

NEWSLETTER 9

9th January 2026

VALUE OF THE TERM – Courage

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" - Mary Anne Radmacher



Dear Parents and Friends,

Happy New Year! I would like to say big thank you to all our parents and carers for the very warm welcome you have given me in my first week as your new Headteacher. The kind words, smiles, and support have really meant a lot and have helped make my first few days such a positive experience. It has been lovely starting to get to know the children, staff, and families, and I am very much looking forward to working together as part of our school community.

Our Value for this term



Our Value for this term is **Courage**. The courage to attempt to do the small things as well as the larger ones.

"Be strong and courageous. For the Lord God is with you." Joshua 1:9

Sometimes we need courage to carry on going and to persevere with our endeavours.

"He who is not courageous enough to take risks will accomplish nothing in life." Muhammad Ali.

Wonderful Weather

This week has certainly kept us on our toes, bringing everything from bright sunshine to sudden showers, snow and ice and everything inbetween.



Young Voices

Due to adverse weather conditions organisers took the decision to postpone the Young Voices concert on 8 January.

Whilst this was disappointing, the safety of children, teachers and families always comes first. We await an alternative date and will communicate this with you when we receive it.

Welcome to Miss Duncan

We are delighted to welcome Miss Duncan to our team and look forward to the energy and expertise she brings. Miss Duncan will primarily be supporting children in Chestnut class as well as assisting Tina in Beech Tree Club after school.

January & February – Spring 2026

Important Dates

The school year dates can be found on our website – <https://www.ampneycrucis.gloucs.sch.uk/>.

Monday 12 th January	Oracy	
Tuesday 27 th January	Literature Festival	In school activities, more info to follow
Wednesday 11 th Feb 3pm	Chinese New Years Parade to Parents	Parents to come to front of school for 3pm
Thurs 12 th Feb – morning	Mel, The Kitchen Club	Working with Maple : Chinese New Year cooking

COURAGE

HOME SCHOOL VALUES

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

TALK ABOUT COURAGE TOGETHER...

Being **courageous** can mean different things to different people. For example, one person may think it easy to speak in front of a large audience, whilst another would need to find lots of **courage** to do this. Everyone faces challenges from time to time, and we have to find **courage** to overcome them.

Talk together about:

- The different challenges that each family member faces
- Who or what helps us find **courage**?
- Is there someone that we admire because of the **courage** that they have shown?

THINK TOGETHER ABOUT WORDS OF WISDOM

"**Courage** is not the absence of fear, but the willingness to overcome that fear."
Nelson Mandela



READ TOGETHER...

The Courage of David the Shepherd Boy

One day as David the shepherd boy was carrying lunch to his older brothers in the Israelite army he heard an angry booming voice thunder across the fields. "I am Goliath, and I dare you to pick someone to fight me."

The voice was coming from the Philistine ranks and went on taunting the Israelites and their God. As David grew closer he could see the giant Goliath strutting up and down. He could also see the terrified faces of King Saul and his soldiers. This made David very angry and more than a little ashamed. He decided he must go and see the king.

"I will fight that bully Goliath!" David announced.

It was all that King Saul could do not to laugh out loud. "You are just a boy David, a small boy. Goliath has been a mighty soldier all his life."

"But when the wild animals attack my father's sheep," protested David, "I fight them off with my sling and staff. I have killed many lions and bears and I will do the same to this wicked Philistine. Do not fear for God is on our side."

King Saul was taken aback. "Well, I suppose you should be given a chance. At least let me lend you some armour and a sword." But the armour was heavy and David was not used to it. He returned the armour to Saul and instead picked up five smooth stones from the stream and marched out **courageously** to face Goliath.

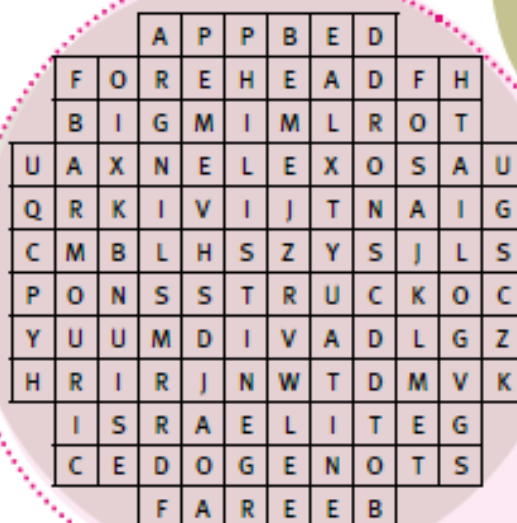
The giant laughed scornfully at the small boy and shouted curses at him. David did not flinch. "This very day you will be defeated and everyone here will see that the Lord does not need swords or spears to save his people."

As Goliath lowered his shield and aimed his spear at the boy, quick as a flash, David loaded a stone into his sling, spun it around above his head and sent it spinning through the air towards Goliath. The stone struck the giant on his forehead and he crumpled to the ground. Goliath was dead. There was a moment of stunned silence before the whoops and cheers from the Israelite army echoed around the hillsides.

This was a day no-one would forget, when the **courage** of a shepherd boy saved a nation.



Bible story based on 1 Samuel 17



QUIZ Wordsearch

Find the words from the story in the grid on Goliath's shield.

ARMOUR

COURAGE

GOLIATH

PHILISTINE

SOLDIER

BOY

FOREHEAD

GOD

SHIELD

STONE

DAVID

GIANT

ISRAELITE

SLING

STRUCK

