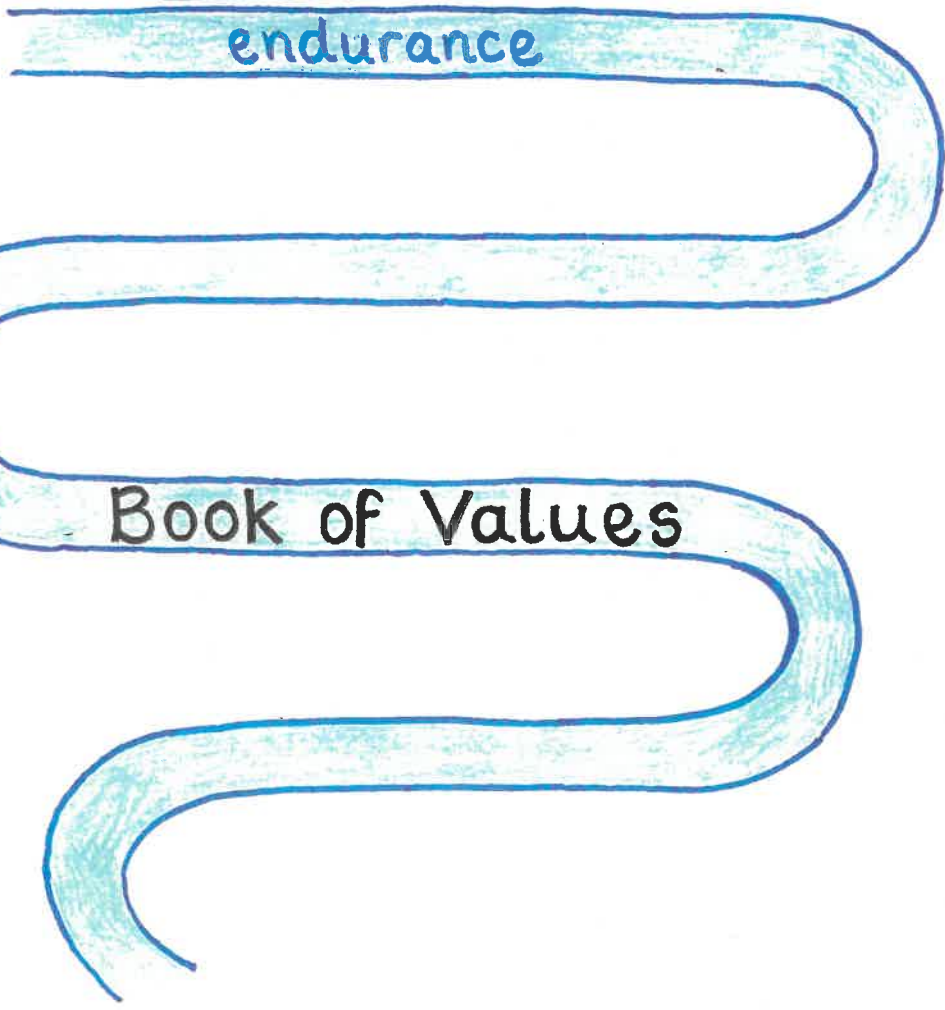
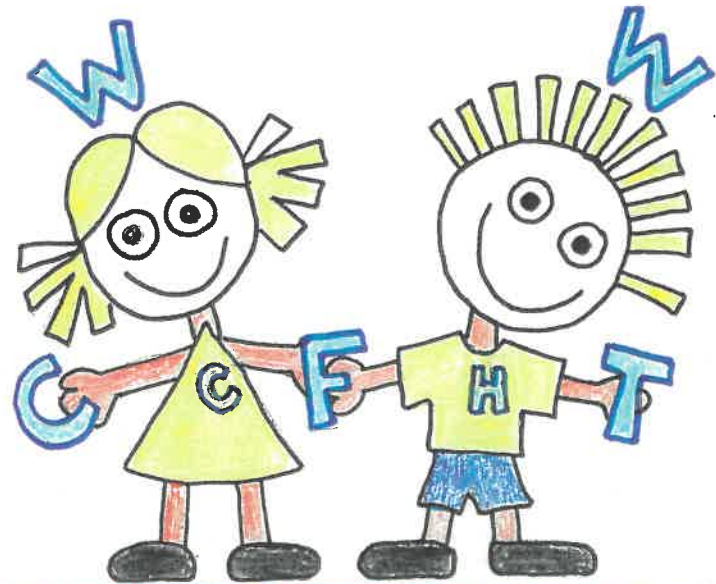


St. Helena's Church of England Primary School





Welcome to St Helena's Church of England School

"To learn is to live"

Our School Vision

Opening minds, widening horizons, developing a better world

We seek to reveal and develop the talents of everyone, so that we may flourish and become the valued and valuable person God intended us to be. We work towards every member of our school community being happy, confident, committed learners, reaching their full academic potential. We strive to open minds, widen horizons and develop a better world. We do this by providing a foundation of strong moral and social values, ensuring all can play an active, responsible role within the community.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full." John 10:10

We have chosen 8 Christian values to build our work around and ensure we grow in body, mind and spirit. These values were chosen by consulting staff, children, parents and governors.

