

## Church School Autumn 1 Update 2020

We are all adapting to the new 'normal'. Whilst visitors are not allowed in person, and bubbles are physically separate, our Church School Ethos remains. Please do read on to find out about all the things still happening in school.

### Collective Worship

Since returning to school in bubbles, we have been coming together as a school for our Collective Worship using TEAMS. We meet daily online to share Bible stories, share prayers and learn more about our school values and how they help us live, work and learn. The pupils have taken part in these times together by leading prayers, sharing poems and sharing reflections on the theme of the time together. We all light a candle in class and share times of silence and reflection of the message of the day. Rev. Felicity visits us remotely once a week to share with us and the children engage well with the message she brings.

### Collective Worship Autumn 1 highlights

Each week, we add information about our Collective Worship to the school Newsletter - Petersfield Press. In the Autumn 1 half term:

- Week 1 - We are celebrating being back at school and looking at new beginnings.
- Week 2 - This week we are celebrating our gifts and remembering that God loves us as we are.
- Week 3 - This week we have been looking at a piece of writing from the Bible about love. We have looked at the words and have thought about what we can learn from the passage.
- Week 4 - This week we have been looking at our harvest theme of 'Send a Cow' linked to our value of love for others and how Jesus wants us to love everyone.
- Week 5 - This week we have looked at those people around us who love us. We have thought about how much love and kindness are worth and if we can put a price on love.
- Week 6 - This week we are looking at faith and some stories about faith from the Bible.
- Week 7 - This week we are looking at faith and hope and exploring these concepts through Bible stories and examples of everyday life.



Our pupils have helpfully shared their thoughts on Collective Worship. These comments were made after our Harvest Festival and our efforts to raise awareness and money for the charity 'Send a Cow': 'We have discussed what the charity does and how it helps support others. We focussed on the reflection.' When asked about the use of TEAMS for our daily whole school assembly, they commented they liked it "because you can all see the other classes. We don't have to sit on the floor. They do not like it" because you don't see people in real life." We hope we can return to normal as soon as it is safe to do so!

Our youngest children also enjoyed our Harvest Festival. They were happy to bring in tins for our local collection of food to support the local church in it's local charitable food donations. Their teacher asked the children what harvest meant to them and they could all say what it was about. "We enjoyed performing our poem to the other classes and we listened well to the other classes performing."

Staff regularly give feedback to colleagues on Collective Worship sessions they have participated in. After a class assembly time, one colleague reported, "The pupils were respectful throughout the session and responded with enthusiasm and thoughtfulness. The PowerPoint supported the engagement of the session. There were lots of comments regarding the discussion of the song and the meaning and what it meant to us as individuals and as a school. The leader supported each answer and also with pupils there was respected shown and appreciation of sharing."

Please do read Petersfield Press to find out more about this week's Collective Worship.

### **Reflective Areas**

Covid has resulted in some modifications to the school, but each class has been able to modify and add to their Reflective Area. Each class now has a candle (that we usually have on our Worship Table in the hall) in their class.

### **Our School Values**

Each half term for Collective Worship we have a focus on one or more of our school values. In September and October we focused on Love. This included learning about what the Bible says about love and examples of how Jesus showed love to his followers and how Christians believe he loves everyone no matter what. We have explored what it means to love each other in the context of friendship, caring and anti bullying scenarios.

### **Understanding Christianity**

In Autumn 2020, we continued our long plan for teaching Understanding Christianity. EYFS trialled it in 2019-2020. Now the whole school are progressing through the topics and learning for this. The teachers planned and used drama/reading and writing/art and other subjects to deliver the content in a meaningful and exciting way. In October, our KS1 children were learning about what makes us special and why Christians believe Jesus is unique. Our KS2 children learnt about the Bible's message of 'Good News' and why Christians believe Jesus is 'Good News' to His people. Teaching Assistants were an integral part of this day. One commented that, "All the school values were covered throughout the day's lessons and activities. Children were able to link lessons to school values and their own values eg friendship, trust and creativity." The children expressed their thoughts about our first whole school RE Understanding Christianity Day and said, "We liked the drama and art lessons. We learnt about Jesus' 12 disciples. We would like to know more about the story 'The calming of the storm' next."



### **With our Church Community**

This half term our Co-Head teachers, Mrs Peachey and Mrs Penrose, attended the Diocese Leadership Forum, meeting virtual with other schools to share great ideas about how to make virtual Collective Worship even better.

We also continue to work as an extended team with Barrington Primary C of E School to share planning for Collective Worship and support each other in the planning and teaching Biblical values.