested positive for COVID-19 (Coronavirus)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child shouldn't attend school</li> <li>• Whole household self-isolates for 14 days from day when symptoms* started (or from day of test if no symptoms) – even if someone tests negative during those 14 days</li> </ul>	...when child has completed 14 days of self-isolation, even if they test negative during the 14 days
	<p>*Symptoms include at least one of a high temperature; a new continuous cough; a loss of or change to your sense of smell or taste. See more at: <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/">www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/</a></p> <p>For further information: <a href="mailto:gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net">gmhscp.contacttracing@nhs.net</a>  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/backtoschool">gov.uk/backtoschool</a></p>	



# 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)**



This half term's Christian value is:

## LOVE

Educating for Hope and Aspiration

### A prayer of LOVE

Creator God, Thank you that each of us is precious in your sight, and loved. Help us to feel that love each and every day. May we find that same love for everyone within our class at school and at home so that no one is left out; in Jesus' name. Amen



### 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: **LOVE**

### A reflection on LOVE by Rev. Julie Read

LOVE IS PATIENT, LOVE IS KIND, IT IS NOT BOASTFUL OR ENVIOUS OR ARROGANT OR RUDE, IT DOES NOT INSIST ON ITS OWN WAY ... St Paul taught about love in a poem in the Bible (you can read it all in I Corinthians Chapter 13). It is about putting someone else first and not ourselves. Sometimes it is easy for us to love others and sometimes it is very difficult. I wonder how you have found that during this “lockdown” time ...?

What a strange journey we have all been on since March when the schools were closed to all but a few, and learning has been at home with our families, with ups and downs along the way. The weather has been pretty good and I hope you were able to get out and see some of the beautiful countryside that we live in and enjoy some outside time more than usual. I know you have missed your friends and your amazing teachers. I think perhaps we have learnt to love without seeing people ... which I think is more difficult, and I have been grateful for deliveries of rainbows, and conversations in the street in Kingsland when I have seen people out enjoying the sunshine.

Coming back together is both exciting and strange as we bring together our different experiences of home schooling and family time.

Jesus told a story, a parable, about love, making sure that everyone is included, everyone is looked after, everyone is safe. It was about a farmer, well a shepherd really, who had 100 sheep, and every night he would call them into the sheepfold (his specially made stone-walled safe place) and count them in 97, 98, 99, 100. One evening he counted them in ... 97, 98, 99 ... but there was one missing. What do you think he did? Did he think “Oh well, I have 99 sheep that’s pretty good, I need to care for them”? No .... he left the 99 safely shut up for the night and went out to look for the lost sheep. As the night fell, he found it caught up in a bramble and prizing it loose, he put it over his shoulder and carried it home. THAT IS LOVE, making sure that EVERYONE is safe, and that EVERYONE lives well ... exactly what we aim to do at school.

I wonder if you can look out for everyone in your class as we come back together...? Making sure that everyone is safe, and doesn't get lost in their lessons, everyone has someone to play with, everyone is happy, and perhaps the words that you say to someone could be “HOW CAN I HELP?”