COMPASSION

This term our Collective Worship focus will be based on the value COMPASSION. We hope your family find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

TALK TOGETHER
about Compassion

Compassion is about 'standing in someone else's shoes' when they are having a hard time. In other words, trying to understand how they might be feeling and doing our best to try and help.

Talk together about:

- How we can show compassion and kindness to one another at home
- Recognising when friends at school need us to listen and act with compassion
- Stories in the news demonstrating how strangers show compassion in times of natural disasters
- How nations show compassion to other nations at times of disaster or need by sending money or volunteers to help.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted."
Aesop

READ TOGETHER

The Good Samaritan

When someone asked Jesus the question, "Who is my neighbour?" he told a story that surprised everyone who heard it. The hero was from Samaria but those listening were mainly Jews. (Jews and Samaritans usually kept well away from each other).

"A man set out on foot from Jerusalem to a town called Jericho", said Jesus. The crowd murmured and exchanged knowing glances. They knew this was a lonely, dangerous road, a favourite place for robbers to attack travellers. "As the man reached a rocky and desolate place, a gang of robbers leapt out and beat him. They took all that he had and left him bleeding and bruised. To the man's relief, he saw in the distance a priest from the temple. A priest is bound to help me, thought the man. He waited until the priest came a little closer and then called out, 'Thank goodness it is you. Please Sir, take me to safety.' But to his amazement the priest hurried past pretending not to see or hear him.

As the poor, injured man grew weaker and weaker in the burning midday sun, he once again heard footsteps. Looking up he saw a Levite, another of his own people. 'Please Sir, please help me', he called out. Surely this Levite would take pity on him, but to his horror the Levite just kept on walking.

The man had almost given up hope when he felt a gentle touch on his shoulder. A stranger, a Samaritan, had bent down beside him and was bandaging his wounds and giving him sips of water to drink. The Samaritan helped the man on to his own donkey and slowly, carefully took him all the way to an inn. There he paid the innkeeper to look after the man until he was well. The man never forgot the compassion and kindness of the Samaritan stranger."

"Who do you think was a good neighbour?" asked Jesus.

Everywhere you go, leave a glitter trail of **KINDNESS** behind you.

Unique Teaching Resources

HELPING HANDS

As well as being kind and showing compassion in what we say, it is often what we do that other people remember.

Draw and cut out the shape of each person's hand in your family. Decorate it with all the random acts of kindness that they have shown. Mount the hands of each member of your family on some paper so they look fantastic and ready to be displayed.

FACINATING FACTS

What a difference compassion and kindness can make! Numerous charities help people who have been hurt, are ill or suffer through lack of resources. Below are just 3:

1. World vision encourages individuals and groups to 'Sponsor a Child' in an area of the world where food, health and education cannot be taken for granted. For a small donation the life of a child can be transformed by providing help to grow food, source clean water, improve health services and pay for education.

2. Help for Heroes was set up after many British soldiers returned from war zones in Iraq and Afghanistan. By giving to this charity the public show their compassion for the soldiers and their families and recognise the service they gave on behalf of us all.

3. Help the Hospices Sometimes when people become very ill they go to a hospice which will provide them with care and compassion. Often hospices are maintained by donations from people who admire and value their service or who have had a relative who has been helped by the hospice.

World Vision

H■LP for **HEROES**

hospice UK