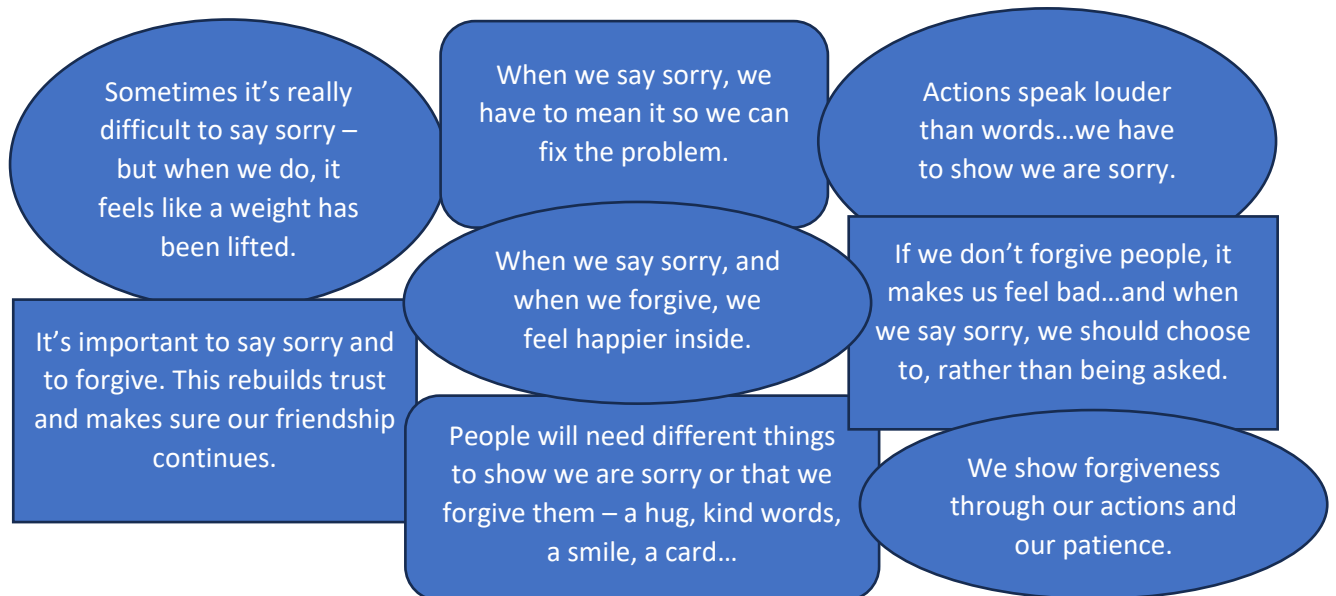




News from Whitchurch C of E Primary School

As a church school, our collective worship is important in our weekly routines and in our vision and values, with a daily time for reflection. Each half term, we have a different 'theme' that we focus on, reflecting on stories from the Bible and how these can highlight messages about how we should live our lives, whether we are actively religious, or not. So far this year, we have focussed on the ideas of justice, equality, equity, and how we can be a 'game changer' in terms of challenging the things we see in our world and our society that are unfair, unjust, and just plain wrong!

As we are now heading towards Easter, we are focussing on the concept and action of forgiveness and the flip side of the coin...showing we are sorry when we get things wrong. The children have looked at a variety of scenarios in which we may need to say sorry and how this is best demonstrated. We have also looked at the importance of forgiveness – both for the person we are forgiving and for ourselves, knowing that carrying around anger and resentment is, in the long term, more damaging to us than the original wrongdoing. This week, the children thought about these situations and what it means to be sorry. Their reflections included the following:



When the children reflect on these things, their responses generally cut to the heart of things. As they say, it's very simple – we all mess up at times, but we can make it better by saying sorry; and if we are on the receiving end of the 'mess up', we can make it better by forgiving others for being human and getting things wrong.

We started our theme of forgiveness this half term by first looking at the concept of love and how big God's love is, and how big our love can be. We re-read the book, 'Guess How Much I Love You' by Sam McBratney in which Little Nut Brown Hare and Big Nut Brown Hare compare their love for each other – with the infamous phrase, 'I love you to the moon and back' bringing the story to a close. We have reflected with the children that it takes love to say sorry and it takes love to show forgiveness....and in the Easter story, we have the perfect example of this.