

Attendance target: 95% Actual Attendance: 89%



St Laurence Catholic Primary School

Autumn 1 Newsletter - October 2023

Through God's grace, a community growing in knowledge and understanding.

Ten:Ten Newsletter



Pope Francis ✓
@Pontifex

The proclamation of Christ is one of hope. He knows the anguish and hope we bear in our hearts, the joys and struggles that mark our lives, the darkness that assails us, and the faith that we raise to Heaven like a song in the night. [#MissionaryOctober](#) [#MissionMonth](#)

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is the first issue of our new half-termly newsletter. We have listened to the feedback given to governors, last term, and we are no longer sending out a weekly newsletter. Instead, you will have a bumper issue, every half term with a submission from each class. We hope you enjoy looking through them all. Curriculum Plans, for each year group, can be found on the class pages on the website.

[Click here to access the Curriculum Maps](#)

As some of you know, we are restructuring Y5/6 into a Y5, Y6 and Y5/6. The class teacher list has been updated to reflect this. Mr Meredith, who has been with us this half-term, is moving on to a new challenge and Mrs Tilley (experienced Y5/6 teacher) is taking his place. So it's a fond farewell to Mr Meredith and a huge welcome to Mrs Tilley!

Finally, could I remind parents that they are not allowed to use the car park, morning or afternoon, unless you have a parking pass from us. There have been some near misses due to it being overly full and people not taking great care and attention.

Mrs McGhee Wallace and the St. Laurence Team

Committed to the words of Christ and the Gospel Values.



Head of School

Mrs McGhee Wallace

Assistant Head

Mrs Chalklin

SENCo/Inclusion

Mrs Harvey

Our Classes

Wrens Mrs Chalklin

Skylarks Miss Armstrong
- Mortlock

Kingfishers Mrs Watson/
Mrs Thompson

Quails Mrs Kitagawa

Swallows Miss Corcoran

Doves Mrs Groves

Magpies Miss Ward

Owls Mrs Tilley

Kestrels Mrs Prokop



For yours and your children's safety, please do not enter the car park unless you have permission to do so, in your car.

TERM DATES

Autumn Term

School closes for the Christmas break on Thursday 21st December.

PD Day 3rd January

Pupils return to school on 4th January

Administrative Officer
Mrs Rokitnicka

Administrative Assistant
Miss Tu

Caretaker
Mr. Tapp



Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

What Sort of Start is Your Child Getting?

Just a little bit late doesn't seem much but.....

He/ She is only missing just....	That equals....	Which is.....	and over 13 years of schooling that's....
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1.5 weeks per year	Nearly <u>Half a year</u>
20 minutes per day	1 hour 40 mins per week	Over 2.5 Weeks per year	Nearly <u>1 year</u>
Half an hour per day	Half a day per week	4 Weeks per Year	Nearly <u>1 and a Half years</u>
1 hour per day	1 day per week	5 Weeks per year	Over <u>2 and a Half years</u>

Did you know your child's best learning time is the start of the school day?

That's when every minute counts the most!!

SCHOOL starts at 8.55 a.m.

Every MINUTE Counts

Every Child Matters, Everyday

Ask us about help with getting your children to school everyday!!!



The children in Wrens class have all settled well and enjoyed their first half term at school.

They have all gained in confidence as they have become familiar with their classroom and accessing the continuous provision during explore and learn time as well as their visits to our Forest School. This term, the children have been learning that they are special and loved by God. They each carefully painted their portrait which are displayed in the school hall. They made handprints on a special altar cloth ready for their Welcome Liturgy which they shared with their Year 6 buddies who have been helping them to settle into school this term.



All the children enjoyed our African drumming workshop and demonstrated a fantastic amount of natural rhythm! The children have also been working hard to learn their phonics sounds and they are particularly enthusiastic about blending practice and reading their first words.





Year One have had a wonderful start to their first half-term in Key Stage One. In English, we have had a great time looking at Beegu and Where the Wild Things Are, as well as producing some superb writing all about Autumn.



In maths, we have used a range of resources and have just finished our first unit, "Numbers to Ten". We are going to look at the Part-Whole model next.



As well as starting to learn about our senses in science and the world around us in geography, we have been learning about the Creation story in R.E. We will be completing our topic on families after half-term.