These are Community, Compassion, Endurance, Friendship, Hope, Respect, Thankfulness and Wisdom.

We are guided by the example of Jesus and the ways in which his followers in the early church described how they tried to learn from him.



Community

Jesus' first followers worked hard to build a community where all were valued and supported all could flourish. At St Helena's, we are one small part of God's family and seek to show that everyone is of value and has a valuable contribution to make and we aim to help each other to discover this. What we learn about community in school, we can take out into the wider world.

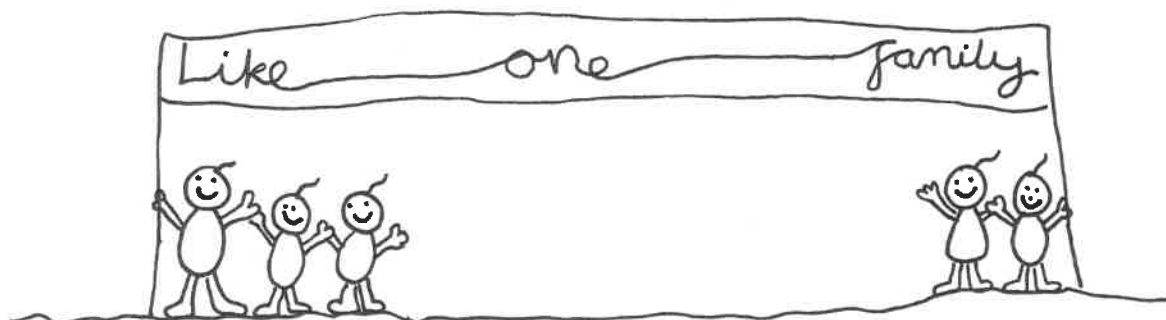
St Paul advises:

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, as indeed you are doing."

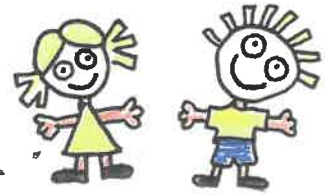
1 Thessalonians 5: 11

Our children say: "Looking after everyone involved in school makes it a better and happier place."

Our value of community is lived out through collective worship, celebration assembly, buddying systems, community lunch, church services, collaborative partnerships, joint residential trips, workshops, an open door policy, and charity work, teaching about the world, career events, uniform, School Association events and business enterprise events.



Community learners collaborate with peers and learn with and from others, gaining inspiration and ideas from different people, cultures and beliefs in the family, school, locality, nationally and internationally.



Compassion

Compassion is more than feeling sorry for someone, it is about putting yourself in someone else's shoes, trying to understand what they feel and then being motivated to do something about it.

St Paul explains that when we are all part of one family, it is like we are all the same body.

"If one part of our body hurts, we hurt all over. If one part of our body is honoured, the whole body will be happy."

1 Corinthians 12: 26 (CEV)

Our children say: "We can put ourselves in others' shoes and help when people need support."

Our value of compassion is lived out through our pastoral care, in a small school where we know each other, inclusion for all especially in Sports and Arts, a balanced approach to support and challenge, anti-bullying work and charity work.



Compassionate learners actively listen to all points of view, use empathy towards other learners and "get into the shoes" to understand fictional characters, historical figures, geographers and scientists.



Endurance

Endurance is about recognising that life is sometimes difficult and painful, but it is important not to give up. We have the example of Jesus who suffered abuse and even death rather than give up his values and what he believed.

When St Paul is talking about God's love for us and our love for each other he says:

"It (love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

1 Corinthians 13:6

In a modern Bible translation the writer of Hebrews explains what this means in practical terms:

"But we're not quitters who lose out. Oh, no! We'll stay with it and survive, trusting all the way."

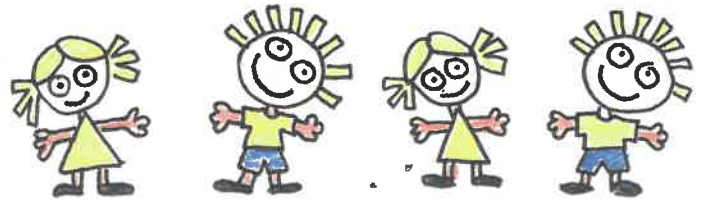
Hebrews 10:39

Our children say: "Keep going! Keep trying and don't get upset when something is difficult."

