

Exbourne: Encouraging Excellence

'Let us spur one another to acts of love and good deeds.' Hebrews 10:24

School News  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Dear Exbourne Friends and Families,

Happy Valentine's Day!

In worship this week, we paused to think about love. Who do we love? What do we love? How do we show love?

We said we can love our family, our friends, our pets. We can also love a place such as our school, living in Devon or love an activity or a hobby such as singing, reading or swimming. We also talked about loving ourselves which tied in with our recent focus on positive mental health. And of course there is also romantic love, for grownups! We talked about showing love through respect, appreciation and kindness.

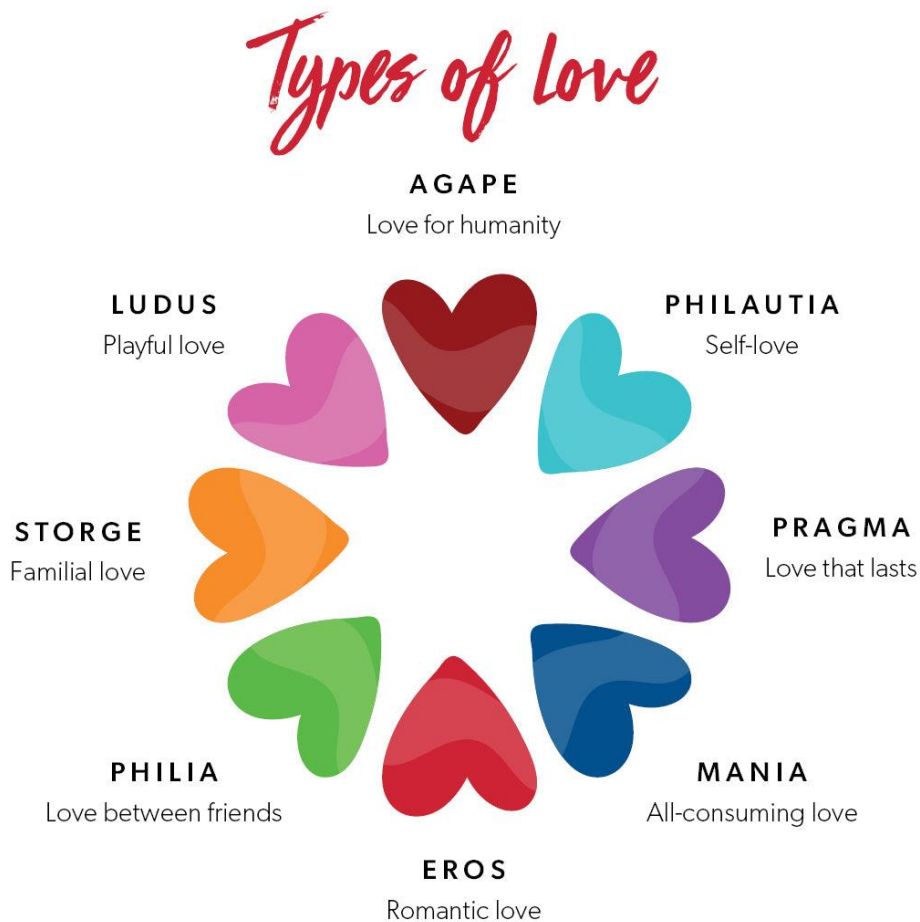


### Why do we have Valentine's Day?

St. Valentine was a priest who lived in ancient Rome under the rule of Emperor Claudius II. Legend has it that he secretly married couples when it was forbidden to do so. He believed in the power of love and wanted to help others find happiness. Unfortunately, Emperor Claudius found out about St. Valentine's actions and put him in prison. Even in prison, St. Valentine showed kindness and healed the jailer's daughter, who was blind. Before his execution, he sent her a note signed, "From your Valentine," which started the tradition of exchanging heartfelt messages on Valentine's Day.

He was made a martyr on February 14, in 278 AD. He is the patron saint for love, but also epilepsy and beekeepers!

Fun Fact: The Ancient Greeks believed there are eight different types of love.



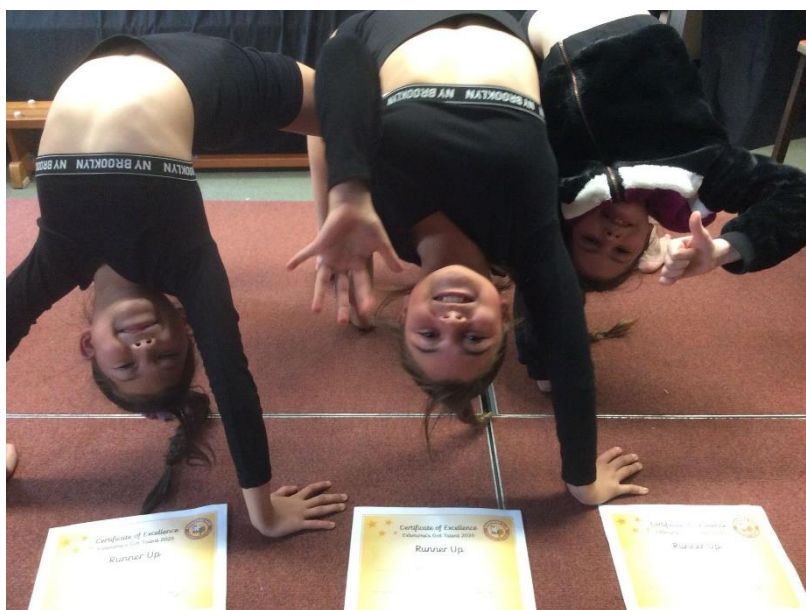
In the Bible, St. Paul tells us:

“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.” 1 Corinthians

In Worship, we reflected on Paul’s words and thought about how we can show love to our families, friends and ourselves.

## Talent Show

We had a wonderful treat yesterday! And we found out that Exbourne does indeed have talent! Very well done to all of our finalists. We were treated to agile gymnastics, interesting information about looking after cats, skilful plate spinning, wonderful singing and expert ukele playing. Thank you to Anande James, our advocate for judging with me. Very special thanks to Mrs Doherty for organising and hosting. Thank you to our parents and families for coming, it was so heartening to see parents come to support other children, not just their own! Our Exbourne community really are special!





### School News

Please follow us on Facebook so you can keep up to date with all of our school news and see lots of photographs. [www.facebook.com/exbourneprimary](http://www.facebook.com/exbourneprimary)

## Attendance Update

We have had a lot of absence this week due to illnesses and for the first time this year our weekly attendance has dropped to 81%. However, our great attendance over time means that, to date, we are still over 95% overall which is great!

Whole school 95.67%  
Olive 95.99%  
Dove 95.3%

**Attendance Matters**



## Lateness

However, punctuality is an area we need to improve. School starts at 8.40am. Please can all families make sure their children are in class on time so we are not having a delayed start to the learning.

I hope everyone has a wonderful week holiday and I look forward to seeing you all bright, refreshed and well on Monday 24th February.

Tara Penny  
Principal

## Upcoming Dates:

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March – World Book Day

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> March – Red Nose Day

Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May – SATS Week

Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – 2pm Easter Service

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Year 3 and Year 4 camping residential

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June - Sports Day

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June Y6 Cambridge residential

Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June – Y6 Okehampton Transition day 1

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> June Y6 Okehampton Transition day 2

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June – Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> July – Year 5 residential to Bristol

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July pm and evening - KS2 performance

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2pm Y6 Leavers Assembly