

‘Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.’ Joshua 1:9

Welcome back everyone and Happy New Year!

This term we will be focussing in school on the value **COURAGE.** It is a value that will help our children throughout their lives and give them the skills to stand up and be strong when things are difficult.

*Can you remember a time when you thought ‘I’ve just got to keep trying’?*

*Everyone feels scared sometimes; have you ever overcome your fears and achieved something that you are proud of?*

*Do you need courage to make a start on something new?*

*When did you last step outside your comfort zone to try something new?*

It can take great **courage** to do something new or challenging-or ‘to step out of our comfort zone’. We will be learning about people who have had their courage tested and how we sometimes need to be brave to do the right thing. The right thing is not necessarily the easy thing!

Sometimes, we might be afraid of doing something. Our fears can stop us having fun or trying something new. But, we try to do it anyway or we would miss out on enjoying life; we show **courage**. When we don’t have the **courage** inside us to be brave, we can ask God to help us.

We will also be thinking about how **courage** can be found in two other words:

**EN-courage** and **DIS-courage.** We need our friends and people around us to build us up and encourage us, not make us feel like everyone is against us and that everything is going wrong. We will ask God to help us to find ways to encourage others and remember how it feels to be discouraged.

Being mindful of the British Value of Individual Liberty, at St John’s School, our children are actively encouraged to make independent choices, be **courageous,** with the knowledge that they are in a safe, secure and supportive environment. Staff at school educate and provide boundaries for students to make informed choices, through a safe environment and an empowering education.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Galloway

Headteacher

**Courage doesn’t always roar. Sometimes courage is the quiet voice at the end of the day that says I’ll try again tomorrow. (Mary Anne Radmacher)**