The children have been working very hard, and have settled in well. It is lovely to see them working together and enjoying the last of the sunny days, before we really need our wellies for forest school sessions. Autumn is beginning to arrive, and we are recognising all of the signs with the days getting shorter, leaves starting to fall, and lots of conkers- which make excellent resources for practicing counting when out on a walk!



Kingfishers



Autumn First Half Term
2023



Firstly, Mrs Watson and I would like to say what a privilege it has been to teach all the wonderful children in Kingfishers this half term. Every child has shown a fantastic enthusiasm for learning and has engaged in tasks well. Miss Li Gotti and Mrs Taylor Crush would like to join us in praising the children in Kingfishers for their hard work and positive attitudes to learning. We know your support from home is a big factor here.

R.E. has focused on Beginnings and the children worked in groups to create collages of the Creation Story (shown above) and more recently, learnt of the symbolism of objects used in Baptism.



In English we started by reading and writing character descriptions. The children made careful choices in adjectives to capture the individual, based upon inspiration from 'Grandad's Island' by Benji Davies. The children have recently shown they can remember the structure of a fable as well adopting lots of story-telling language.

In Mathematics, the children have developed their knowledge of place value of numbers. They have used a variety of strategies and a wide range of vocabulary when adding and subtracting and solving a range of related problems. Great resilience, Kingfishers!

October has seen us celebrating Black History month both as a school and also in class. The children were lucky enough to participate in both an African drumming workshop and a dance session. Great fun was had with the dynamic vibes of each event.



Finally, these photos show the children's focus on their learning whilst making crosses. They sometimes hold these in their hands whilst praying. When not in use, these crosses are kept on the class altar.



We very much look forward to teaching Kingfishers in the second half of the Autumn Term and creating more exciting learning experiences for the children.

ONLINE SAFETY



Does your child watch livestreams?

What is livestreaming?



Livestreaming is when an individual broadcasts videos live over the internet. People can watch livestreams from any device that is connected to the internet.

Who is watching livestreaming?

Research from Ofcom reported that 57% of 3 – 17 year olds have watched live streams and the most used platforms to watch live streams were YouTube and TikTok. The research also showed that the percentage watching content on livestreaming app/sites increased by age. A third of 3-4 year olds were watching live content with this number growing to eight in ten of 16-17 year olds. This is reported in [Children and parents: media use and attitudes report 2022 \(ofcom.org.uk\)](https://www.ofcom.gov.uk/consult/condocs/childrenparents/childrenparents22/childrenparents22.pdf).

What are the risks?

There are risks associated with watching livestreams that you should be aware of. The main risk being that your child may see or hear something inappropriate as your child may come across themes or content that is not suitable for them. It is difficult to moderate live content as it is happening in real time.

How can I help my child?

- All online platforms have an age rating, ensure your child only accesses platforms that are appropriate to their age. For example, TikTok has an age rating of 13.
- For any platforms that your child uses, ensure appropriate parental controls and privacy settings are applied.
- Take an interest in what your child is doing online and on a regular basis, ask your child to show you what they are accessing.
- Ensure your child knows how to use any reporting/blocking tools on the app that they are using and as always please ensure that your child knows to talk to a trusted adult if they see anything that concerns them online.

Further information

- <https://www.childnet.com/help-and-advice/livestreaming-parents/>
- <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/articles/what-is-live-streaming/>



Quails



When we started

We have had a slower beginning of term in Quails class, it took us all a little longer than the other classes to get settled in and get used to a new routine. However, on week 3, we eventually managed to do everything well as a class. For this reason, I decided to celebrate by awarding the whole class a certificate for having had an amazing week full of hard work and dedication. You should all be as proud of your children as I am.

Our learning

In English, the children have written a poem about emotions, a very interesting descriptive narrative in first person about the Stone Age and a non-chronological report about skeletons. In RE, we have studied some Old Testament stories: Abraham, Joseph, Moses and David. In maths, the children have been working on place value, addition and subtraction.

In the afternoons, we have different lessons every day. We have learnt about the human body in science, maps in geography, from the Stone Age to Iron Age in history, computer networks, French and music. One of the projects that the children were most excited about, however, was done during the art lessons. They made their own block printing inspired by the work of the artist Hokusai.

Black History Month

In October, Quails class had a workshop on African drumming. They really enjoyed playing the drums and learning some songs besides telling everyone their favourite food while banging their own invented rhythm. They have also had an African dance workshop, which they really enjoyed. In class, we learnt about the life and importance that Olaudah Equiano had in making enslavement illegal. We have also learnt about the Ghanaian-born, British singer Niiella and listened to her music.



