PUDDLETOWN VC CE FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

In God's light, we shine



October 2026

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Dear Families,

Thank you to all of you that shared your views on our current Christian vision for the school. Having met with our clergy, staff, Governors, pupils and with support from our church school flourishing leads from Salisbury diocese we have reflected and reimagined our vision for the school. Our Christian vision is a like our North star, a way to guide us and keep us moving in the same direction towards our core purpose. After many discussions and workshops, we have refreshed our vision to be simple to understand and remember and have enough substance to sustain our purpose over the coming years. We feel that our school should provide the environment to allow everybody to shine.

Our vision is inspired by the **Transfiguration** (Matthew 17:1–8). On the mountain, Jesus is revealed in God's light and God says:

"This is my Son, whom I love."
Matthew 17:5

The story reminds us that, before anything else, we are known and loved by God. We want every child and adult in our school to experience that same sense of being known, valued and belonging.

REMINDERS

For safety, Please keep your children with you as you leave the school in the afternoon.

Please do not ride scooters and bikes on school premises in case we bump into others. Thank you

The Transfiguration is also a story of change and courage. When the disciples are frightened, Jesus comes to them and says:

"Get up. Don't be afraid."

Matthew 17:7

This inspires us to have the courage to learn and grow. We encourage one another to be curious, to ask questions, to take risks, to persevere when things are difficult and to discover the gifts and possibilities within ourselves.

And the disciples do not remain on the mountain. They take their experience of God's light back into everyday life. In the same way, our vision calls us to live differently because of what we have experienced.

Jesus tells us:

"Let your light shine before others."

Matthew 5:16

For us, **shining means flourishing**. It does not mean being the best or shining more brightly than somebody else. It means becoming the fullness of who we can be, developing our gifts and character and using them for good. Shining lights have been a valued part of our worship and we wanted to keep and enliven this aspect of our vision.

Our new three values help us to live this out:

CARE

"This is my Son, whom I love."

Because we are known and loved, we seek to know, value and care for one another, creating a community where everyone belongs. We also care for our environment.

COURAGE

"Don't be afraid,"

We have the courage to learn, question, try, persevere and grow and stand up for what is right.

HOPE

"Let your light shine before others."

Because God's light points us towards possibility, we look forward with hope, believing that things can change, be better and that we can make a difference.

Our vision does not stop with our own flourishing. Jesus calls us to let our light shine before others. We therefore want children to understand that their gifts, learning and opportunities carry a responsibility to others.

We shine when we help others to shine.

As a Church of England school, Christian faith is the foundation of our vision however we hope that with this new vision, children and families of all faiths and none are also able to be inspired.

In other news, As part of our commitment to promoting the love of reading and as part of the Dorchester literacy festival, we had the author Jim Beckett visit key stage 1 in school while years 3 and 4 went to Thomas Hardye school to have a live author visit with Tom Mclaughlin. It was so lovely to see children coming out clutching their books inspired by the dyslexic authors story of overcoming his barriers to reading and writing. Thanks to Mrs Murphy for organising.





Trees for Dorset have also been in working with year 1 and 3 collecting tree seeds/nuts and learning about the life cycles and ecosystems around us.

We are excited to be heading into this Christmas half term with all its excitement and lovely activities. Do check the calendar on our website for details.

Mrs Anna Seal Head of school