



Newsletter April

April 2025

Our Christian value this term is: Friendship

This term we will be focussing in school on the value FRIENDSHIP. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK ABOUT FRIENDSHIP TOGETHER...
 Learning to be a good **friend**, someone who can be trusted and is loyal, takes a lifetime.
 Talk together about how **friends** come in all shapes and sizes. Some are young, some are old. Some are always there, some we see only occasionally.

- How do we choose our **friends**?
- What makes a good **friend**?
- Are we a good **friend** to others?

THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom
 "A good **friend** is worth their weight in gold."
Anon
 That's a lot of gold! Why do you think that this is such a popular proverb?

FAMILY FOCUS Friends of the Family
 This term's family challenge is to make a card or present for someone who is a **friend** to your whole family. You could add a gift tag saying...

Our family has been thinking about friendship. This is a thank you gift for being a special friend to all of us.

READ TOGETHER... Through the roof

Jesus reached a town called Capernaum and made his way to a house near the town gate. The crowd had gathered quickly and now even more people were pushing and squeezing into the small house, wanting to see him, hear him and touch him.

The excitement was infectious and four **friends** who lived in a street nearby soon heard the news. They met together and decided that they absolutely *had* to take their **friend** Joshua to Jesus. Joshua was paralysed and couldn't walk. They'd heard that Jesus performed miracles and could heal the sick. This was a chance they couldn't miss.

Wasting no time they carried their **friend** on his bed mat to the house, but jostling crowds blocked the doorway. They couldn't give up now. Their **friend** *must* meet Jesus. There was only one way. They carried him on to the flat roof of the house and carefully removed part of the roof to make a large hole. Knotting ropes to the corners of the bed mat they gently lowered Joshua down right in front of Jesus. Imagine the surprise of all the people looking on. But Jesus smiled kindly at Joshua. "Take up your bed, and walk" he said. Slowly, falteringly and hardly daring to believe it was happening, Joshua stood and took a step forward. He could walk. He could actually walk! Thanks to Jesus and his **friends**, Joshua's life was changed forever!

Bible story based on Mark 2:1-12

QUIZ Picture puzzle
 Take the first letter of each object to discover who helped the paralysed man.

				
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FASCINATING FACTS

Friendship Bands

Friendship bracelets are usually handmade and given to a special **friend**. According to American tradition you must wear the bracelet until the cords break and it falls off naturally. In this way you honour the love and hard work your **friend** put in to making it.



Raksha Bandhan

One special type of **friendship** bracelet is a Rakhi. Each year, normally in August, many Hindus mark Raksha Bandhan. The festival is a celebration of family life and in particular the relationship between brothers and sisters. They remember and talk about special times together, and think about loyalty, closeness, trust and their everlasting **friendship**.

- Traditionally sisters tie a sacred thread, a Rakhi, on to their brothers' wrists.
- In response the brothers give their sisters a gift promising to help them whenever the need arises and to always protect them.
- Celebrations continue throughout the day with gifts of sweets and special food as families enjoy the time they share together.



HALL OF FAME



A dog is a man's best Friend

Near the village of Beddgelert in North Wales is a beautiful sculpture of a very special **friend**.

According to legend, the monument marks the resting place of the faithful dog, Gelert, who once belonged to the medieval Welsh Prince, Llewelyn the Great. A tombstone tells the story of a fateful day when Llewelyn went out hunting leaving the faithful hound, Gelert, to guard his young son. On his return Gelert sprang to greet his master, but Llewelyn noticed some blood on his fur. He rushed inside his house. To his horror the first thing he saw was his son's cot. It was empty!

The frantic father turned on the dog, thinking he must have harmed the boy. He killed Gelert there and then with his sword. At that moment a child's cry rang out through the house. Llewelyn searched and discovered his boy unharmed, but nearby lay the body of a mighty wolf which Gelert had killed before it attacked the small child.

Prince Llewelyn is said never to have smiled again and with tears of sadness he buried Gelert in this place, which became known as "the grave of Gelert", or in Welsh, Beddgelert.



HOME-SCHOOL CHALLENGE

Use your imagination to make the best **friendship** bracelet ever – using knotting, threading beads, twisting ribbon, whatever you can think of. The more original the better!

or, if you prefer...

make your own large version of the picture puzzle (over the page), joining 5 or 6 words about **friendship**. Either draw pictures or cut them out of magazines.