Autumn Term Highlights from Swallow Class

Teambuilding



Back in September, the children had great fun doing the 'Egg Drop Challenge'. The children were put into groups and tasked with creating a 'spaceship' which could protect their 'alien' egg from cracking in a crash. Each child should be proud of themselves, as I saw some great creative thought, teamwork and resilience...I even spotted a few budding engineers!

Writing and Science

In science, we have just finished our topic on the Human body where they have been learning about all the different systems. They then used this knowledge to write a non-chronological report all about the skeleton in their English lessons. I have extremely proud of the effort the children made with their writing and the fantastic reports they created.

Reading

The class have really enjoyed reading the class text 'The Pebble in my Pocket'. It has been lovely to see the children so interested in the history of the Earth. They have been enthusiastic and shared fossils and other gemstones from their own home collections. I am sure they will enjoy the future topic later in the year on rocks, soil and minerals.

Black History Month

As part of Black History Month, the children have taken part in an African drumming workshop and a dancing workshop. They also learnt and thought about Olaudah Equiano, who was an African sold into slavery and became an influential and powerful abolitionist. In addition, we learnt about a Ghanaian born, British singer called Niella.

Autumn Term Highlights from Doves Class



Writing

As a class we have completed three writing projects this term: a poem about rainy days, a descriptive paragraph about a mysterious room and a non-chronological report about the human body. Each student has worked hard to plan, draft, edit and publish their own work. The published work has then been sent home for family or friends to admire!

RE

The theme this half-term was the Bible. Together we have read, discussed and responded to all of the major Old Testament stories, from Abraham to David. We spend time each day before lunch listening to a Bible story and we have also managed to memorise the books of the New Testament. (Please ask your student to sing these to you!)

Black History Month

In October we learnt about Olaudah Equiano: a slave from Nigeria who bought his own freedom and played a key role in the anti-slavery movement in Britain in the 1700's. He lived near Cambridge and the new cycling bridge in Cambridge is named after him. We also learnt about a Ghanaian born, British singer called Nnele. And we all enjoyed listening to her music.



Young writers posing in front of our Published Writing Wall.



Magpies have worked hard on creating a great classroom environment and especially enjoyed designing all of the subject headings. The pupils all have the opportunity to be a helper for the day and the pupils who have done this have been fantastic ambassadors for Magpies. At the start of the year, the pupils all created a prayer for the school year, which were all reflective and showed their ambition for the year and for the community and world.

Year 6 swimming sessions have been going really well and it has been a pleasure to see the improvement and confidence of the pupils, with another half-term to go, I'm hopeful of even more progress.

This month, we have been looking at Black History and have covered Katherine Johnson, Nelson Mandela, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Barack Obama and Year 5's have also looked at Marcus Rashford. It was amazing to watch their interest, thoughtfulness and pride in their work, especially as we had to write the biography in the afternoon. I am really proud of what they have achieved and of the pupils' brilliant behavior, respectfulness and understanding that they have showed.

community help us have a good
start and help us to repent, forgive
and share in many ways this
or Help us to say thank you for
your great gifts you have
said us with.
Jesus name,

Dear Linda,

Thank you for letting me school you that well.

Please accept all the love we had and let us
repeat our story sorry.

Love us love and share people with wisdom.

Help us reach our goals without losing them how
much they love us.

Please help us to read the bible again give us and
show the gospel for those who don't believe in us.

A collection of hand-drawn symbols representing various aspects of religion. The symbols include a red heart, an open book, a Bible, musical notes, and a cross.

Please help me with my school game. Help me do

It's beautiful. I am really nervous for my test. I will be

My love, I love you more than I know how to say.

Thank you for all the love. Thank you for our home. Thank
you for my family. Thank you for my school. Thank you
for the clean water in our home. I would like to see
you often. Please see me for now. I pray that every
body in this world may be blessed and
may be peaceful. I like I especially want to thank my family
for taking care of my life and I hope they all do
well. I like especially my parents. Amen

RE

Dear Lord, thank you for my spirit and family.
Thank you for guiding me throughout the year.
You forgive me for all the sins I have done.
Thank you for School and education.