Our value of endurance is lived out through a commitment to high standards of work, constant talk of challenge and a positive attitude, targets and future goals, turning negatives into positives: 'I can't do it yet, opportunities to problem solve, a secure environment to learn from mistakes, compassionate and discreet support, staff and children's constant reflection and resilience, enjoyment and pride in learning.



Enduring learners persist and persevere, despite set-backs and risky challenges, always learning from mistakes and failure.



Hope

Hope is not just wishful thinking, it is a firm belief that the future can be good and that God can be relied upon, but it's not always easy when things are tough. St Paul explains that hope is an important and lasting value, made possible when we love and care for each other and build up our levels of trust.

At the end of his great hymn of love he says:

"And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love."

1 Corinthians 13:13

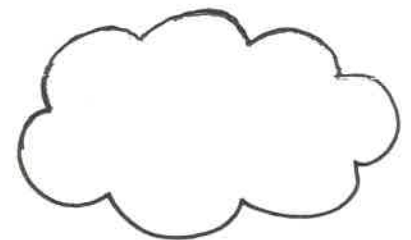
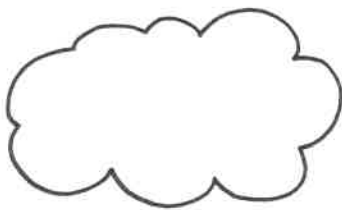
And in Hebrews:

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess."

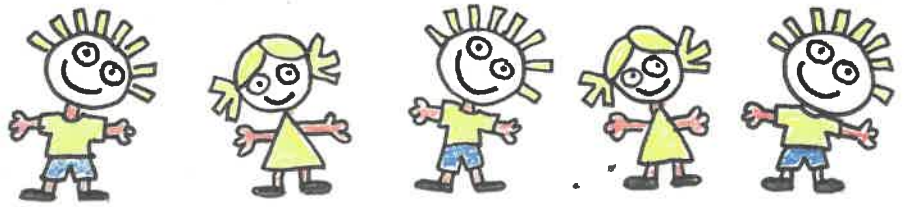
Hebrews 10:23

Our children say: "We must have the will to succeed and achieve our goals."

Our value of hope is lived out through *Collective Worship*, exploring profound questions, children's prayers, offering a second chance, never giving up on someone, future dreams, strengthening and celebrating all, staff's commitment to ensuring children's happiness and fulfilment, dealing with disasters around the world and the hopeful stories that come from them.



Hopeful learners aspire to achieve their best at all times, targeting and challenging themselves at every opportunity.



Friendship

Friendship is so important to everyone, old and young. We are created by God to have companions and friends but broken friendships can cause pain. We need to learn about building good friendships all through our lives. Friendship with God and each other runs all through the Bible. Jesus explains that if we follow his teaching and his values we can be good friends and have good friends and that friendship is based on love.

“You are my friends if you do what I command you.... I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.”

John 15:14,17

Jesus isn't talking about a romantic or sentimental sort of love; he is talking about how we treat each other. St Paul explains:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.”

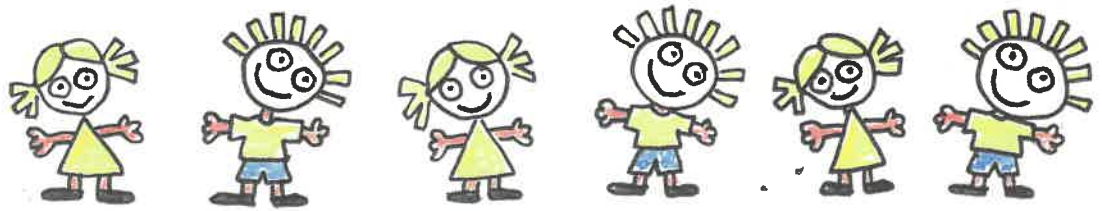
Try replacing the word 'love' with 'friends', which is what friendship is about.

Our children say: “Trust our school family - help someone with love.”

Our value of friendship is lived out through positive relationships between all children and staff, playground buddies, taking part in residential trips and activities across schools, celebration assembly, community activities, School Association opportunities, reading buddies, School Councillors, collaborative learning and structured play.



Friendly learners manage their own feelings and build strong relationships through positive, active communication.



Thankfulness

Thankfulness is so important. It is important to thank God for all the good things in life and thank other people for all the things they do for us. It shows we value other people and that we all need each other to flourish.

