

Who has worked hard this week? Perhaps you tried your best with your homework, wrote some extra special writing, learned something new with number or done some amazing artwork? At St Mary's we're always working hard – no matter whether we are parents, staff or children, friends or family we will all have done our best. So this weekend, as we think about all our hard work, let us remember why we toil. It's not just because we need to understand subtraction, nor is it simply to please our teacher; in fact there is something about work and working together that binds us in our faith in Our Lord.

As Christians we are working in conjunction with God, we are his fellow workers, through us God sends His message of hope and love for all mankind. He sows his seeds in us and He creates a home in us – through our own hard work and good deeds we spread the word of Our Lord to others. And that is what we are particularly good at here at St Mary's – every day we walk in God's footsteps, learning, loving and enjoying our lives, together, in faith. Hard work doesn't seem like hard work when we do it together and bring God into the equation.

1 Corinthians 3:9 ESV For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

As we come to the end of our first full week back at school there is no doubt that there will be some tired eyes approaching the weekend. Happy eyes, but tired all the same. For those new-starters in Reception it is the beginning of what can seem like a long journey through education but even for those new to Year 6 the start of a new school year can come as a surprise – not least with the extra challenges that we meet each year that we grow older. For all of us the new school year represents a fresh start and new routines, uniforms and lunches need to be organised, good habits formed with homework – it's little wonder that this weekend most people will be looking forward to a bit of extra rest whilst remembering the joys of being back at school (the sense of community, catching up with friends and the pleasure of learning).

In all of this there is something to remember; God has a plan for us and, whilst the plan may not be a quick one, we know that, if we follow in God's footsteps and trust in His word our lives will be safe and fulfilled. It's because of our faith in Our Lord that we can face new challenges and rejoice, sharing in any struggles in the knowledge that God has our welfare at heart.

Jeremiah 29:11 ESV For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.