

# SERVICE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

This term we will be focussing in school on the value SERVICE. We hope your family will find these ideas helpful as you explore the value and have fun together.

## TALK TOGETHER about Service

Jesus was called the 'servant king'; his mission was to **serve** God and to **serve** all those people he met, through his teaching, his example and the way he led his life.

Who are the unsung heroes who **serve** us?

- at school
- at home
- in our clubs

How do you **serve** others?

- at school
- at home
- in your clubs



## READ TOGETHER...

### Queen Esther serves her people

When King Xerxes, the ruler of the mighty land of Persia, was looking for a wife, Mordecai immediately thought of his cousin, the wise and beautiful Esther. Mordecai's family was Jewish, but he warned Esther not to tell anyone about this as he knew that there were powerful people in the land who hated Jews. Mordecai took Esther to the palace gates to be presented to the king, and, sure enough, as soon as King Xerxes saw Esther he fell in love with her, and the humble Jewish girl became a queen.

Mordecai often sat by the palace gates hoping to hear snippets of news about his cousin. For some time, all seemed well. But Haman, a wicked and powerful man in the court of King Xerxes, became angry with Mordecai because he would not bow down and honour him. Haman hatched a cunning plan. He began to tell the King bad things about the Jews living in his land and eventually he persuaded Xerxes that all the Jews should be killed. Queen Esther was beside herself with grief. She loved her people very much but felt powerless to help them.

King Xerxes noticed how terribly sad his queen had become, and begged her to tell him why she was so upset. Esther said she would explain if he and Haman would come to a feast that she prepared the following evening. When the grand banquet was over King Xerxes asked once again. "My dear Esther, you promised to tell me the reason for your sorrow." Esther summoned all her courage in what might be her last act of **service**. She told the King about Haman's plan to kill all of the Jews, which would include herself. King Xerxes was furious at the prospect of losing his beloved and beautiful Esther and ordered Haman to be arrested.

And so it was that Esther's name will be forever be remembered for her willingness to risk everything in the **service** of her people.

Bible story based on Book of Esther

## THINK TOGETHER Words of Wisdom

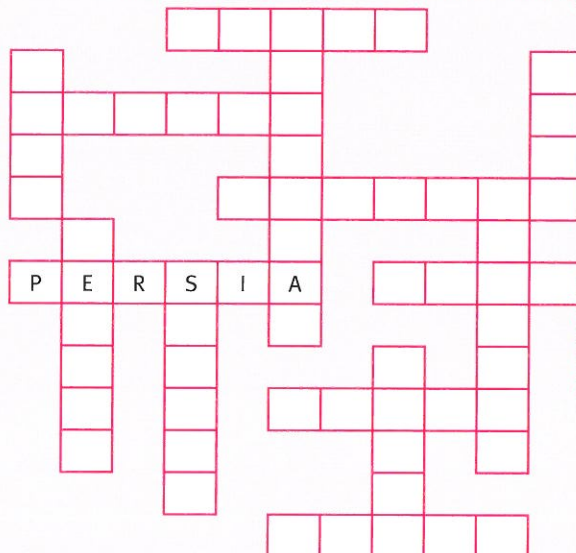
"There is more happiness in giving than receiving"

*The words of Jesus recorded in Acts 20.35 - The Good News Bible*



## QUIZ Word Fit

- |          |         |
|----------|---------|
| ESTHER   | FEAST   |
| XERXES   | GATES   |
| HAMAN    | KING    |
| MORDECAI | QUEEN   |
| JEWS     | SERVICE |
| PERSIA   | SORROW  |
| CUNNING  | WISE    |





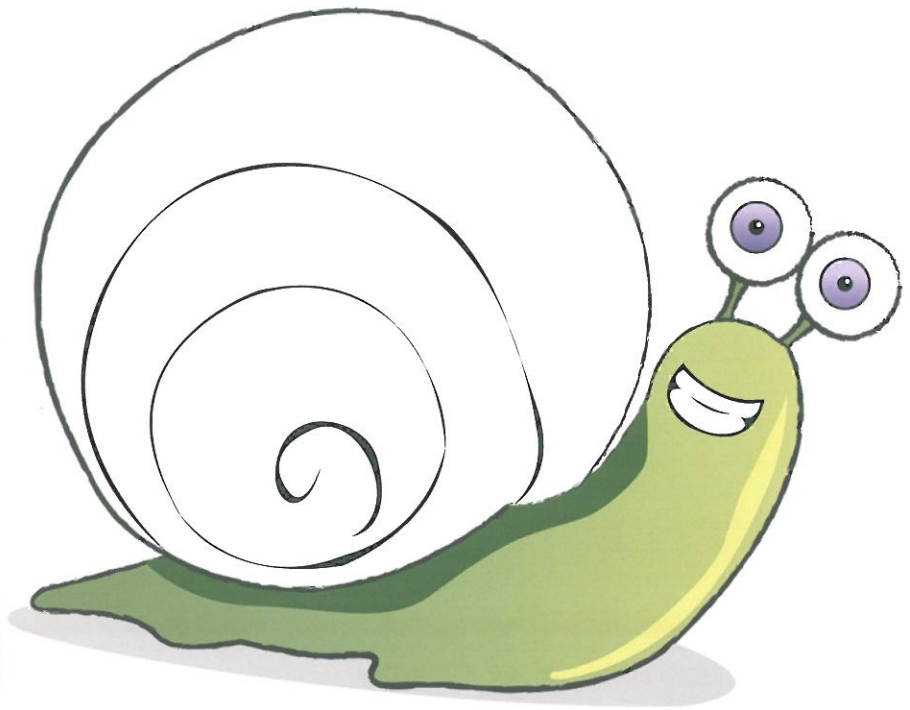
## FAMILY FOCUS

### Service with a smile

Complete a 'service snail'.

Living a life of **service** is about keeping your eyes open and looking out for ways to make others smile.

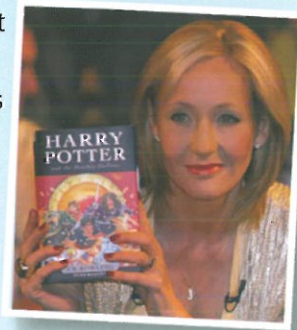
Draw a large smiley snail. Can you fill in the spirals on the snail's shell with ways in which as a family you serve each other in one week? When the snail shell is full take it to school to display in the Challenge Gallery.



## HALL OF FAME

### JK Rowling OBE

Joanne K Rowling is best known for writing the series of fictional novels about Harry Potter, stories which captured the imagination of children across the world. She was awarded the OBE for her "**services** to children's literature".



JK Rowling wanted to use some of the money she had earned from her books to help orphaned children in Eastern Europe, she founded The Lumos Foundation and funded work to transform the lives of disadvantaged children living in huge, poorly funded orphanages. With her help beautiful, well equipped homes have been established, run by foster parents who love and care for young children.



## FASCINATING FACTS



### OBE Award

The OBE, Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire, is an honour and medal awarded to people who have **served** their country or local community, often as volunteers.

- the first honours were awarded by George V in 1917 to people who had **served** their country in World War 1 but were not soldiers
- over 800 OBEs are now given each year
- OBEs are awarded for **service** such as:
  - o helping disabled children and their families
  - o working on nature conservation projects
  - o bringing relief to carers of very sick relatives
  - o protecting and caring for our country's important buildings
  - o providing animal welfare