St Paul tells us:

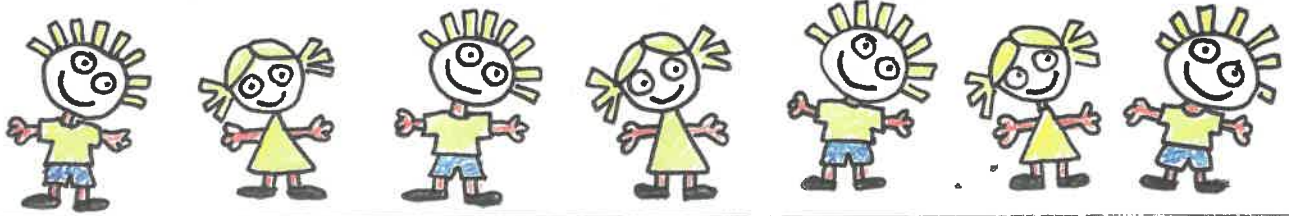
“Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

Our children say: “Let’s be grateful for what we have.”

Our value of thankfulness is lived out through celebration assembly, positive praise, written and oral feedback, displays, manners in action, awareness of those in need at home and around the world, Collective Worship, Harvest, Christingle, Easter, family, independent learning skills, being role models, deepening our self-worth.



Thankful learners celebrate and use their talents and resources to build, create, imagine, discover and explore the world around them.



Wisdom

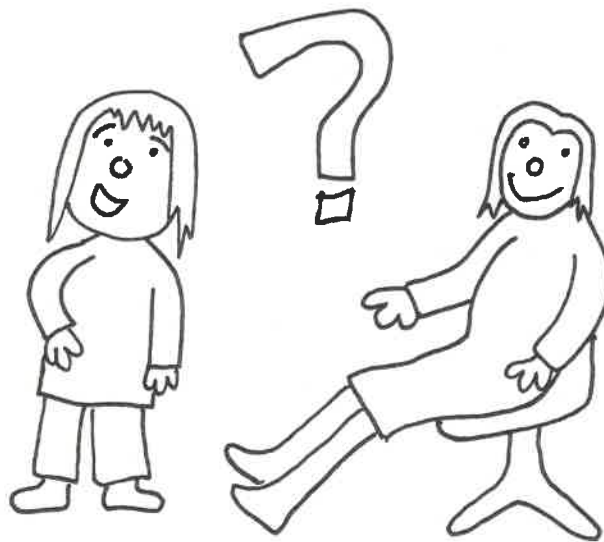
Wisdom is not the same as being clever. Wisdom is about making good and wise choices in life, it is about the way we choose to live our lives; it is about insight into the way life works. Jesus's brother St James tells us what God's wisdom is like, this is what we want to develop. It is best learned from wise people and from the example of Jesus.

"But the wisdom that comes from above leads us to be pure, friendly, gentle, sensible, kind, helpful, genuine, and sincere."

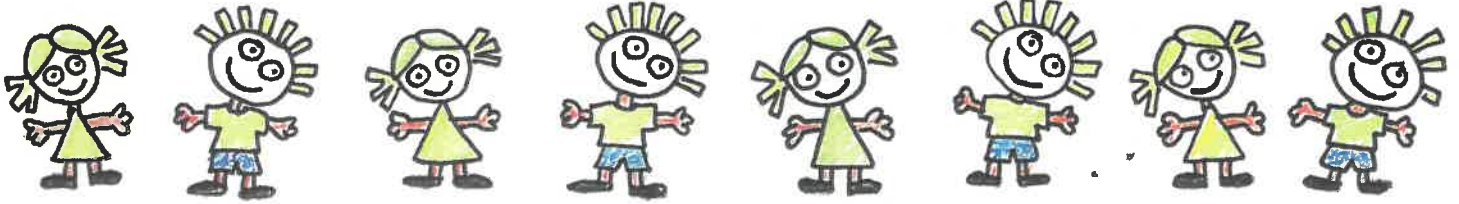
James 3:17

Our children say: "Always make the most of our choices."

Our value of wisdom is lived out through discussion forums when things go wrong, aspirational conversations (Learning Plans, career events), home learning as a shared experience, expert speakers, visitors, staff willing to ask questions of and help their pupils, role play, responsibility for and ownership of learning, school council and learning from Humanity.



Wise learners use all they know and apply it to new and unfamiliar situations in positive ways, seizing every chance for life-long learning.



Respect

Respect is how you feel about someone, thinking and acting in a positive way about yourself and others. Having respect for someone means you think good things about who a person is or how they act. You can have respect for others, you can have respect for yourself and have respect for your environment. Showing respect to someone means you act in a way that shows you care about their feelings and well-being.

“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,”

1 Peter 3:15

Our children say: “Respect everyone’s opinions and feelings even if they are not the same as yours”

Our value of respect is lived out in school through the use of kind words and gentle voices, smiling, helping other people, being careful and thoughtful towards others, kind actions, politeness, listening carefully, looking after resources and environment.



Respectful learners take care of other people, their learning environment, resources and themselves.

St Teresa of Avila gave some sound advice:

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.
Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)