We will love one another -
 We love us
 We will share everything
 Please stay with us when
 we begin our new year
 help us make friends
 We are members of the group
 as the day will be
 because our company

Dear Jesus help me
to begin this new school
year. I am sorry for all
the wrong things that
I have done. I will always
love my parents. I will
always love Jesus.

Тезис

Neil F. Edwards

Dear Jesus
Thank you for sending your down to earth
in please to the help people around the world
I am sorry about all of the sins I have done
to other people. Help us ~~repent~~ repent & or
all the things we have done.
Amen.



I thank you for my family and friends
and thank you for the beautiful sunrise.
I thank you for the food and water
you give me.

Qualities We are Taking
to the Kingdom of God.

This half term in English we have been working on third person adventure stories, formal letters of application and poetry.

**Owl's Half Term
Newsletter**

In Maths we have been focusing on place value, rounding up numbers and mental strategies.



In Science we have been learning about the human life cycle and understanding the changes that happen to us at key stages.

In P.E we have been developing our football and handball skills.

In computing we have been learning about computer systems and search engines.

In Geography we have been honing our cartography skills and learning about scale and coordinates.

In history we have been learning about the founding of Baghdad and the Islamic golden age.

Kestrel's Class Autumn 1 Highlights



Mrs. Duarte and I have really enjoyed getting to know our new class. The children have settled in well to a new school year and a new routine.

English

We've had a busy first half term in Kestrels. During our English lessons, we have been reading "Shackleton's Journey", by William Grill. The children were tasked with writing a letter of application, to be a crew member on the expedition to Antarctica.

RE

In RE, we have been enjoying reading parables and having class discussions about the Kingdom of God. We spent some time reflecting on the ways in which we can accept God's invitation.

Science

This term, we have been learning about the human life cycle. I was very impressed to see how beautifully the children presented what they have learnt on a double page spread extended writing piece.



Welcome Liturgy

On Friday 13th October, we shared a very special afternoon. Pupils from Year 6 led their Reception buddies in the ceremony, where the little ones were welcomed into the school community and the Year 6's received golden ties. I was so proud of how the children conducted themselves and were good role models for the younger pupils.



Black History Month

Windrush As part of Black History Month, the children learned about influential people of colour, including Marcus Rashford, and studied the Windrush Generation. The children showed so much creativity when producing their collages about Empire Windrush. As well as this, they took part in an African drumming and dance workshop, which they thoroughly enjoyed.





St Laurence SEND Newsletter

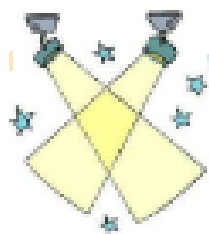


Welcome to the St Laurence SEND Newsletter!

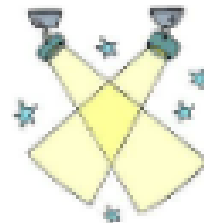
In this newsletter this half term:

- [Spot light](#) on Mental Health
- MHST Coffee Morning
- Information on Pinpoint
- Red Hen Support
- Information on Cambridgeshire SENDIASS

My email address is senco@stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk



what you would find useful in future SEND newsletters



Spotlight on Mental Health



Last week was World Mental Health Day. With rising numbers of children and young people needing more support with their mental health, here are some tips to support you and your family. Visit the [parents](#) area on the [YoungMinds](#) website for more information:

youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents

Did you know? 3 children in every classroom have [a mental](#) health difficulty.

The #Take 20 Parents' Hub

Talking to your child about how they feel can be hard. For them and us! By taking 20 minutes with them to do an activity you'll both enjoy, you'll create a relaxed space to start that conversation. Visit:

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/parent/how-to-talk-to-your-child-about-mental-health/#whattodoifyourchildtellsyoutheyrestruggling> for lots of fun activity ideas, conversation starters and handy tips, advice and resources to make talking easier

What to do if your child tells you they are struggling:



1. Validate their feelings. You could say 'it's really understandable that you're feeling...' to let them know that their feelings are okay.



2. Thank them for sharing what's going on and be encouraging about the way they've opened up.



3. Let them know that you love them, you're there for them, they can talk to you whenever they need to, and you can help them get support if they need it.



4. Ask them if there's anything you could do that they would find particularly helpful.



5. Spend time together thinking about what's making them feel this way. It could be something at home or school, a relationship with a friend or family member or something else.



