

Botley C of E Primary School
Celebrating Our Christian Character
in the Autumn Term



Looking back on the Autumn term, we are delighted to reflect on how our school's Christian character continues to shape daily life and positively impact our children. Rooted in the teachings of Jesus and guided by our shared heart values of courage, stewardship and respect, this term has been rich in worship, service and community.

Living Our Heart Values

Courage

Throughout the term, pupils have shown courage in many ways – from standing up for what is right, to confidently sharing ideas in class and during collective worship. We have seen children supporting one another, trying new challenges and speaking honestly and kindly, even when it feels difficult. These moments reflect our commitment to nurturing brave hearts grounded in faith.

Stewardship

Our value of stewardship has been especially visible during the Autumn term. Pupils have thought carefully about how they care for God's world, their school and each other. From learning about food waste and thankfulness at Harvest, to looking after classroom resources and our beautiful school grounds, children have demonstrated a growing understanding of their responsibility to serve and protect creation. A group of Year 6s even planned and delivered a presentation to the whole school about how they could make small changes to protect our environment.

Respect

Respect underpins all that we do. This term, children have shown respect through attentive listening, kindness to peers, and thoughtful participation in worship. Respect for different viewpoints and experiences has been encouraged, helping pupils to grow as compassionate and reflective individuals.

Worship and Church Links

Our close relationship with All Saints' Church remains a treasured part of school life. This term, all the children attended both Harvest and Christmas services at church, where they sang beautifully, reflected prayerfully and demonstrated exemplary behaviour. We made a much-valued contribution to the Hedge End Food Bank through all of your Harvest donations. These services offered meaningful opportunities for children to express gratitude, generosity and joy within a wider faith community. We love having the opportunity to take the whole school over to the church and allowing all of the children the opportunity to experience being in the church with their friends and peers. As always, we are grateful to the parents who volunteer to support us in getting all of the children over to the church – especially for this year's Christmas service where the weather made even the short walk somewhat challenging!

We are proud of hearing our musicians and the Singing Squad perform at the church and hope to provide them with many more, and more regular, opportunities in the future. We are very fortunate to have lots of opportunities available for the children at this school thanks to Mrs Carroll, who runs singing squad, parent volunteers Lauren Rees, Stacey and Syd Lockwood and Mr Burgess who runs extra-curricular activities on a Monday, but also comes and plays for us when we visit the church.

We are also very thankful for Revd. Gregg, who has visited the school regularly to lead collective worship. His engaging and thoughtful sessions have helped pupils explore Bible stories, Christian values and how faith connects with everyday life. The children always look forward to his visits and respond with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Celebrating the Nativity

A highlight of the term was our school nativity productions by Year R and in Year 1/2, which brought the Christmas story to life with warmth and joy and put everybody in the Christmas spirit. Every child played an important role and the performances were a wonderful expression of courage and teamwork, and a powerful reminder of the message of hope, love and peace at the heart of Christmas.

A Term to Be Thankful For

The Autumn term has been a time of growth – spiritually, socially and academically. Our Christian vision continues to guide and inspire our children, helping them to flourish as confident, caring and reflective learners.

We would like to thank our children, staff, families, governors and church community for their continued support. Together, we look forward to the remainder of the year ahead, as we continue to live out our faith and values each day.

“Let all that you do be done in love.”

1 Corinthians 16:14

Our Christian Vision for Botley C of E Primary School

At this school everyone will walk faithfully alongside God as our shepherd. Through the core Christian values of respect, courage and stewardship, we aim to ensure that our school is a place in which everyone achieves, is supported, cared for and feels loved, safe and secure.

Relationships will be positive, enriching and enabling and there will be a core focus on looking after each other, our school, our wider community and God’s world. We will work together, as a whole school community, committed to ensuring success for all and that everyone is in a position whereby they are able to flourish.

All members of our inclusive community will recognise and value our Christian heart ethos values that scaffold and underpin what we will do in our school.

