# Headteacher's Blog November 2018

**Charity Support**

Last year, a parent brought to our attention concerns over the extreme views held by the CEO of the Samaritan's Purse Charity, which organise Operation Christmas Child, for example, homophobia and anti-muslim views. Therefore, we have decided to no longer promote this charity within school.

Charitable support is a key aspect of our vision. This term we will be focusing support on the British Legion Poppy appeal, Children in Need (Pudsey Bear) and Save the Children (Christmas Jumper Day). We will be reinstating 'Toasty Tuesdays' on the last Tuesday in each month- with funds going to the Daft as a Brush Charity as usual- further information will follow for new families. We also support Christian Aid and Sports/Comic Relief charities with specific appeals.

Year 5 and 6 pupils are continuing with their Arch Bishop of York's Young Leaders award programme and have come up with some fantastic ideas to help people in their local communities. They are working on their ideas and will let you know about their plans shortly.

**Online Safety**

Thank you to the parents who attended the online safety briefing for parents. I will send some further information to all families this week and I have reminded pupils and those who attended, that the links to lots of the useful information shared, can be found by clicking on the 'Online Safety' link on our website.

**Vision and Values**

All school leaders have been involved in the valuable process of re-examining our vision and values as a Church School. Below is our updated statement, which explains our foundation, vision and updated values. I will be sharing these changes, and discussing what they mean in practice, with the pupils over the next half-term

***Foundation***

***The school was established in 1857 "for the education of poor persons of the parish of Ellingham according to the principles of the Church of England."*** *This provides the school with a sense of history, tradition and community with St Maurice's Church, Ellingham.*

## *Vision*

*'A small school with a big heart!'* ***- a Christ centred community where each person can become who God intended them to be.***

***This is founded in the commandments:***

***Luke 10:27***

*'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength and all your mind;' and 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'*

***Mission***

- *We endeavour to develop the potential of each and every child to achieve life in all its fullness, through an engaging, enquiry based curriculum of the highest quality.*
- *To live well together with community and church, so that all can flourish.*
- *To foster curiosity and delight in learning; developing confidence, resilience and wisdom.*
- *As a small school, to know, value and support each person as a unique individual of inherent worth.*
- *To develop and nurture the spirituality of each person and to encourage, in all a desire to serve others.*
- *To open our hearts to others so each may grow in their knowledge of themselves, and their value as a global citizen.*

***In Ellingham School, we aim to live through the following values which reflect our Christian vision:***

*Compassion, Endurance, Justice, Service, Stewardship, Reverence and Wisdom*

We are looking forward to a very busy run-up to Christmas!

Kind regards, Diane Lakey