



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:

FORGIVENESS

Educating for Community and
Living Well Together



A prayer for FORGIVENESS

The things I ought not to have done, dear Lord,
I bring to the river of your forgiveness. I throw
them into the torrent of your love and wait for
them to be carried far from sight. 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: **FORGIVENESS**

A reflection on FORGIVENESS by Helen Webb, Chair of Governors

Forgiveness is one of the easiest and hardest of our Christian values. ‘Sorry’ can be easy to say but often we do not really mean it. Sometimes we cannot say it when we should because deep down inside, we are not sorry. By saying we are sorry we hope that we will be forgiven for something we have done wrong.

Someone bumps into you in the playground, ‘sorry’ they say and then run off. The next day the same person collides with you again and this time knocks you over, ‘sorry’ they say and run off again. Are they sorry? How many times should you forgive them? Can we forgive someone for hurting us when they are not really sorry?

We should all say sorry for things we have done wrong, or if we have hurt or upset someone. We all like to be forgiven.

I like cooking chocolate cakes. My children loved them. One day I baked a delicious chocolate cake but when I came to decorate it, all the flakes and the chocolate buttons in my pantry had disappeared. ‘Why haven’t you decorated the cake?’ my family asked at teatime. I explained that the decorations had vanished. Silence from around the table; everyone looked guilty. Later, as I was washing up, my oldest daughter, Rachel, came into the kitchen; she was very sorry she had eaten the sweets with her friends when they had come around to play. ‘That’s OK, but next time ask first’ I said and forgave her.

Easter usually means a lot of chocolate eggs! I had an ‘Easter egg’ cupboard where they were kept and eaten on the days following Easter. After the chocolate decorations’ incident, Rachel’s final Easter egg disappeared. She had saved it until last as it was an extra special one. Everyone else had finished theirs. She insisted someone had eaten her egg and was very cross. Eventually, after a heated family conference, her little sister, Ruth, admitted eating it and said sorry. Rachel was furious and refused to talk to her for a whole week. She would not forgive her little sister even though I had forgiven her for eating the decorations.

Sometimes it can be very hard to forgive, even someone you love. Ruth could not give the chocolate back to her sister because she had eaten it. Just saying sorry does not always make it right, but we still like to be forgiven.

There is a story in your Lion Storyteller Bible on pages 108 and 109 about forgiveness. Peter asks Jesus how many times you can forgive someone. Jesus tells a story about someone who is forgiven but cannot forgive when someone hurts them. When Jesus was dying on the cross, he cried out to God for forgiveness, not for himself, but for all of us, not just for those who had crucified him, but for all of us to be forgiven for our sins: ‘Father, forgive them for they do not know what they are doing’ (Luke Chapter 23, verse 34).

I have said ‘sorry’ to God many, many times. I hope he is not counting how many times I have asked for forgiveness!

How do you feel inside when you forgive someone who has hurt you?