

UNDERSTANDING

"You should not judge a person until you have walked a mile in their shoes."

In other words we should not judge someone until we have made a real attempt to understand them. We all wish to be understood, we all wish that people could see life as we see it.



WORD OF THE WEEK

JOHN 8: 1-11



At dawn he (Jesus) appeared again in the temple courts, where all the people gathered round him, and he sat down to teach them. The teachers of the law brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group and said to Jesus, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in adultery. In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing Jesus. But he bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'If anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.' Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground. At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there.

Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they?

Has no-one condemned you?'

'No one, sir,' she said.

'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared. 'Go now and sin no more.'



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK



Lord, we give thanks for the rich variety of personalities here in school.

May we live together in harmony, respecting one another,

not judging one another, learning to give and take,

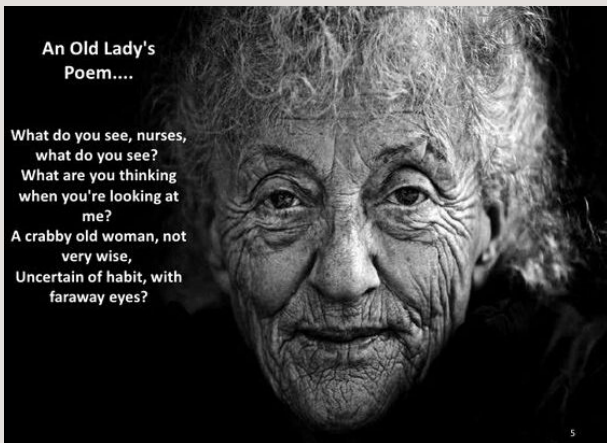
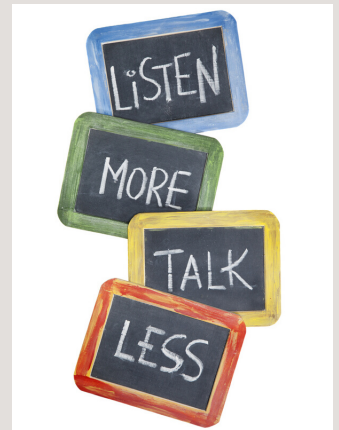
and growing in understanding and tolerance

both of others and of ourselves.

Amen.

The majority of us grow up believing that our culture is the norm. Today, we have many opportunities to mix with people of other cultures. If we cling to our familiar ways and close our minds to the perspectives of others we demean them and rob ourselves.

**Lord forgive me,
I thought I was helping,
but I was so blinded by my own culture that I could not see theirs;
so proud of my own language that I taught that, instead of learning theirs;
so wrapped around by love for my own immediate family
that I could not imagine such love committed to their extended family;
so sure of right and wrong, in Western terms, that I could not
recognise them in the perspectives of another society.**



**An Old Lady's
Poem....**

What do you see, nurses,
what do you see?
What are you thinking
when you're looking at
me?
A crabby old woman, not
very wise,
Uncertain of habit, with
faraway eyes?

Head over to the shared drive to read a poem called "What do you see nurses?" The author of this poem spent the end of her life in a hospital. She could not speak and nurses had no idea of her feelings until the poem was discovered in her locker after her death.

*Why not write your own poem in this style.
It could be written to parents or teachers.
It could begin with the lines:
What do you see (teachers), what do you see,
What do you see when you're looking at me?*

It is very easy to have our own opinions and believe that we are right. This is not always the case. We would all benefit from being more open-minded, to listen to other people's opinions and ideas, to discuss and think about them.

To understand others we should not judge them. We should accept them for who they are and what they want to be. Even if they are different from us and act differently. If they really believe in something that we do not, we should respect them for this and not tease them. We should allow people and encourage them to be themselves.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY



Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on the 27th January each year and is a time to remember the millions of people murdered during the Holocaust, under Nazi persecution and in the genocides which followed in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. These genocides are examples of when people do not try to understand others and instead of seeing what they have in common see only differences and see them as a threat. Holocaust Memorial Day teaches us how important it is to understand others, their culture, their language and their way of life.

Holocaust Memorial Day 2020 marks the 75 years since the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau. And the theme for this year's memorial day is **STAND TOGETHER**.

How can you stand together with others who may be different from you?