6. Let your child know about the helplines, textlines and online chat services that are available - which you can find at the end of this guide. Young people can find it difficult to talk and worry about upsetting their parents, so reassure them that it's okay to open up to other people.



7. Remind your child that this is temporary. Reassure them that things can change and they can feel better.



8. Avoid conversations at the height of distress. It's important to be there for them, but it can be more helpful to talk about the causes when things are feeling calmer.

Where to go next for support

- [YoungMinds](#) Parent Helpline is available Mon-Fri from 9:30 to 4pm: 0808 802 5544
- Your GP-they can refer you on to other agencies such as CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) CAMHS are the NHS services that assesses and treat young people with emotional, behavioural or mental health difficulties.

- Speak to Mrs Harvey about support that can be provided in school, or other agencies that can support your child, such as Early Help or the MHST Team.

Coffee Morning with the Mental Health Service Team (MHST)



For an opportunity to meet and chat with Jade Workmaster from the MHST team about the support they offer parents and schools – please come along to a Coffee Morning on Tuesday 21st November at 10.30am.



Does your child have, or potentially have, an additional need or disability?

The Pinpoint website has lots of information, advice and tips - www.pinpointcambs.org.uk

Pinpoint Cambridgeshire is run for parents – by parents.

We give help and information to parent carers of children and young people aged 0-25 with additional needs and disabilities and give parent carers opportunities to have a say and get involved in improving local services.

No formal diagnosis is required to access support from Pinpoint – a child may be on a waiting list, accessing services, had a referral turned down, or just be struggling



FOUR DROP-INS, run weekly in term-time that give families a safe place to meet others, and when needed, access to info, advice and support from our trusted family workers:

- MONDAY STAY & PLAY at the hall at the Good Shepherd on Mansel Way in Arbury CB4 2ET – bring your little one, grab a cuppa and some breakfast! (8.45-10.30am)

Message Gemma 07862 386 005 to find out more and book – to keep the group safe we limit numbers.

- WEDNESDAY WELLBEING at the Methodist on Green End Road in Chesterton, CB4 1RW – is all about YOU-TIME, child-free group focused on physical and mental well-being. We kick off with a fresh smoothie and then try the activity of the week – it could be zumba, meditation, yoga, art, etc (9-11am)
- THURSDAY DROP-IN at Arbury Community Centre Campkin Road, CB4 2LD – a friendly group where all families are welcome – with or without your children (11.30am-1pm)

Contact Maria 07966 839 635 for more info and to let her know you're coming.

- FINALLY FRIDAY at Orchard Park Community Centre Central Avenue, CB4 2EZ – you've made it to the end of the week! A chilled-out group, straight from school drop-off (9-11am) – all families welcome – with or without children.

Contact Vicky 07901 562 389 for more info.

Want to come but worried that you don't know anyone? We're a friendly bunch – but if you we have other parents who have been through the same worries and volunteer to meet up and walk with you on your first couple of visits! Mention it when you contact the drop-in you want to attend.

We also have:

- Our accredited 8-week 'Raising Children' parenting course
- Family day trips during summer holidays
- Volunteer opportunities and the ability to 'earn' time credits
- Workshops – on topics such as sibling rivalry, bedtimes, building resilience, making mealtimes fun, cooking on a budget

For more information on Red Hen, please contact the Family workers or Mrs Harvey



The Parent Partnership Service providing Cambridgeshire's SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) offers impartial and confidential information, advice and support to parents and carers who have a child or young person with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability or have concerns that their child has special educational needs. They also offer impartial and confidential

information, advice and support to young people and children with special educational needs (SEN) or a disability or who have concerns they may have special educational needs.

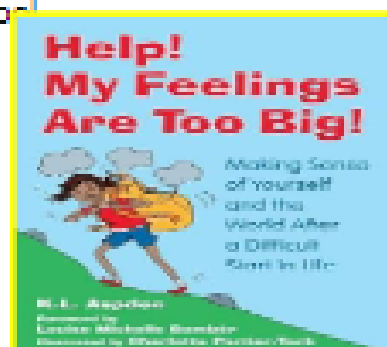
SENDIASS can help you with

- Confidential support and someone to talk to in confidence
- Advice and information about special educational needs
- Independent Support for children, young people and families as Statements are transferred to EHC Plans
- Preparing for meetings with your child's school or with professionals who are working with your child
- Information on your rights and responsibilities as a parent, children's rights and SEN law and guidance
- Information about local support groups and voluntary organisations What is the Information, Advice and Support Service?