NCSA UPDATE

It was great to see some new faces at the AGM last month, but for those that weren't able to attend here's some information about what it is and what we do. If you want to find out more, or have any suggestions, then please do reach out to anyone on the committee!

What is the NCSA?

NCSA stands for the North Cerney School Association. It is a registered charity that supports the school community by organising extracurricular events (discos, movies, duck race, Christmas Fete etc) and fundraising to support school activities.

Who is in the NCSA?

Anyone can be part of the NCSA.

There are a couple of formal roles (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer), and then a community of volunteers. People can either be on the committee and help with event organising, or we very much welcome ad hoc volunteers who are happy to be called upon to help out at events.

Chair: Jess James (taking over from the wonderful Deborah Bevan who has been Chair for the last 7 years!)

Treasurer: Helen Beesly

Secretary: David Hayward

What has the NCSA achieved in the last year?

The NCSA has had a successful year, organising a host of events and raising £4,477.

The NCSA has funded, amongst other things; coaches for numerous school trips, Easter and Christmas gifts for the pupils, zoo visit to the school, and leavers hoodies for the year 6 pupils.

The NCSA has also contributed significantly to the school playground, purchasing a new trim trail (linear wooden climbing frame) for the field, and replanting the flowerbeds and replacing the planters in the playground.

Dates for the diary

Saturday 17th May - North Cerney Scamper. This is an opportunity for those aged 12+ to run or walk a 5k or 10k fun trail run to support the Village Hall and NCSA. It's worth noting that the Village Hall now provides free use of the Hall facilities to the school and NCSA, so supporting the Scamper is a win win!

Sign up here: <https://race-nation.co.uk/register/north-cerney-village-hall/north-cerney-scamper-2025>

15th July - BBQ and duck race at the Bathurst Arms after school

Ice cream sales after school - dates TBC depending on the weather!

Thank you NCSA. everyone had a wonderful time at the school disco. Lots of great dancing!



MOTHERING SUNDAY SERVICE

Thank you to the Ames family for coming to the Mothering Sunday service.

We shared pictures of the lovely cards we had made at school with the rest of the congregation. Reverend Minns planned a fun activity to help everyone think about people who we love who have helped us. We all drew around our hands and filled them with names (inspired by the Bible story in Isaiah 49:16). It was fun singing 'Great, great, brill brill' and finding out what Scruffy the dog had been up to that day.



Eloise was amazingly sensible and polite - she handed daffodils out to all the mothers in the church

FOREST SCHOOL

We had a lovely sunny morning at forest school. Our potatoes are growing well. The children made 'pinchy' bookmarks. They were beautiful.



WREN CLASS

Easter Garden Making

Across two lovely Easter garden making afternoons, Wren class have really enjoyed inviting parents and grandparents in to help bring their designs to life. There was a huge amount of creativity on display. Thank you to everyone for helping us have such enjoyable afternoons.







Living Eggs programme -

We are very excited and proud to announce that 10 out of 10 of the Wren Class chicks have hatched! We have 4 boys and 6 girls. If you would like to learn more about the Living Eggs programme you can visit the following link: [Hatching chicks in schools](#)



KINGFISHER CLASS

Kingfisher class explored capacity in Maths. We used different measuring containers to discover how much water could fit into the containers. The children worked very hard at their learning - well done.



OWL CLASS

Science -

Owl class have started their growing up and growing old science topic. They had to develop an investigation to see which nappy was the most absorbent. They carefully designed an investigation that gave clear results. 5 out of 6 groups had the same winning nappy.



Scrubditch Farm

Year 6 had a brilliant morning at Scrubditch Care Farm holding the new lambs and feeding the goats, sheep and chickens.



Thank you to everyone for your support and for the kind donations for the cake sale which was a great success and raised funds for Scrubditch's exciting new project.

Mock Trial

Owl class had a great time at the mock trial in Cheltenham. They were on the prosecuting team and won! They learnt about how a trial works and the protocol involved. Congratulations on a great performance to all those involved.



Wildlife Trust Nature Quiz

Well done to our Wildlife Trust nature quiz team who made it through to the next round of the competition.



Reading Ambassadors

Well done to our students who have become reading ambassadors.

Our reading ambassadors will be sharing their love of reading with the rest of the school, offering advice and supporting others to develop a love of reading. Reading ambassadors go into all the classrooms and share books with younger children, and inspire them to read new authors and expand their love of books by developing new reading choices.

