



**HORSELL**  
C OF E JUNIOR SCHOOL

## Our School Value this half term is **SERVICE**

At Horsell C of E Junior School we believe that we are all 'made in the image of God'. Through a commitment to **Christian values** and **high academic aspirations**, we strive to provide a **rich** and **inclusive** education for every member of our school **family**.

Our value for this half term is **service**. The story of Esther illustrates this Christian value. Take the time to read this story and think about what it teaches us about **service**.

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 had been 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 open King Xerxes asked her once again why she was sad. 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 remembered for her willingness to risk everything in the **service** of her people.

'Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living' Albert Einstein

'The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others' Mahatma Gandhi

'Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'' Martin Luther King Jr

'It is more blessed to give than to receive' Acts 20:35

### Reflection Corner...

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

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

..at home?

..at school?... in our community?



How do you **serve** other?

..at home?

...at school?... in our community?

### You could..

Draw a large smiley snail. Can you fill in the spirals on the snail's shell with ways as a family you serve each other? When the snail is full post it on SEESAW.