Book Reviews



Paul Dix - Britain's leading children's behaviour expert - reveals how to build a culture of calm consistency into your home. He explains how you really can maintain a sense of Zen-like serenity in the face of even the most chaotic behaviour, from school-gate screaming matches to mealtime childmageddon. And he offers a set of simple strategies for coolly getting the behaviour you want - without a barked instruction, deranged punishment or cold, hard cash-bribe in sight. St Laurence are working with Paul Dix to support Staff with their approaches to behaviour in school.



"Help! My Feelings Are Too Big" provides children, parents, and caregivers with a compassionate approach to managing overwhelming emotions. Author K. L. Aspden offers age-appropriate language and activities to help children navigate complex emotional challenges with confidence

Contact Us



If you have any questions or concerns, or would just like to talk please contact the school

Mrs V Harvey Working Days:

Mon-Fri

office@stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk¹

senco@stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk²

01223 712227

Visit us on the web at <https://www.stlaurence.cambs.sch.uk/>



Blessed
The poor
They who mourn
Those who hunger and thirst
The merciful
The peacemakers
Those who are persecuted
The clean

Kestrels have been
learning about
The Beatitudes
and decorated
their page to
reflect their
meaning.

BLESSED

Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

are the
poor in spirit for they will be comforted.

⁵ Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.

⁷ Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

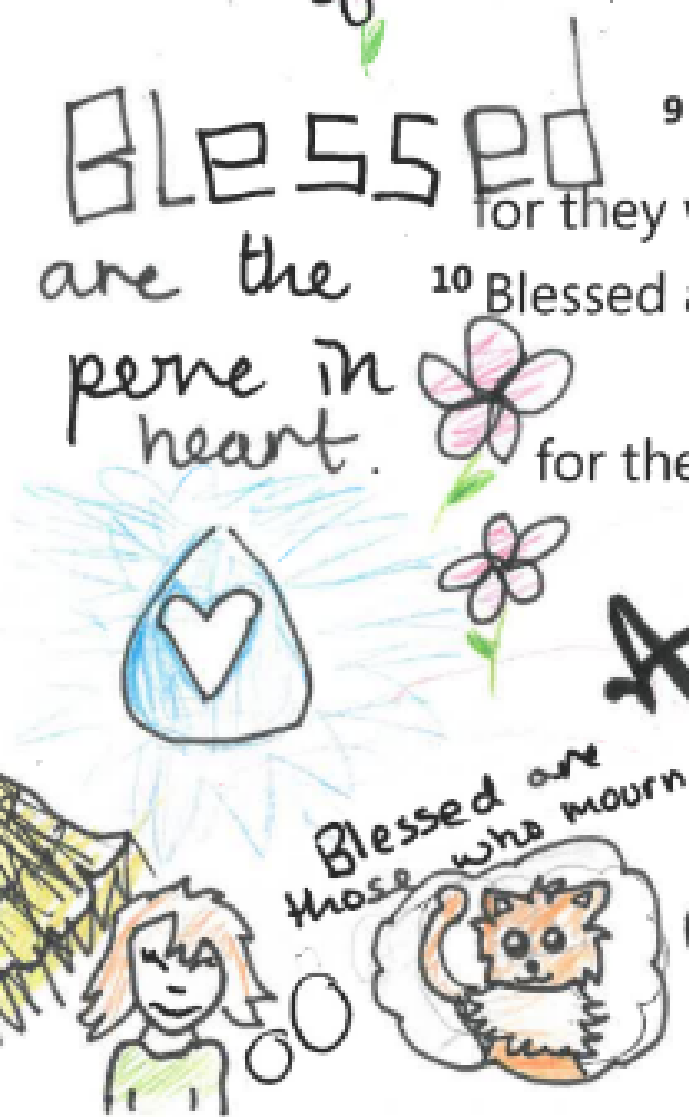
BLESSED
for they will be called children of God.

are the
pure in heart.
¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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Blessed

are the
meek



Blessed are
those who mourn



"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

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⁹ Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰ Blessed are those who are persecuted
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LORD IS
LIGHT



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Blessed The Beatitudes

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The
Children
of
God



Blessed



GOD IS THE LIGHT OF THE

"Blessed are the poor in spirit,
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for they will be comforted.
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for they will be called children of God.
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because of righteousness
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

