

## Church School Autumn 1 Update 2021

### Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this half term, we have been using a hybrid approach of outdoor whole school Collective Worship and TEAMS, depending on the weather. At the start of the term, Rev Felicity led workshops with the children exploring what Collective Worship means to them and to others. The children have taken part in Collective Worship in different ways this half term including reading the leading prayers and sharing what they would like to pray about. The children took part in creating a school prayer by listing what they wanted to pray about regularly. This has been added to our class Reflection Areas. The whole school took part in our Harvest Festival which included giving thanks to God for all our provisions. A local farmer donated crops for the pupils to see and grain which was used to make bread in EYFS and KS1. We took up a healthy amount of goods to the church porch for our offering to the community and children brought in donations towards our Malawi school fundraising.

### Collective Worship Autumn 1 2021 highlights:

Week 1 - We welcome the children back to school and establish our Christian school values.

Week 2 - Our first full week begins with exploring respect for God's creations. We read the story and explore Jewish new year as well.

Week 3 - We learn about respect and reverence to God's creation and how this relates to animals. We compare this with the Buddhist story of 'The Swan'.

Week 4 - We celebrate our Harvest festival this week as well as learning about the Jewish festival of Sukkot.

Week 5 - We continue our theme of respect and reverence by looking at sacred objects. We also look at the Tabernacle in Judaism.

Week 6 - We continue our theme of respect thinking about reverence to God through the story of Moses and the burning bush.

Week 7 - We learn what it means to have respect and reverence to others this week. We look at the Hindu festival of 'Raksha Bandhan' as a comparison.

Week 8 - We look at how Christians believe that Jesus's 'light' is important in dark times and how we can be a 'light' to others.

Petersfield Foundation Governors continue to meet virtually and have planned their meetings and monitoring activities for the academic year.

We have met with Barrington School and Rev Felicity to plan our Collective Worship for Autumn 2 and this year, Petersfield decided to join Barrington in the Shoebox appeal.

Mrs Penrose attended this term's Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) meeting and has volunteered to be part of the group reviewing the Agreed Syllabus.

Our EDRA, Mrs Coulson who is our Diocese link (EDRA), came into school virtually. As usual, our pupils beautifully articulated their thoughts about the school and described their learning and explained aspects of school life – such as our candle and lighting prayer. Mrs Coulson said 'The pupils are obviously keen learners



and are so proud of their classrooms and their achievements.' She also commented on how effectively we use out TEAMs platform to facilitate such visits.

## **Religious Education**

With a new school year beginning, we have looked at our RE and church school offer with fresh eyes. Last term we planned to introduce to the new RE 'Emmanuel' curriculum and Governors gave their approval for this. Teachers have received trained and are being supported through the introduction of the new scheme; it is now in full flow in classrooms. All children began their new learning with a Christianity topic this half term and are progressing through some challenging material. This scheme of work builds on the Understanding Christianity concepts, which were already embedded across the school last academic year. The children are beginning to make links already to this previous learning.

We have begun our journey of 'Walk through the Bible'. It is a wonderful free resource, for which we have received a plethora of books, posters and activities for the children to engage with alongside the film content. We have explored the first few books of the Bible as we 'walk through' the Old Testament and its chronology. The children have expressed their delight with the film material as it is highly engaging, times funny and rather 'cool' in its presentation. Thanks to 'Walk through the Bible' for their funding and support in delivering this to us.

Our year 5 and 6 class visited the local Church as part of their RE topic in October. Rev Felicity delivered one of the RE lessons from the new curriculum in the church building. It was great to be out and about again and see Rev Felicity in person. Our year 5 and 6 children also took part in the Ely Cathedrals School day virtual event. The challenging topic about slavery and refugees was made easier to access through film, storytelling and looking at Jesus as an example of a refugee. The children were invited to consider a Christian response to refugees in a role-play type situation.

