



**holy trinity** northwood



## Holy Trinity Northwood Church of England Primary School: Our Vision

*Living and learning together as part of the family of God; we seek to inspire every person to be deeply rooted in the values of the Christian faith and to experience being connected in a loving community - to grow, flourish and bear much fruit.*

**inspired by John, Chapter 15:5**

This verse from John's gospel is situated in a part of the text that scholars call Jesus' Farewell Narrative. That is, it is a part of the bible that is set out as 'final instructions from Jesus to his disciples' before he is arrested, taken away and crucified. Because of the timing of these instructions, they can be considered to be of primary importance – not just to the disciples in the earliest times after all these events took place, but also to the church as it came into being and grew and developed.

Jesus' words, passed on to us through John's Gospel, remain just as important today as they have ever been. The imagery he uses here, of a vine growing in a vineyard, is as fresh and accessible to us as it would have been to those who sat at Jesus' feet.



It holds echoes of the Eucharist, where we imbibe the spiritual sustenance that Christ offers in this meal. It speaks of abundance and prolific growth that will stand the test of time. Those familiar with the ancient Great Vine at Hampton Court Gardens can see the abundance and longevity of this plant and find in it a living image of Christ's Church through the ages.

We focus too, particularly in our school community on the growing, flourishing and bearing of much fruit. This is certainly what we want for all of our students, staff and families.

Yet it might be important to remind ourselves of the wider context of Jesus' words, which also speaks of the pruning that is sometimes required. As every *gardener* knows, pruning is essential for the health of a plant. *Indeed, 'Growth follows the Knife' ...* This may be things in our lives that are crowding out good things. It might be unhelpful or unhealthy habits or relationships that we need to attend to.

We might need God's help with such pruning, but the good news is that Jesus promises to be with us and will help us whenever we turn to God. Even if pruning is inevitably required from time to time, there will always be another season of growth to follow.

Rev Ann Lynes,  
Vicar of Holy Trinity Northwood and Vice Chair of Governors

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