

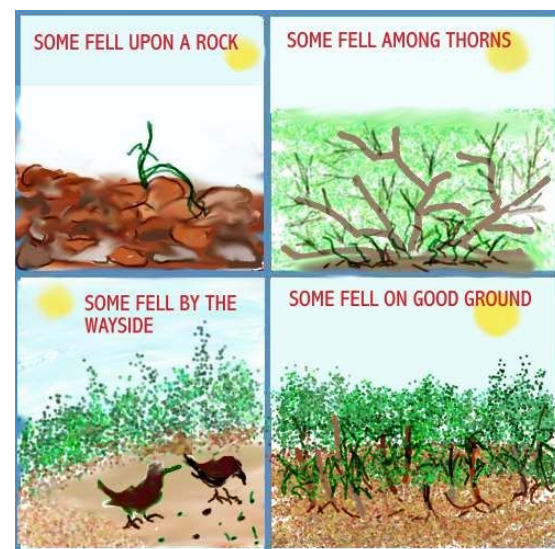
A NEW BEGINNING....

Jesus used stories to teach the people many things. He told his disciples this story:

“A farmer went out to sow seed. While he was scattering the seed, some of it fell by the road. The birds came and ate all that seed. Other seed fell on rocky ground, where there was not enough dirt. It grew very fast there, because the soil was not deep. But when the sun rose, it burned the plants. The plants died because they did not have deep roots. Some other seed fell among thorny weeds. The weeds grew and stopped the good plants from growing. But some of the seed fell on good ground. There it grew and made grain. Some plants made 100 times more grain, some 60 times more, and some 30 times more. You people who hear me, listen!”

“What about the seed that fell by the path? That is like the people who hear the teaching about God’s kingdom but do not understand it. The Evil One comes and takes away what was planted in their hearts. And what about the seed that fell on rocky ground? That is like the people who hear the teaching and quickly and gladly accept it. But they do not let the teaching go deep into their lives. They keep it only a short time. As soon as trouble or persecution comes because of the teaching they accepted, they give up.

“And what about the seed that fell among the thorny weeds? That is like the people who hear the teaching but let worries about this life and love for money stop it from growing. So it does not produce a crop in their lives.



“But what about the seed that fell on the good ground? That is like the people who hear the teaching and understand it. They grow and produce a good crop, sometimes 100 times more, sometimes 60 times more, and sometimes 30 times more.”

Something to think about...

This week's scripture passage is usually called the Parable of the Sower. It should really be called the Parable of the Soil because in it Jesus tries to tell us that we are like soil! He gives us a mini gardening lesson, reminding us simply that plants need the right kind of soil in which to grow. This reminds us of our mission statement: Growing together in the spirit of Christ's love. As a school community we are called to grow, but need the right conditions to allow ourselves, and each other, to grow properly. Your teachers are like the sower in the story...throughout the year they will try to plant seeds which in time will grow. Your friends and family will also do the same. Your challenge is to provide the right soil for those seeds to grow, so that we can reach our full potential and be the people God created us to be. As the new school year gets under way, let's take a look at ourselves and see what kind of soil we are, and what kind of soil we want to be...

Something to talk about...

- When do you feel like the seed which fell by the path - when you hear something but don't really understand it? Perhaps you struggle with certain subjects or have difficult questions about faith?
- Have you ever felt like the seed which fell in the rocky ground - when you haven't been true to yourself, but tried to 'fit in' instead?
- What might be the thorns and weeds in your life - things that get in the way and distract you? Perhaps you spend more time talking to people through your phone rather than those people in the room?
- What do you think makes you 'good soil'? Are you open to new experiences/learning/meeting new people?

Something to do...

This week continues our new beginning as we enter the first full week of the school year. We have new pupils, new staff, new subjects to study. Your challenge this week is to sow "Seeds Of Welcome" (SOW) throughout the school! As a form think of as many ways in which we can make people feel as welcome as possible in school. Then, go and plant your Seeds of Welcome throughout the week! Maybe you could help new pupils find their way around, learn some new names, or hold a 'bake-and-bring' one morning in your form? Alternatively, design a form poster on how you can be like the good soil and how you can live out our school Mission Statement by "growing together".

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK?

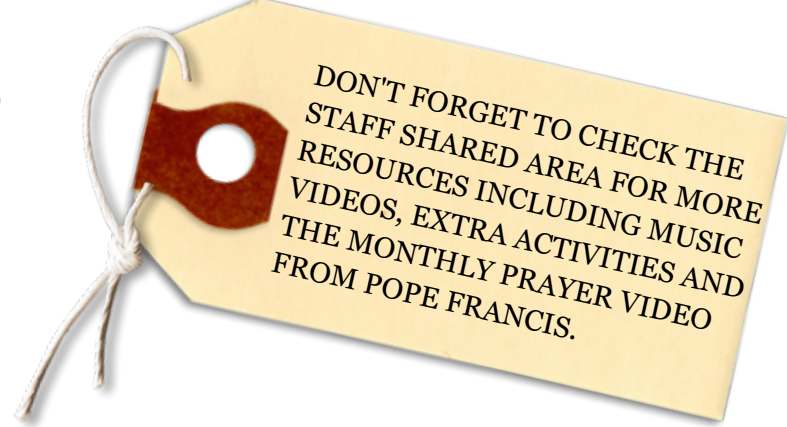
WEDNESDAY...
is our whole-school assembly to mark the beginning of the school year.



FRIDAY...
Breakfast with God in the Junior Dining Room before registration. Come along for tea, toast and a time of prayer.



Prayers for the week...



**God our Father,
 You have chosen this time for a new beginning.
 This new beginning can help us to begin afresh and try harder.
 This new beginning can help us to do new things and try out new skills.
 This new beginning can help us work together for the good of everyone.
 Help us all make the most of this new beginning.
 Amen**

Father, we ask for Your help as we begin this new school year.

Allow us to experience Your presence in the many blessings You put before us.

Open our eyes to the new challenges and exciting opportunities that this new school year brings.

Open our hearts and minds to new friends and new teachers.

Give us a generous spirit to be enthusiastic with our studies and courage to accept new opportunities.

Help us to be attentive to our teachers and let us experience Your presence in our new friends. Inspire us to do our best this year! Amen.

Parable of the Sower

Jesus often spoke in parables while teaching. He used this parable to differentiate between types of people who hear God's Word.

