

Church School Autumn 2 Update 2020

Collective Worship

This half term in school, we have continued our Collective Worship through TEAMS on a daily basis and some children who have needed to self-isolate have engaged with this from home. The pupils in school are invited to take part in these times together through TEAMS by leading prayers and sharing reflections on the theme. All classes light their own candle and share times of silence and reflection on the message of the day. Rev. Felicity continues to visit us remotely once a week to share with us and the children engage well with the message she brings. Each week we share a Bible story that links to our half termly theme. This half term we have learnt about Friendship and Trust, two of our school values.

Collective Worship Autumn 2 highlights

Each week, we add information about our Collective Worship to the school Newsletter - Petersfield Press. In the Autumn 2 half term we have focused on the following each week:

Week 1 – This week we are looking again at hope and reviewing faith, hope and love before we go on to explore our other school values.

Week 2 – This week we are starting our theme of Friendship and are using NSPCC and Air Ambulance links that we have as a school. We will also mark Remembrance.

Week 3 – We continue our theme of friendship and learn about the commandments Jesus gave Christians to follow and the story of the Good Samaritan.

Week 4 – We conclude our theme of friendship through looking at story of Jonathan and David.

Week 5 – This week we are looking at Trust and exploring our school value of trust. We are looking at the character of Gideon, Abraham and Isaac from the Bible as part of our 'Giants of Faith' series.

Week 6 – This week we are looking at Trust and exploring our school value of trust. We are looking at the character of Job and Elijah from the Bible as part of our 'Giants of faith' series.

Week 7 - This week we learn the Christmas story as well as take part in a virtual schools Christingle service live streamed from Ely Cathedral.

Our pupils regularly share their thoughts on Collective Worship through pupil voice. Recently, our EYFS pupils have commented they really like the GenR8 puppets and leaders who present some of the assemblies but they would really like to see them in real life again instead! They have understood our theme has been on friendship and they "know it can be hard to be a good friend sometimes". Staff are routinely involved in observing and improving Collective Worship as an ongoing self-improvement process. Governors are now regularly visiting the school through TEAMS and most recently joined us for our EYFS Christmas Production 'It's a Baby'.



Christmas 2020

Our school has been bustling with other Christmas activities this half term. These exciting events included:

- Class Christingle making in Collective Worship
- Participating in the Ely Diocese live streamed Christingle service,
- Contributing to the community Nativity scene in the village. This year, the Stations of the Cross can all be accessed socially distantly across the benefice. Can you find our contribution until 6th January? The map can be found here



<https://www.beneficeorwell.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Stations-of-the-Nativity-1.pdf> and the latest Christmas events and services are here: <https://www.beneficeorwell.co.uk/christmas-events-services/>

- KS1 and EYFS (Covid-secure) Christmas play which told the key message of the birth of Jesus. We were delighted to welcome family members from across the country who were able to attend for the first time as this was a virtual performance.
- Year 6 and EYFS led Nativity service – again, we were delighted to be joined virtually by family members across the UK and the staff and pupils really appreciated the positive comments.
- Much fun was had with the end of term Christmas Dinner and end of term celebrations.



Religious Education

Understanding Christianity - Our second whole school Understanding Christianity day was held at the start of Advent. On the 1st December this was based on the Nativity and what Christmas means to Christians. Our EYFS children were invited to consider why the Nativity is an important image and story. Our KS1 children explored the images on Christmas cards as to what is religious and secular when it comes to what Christmas is really all about. Lower KS2 retold the Christmas story and our eldest children compared the Gospel versions of the Christmas story and considered the significance of the colours of the candles in Christian wreaths. All staff commented that the children engaged well with the written outcomes of this day and that children had a greater depth of understanding of the



Christmas story. All our children helped evaluate the day. Our KS2 children were able to define what 'Incarnation' meant and said they enjoyed "digging deeper" into the topic. One teachers, pupils and parents overcame challenges of teaching some of the day to children self-isolating at home so that all children were included. Well done! Our KS2 staff commented that, "The digging deeper part really provoked some good discussions, I was very impressed with the children and they said they had found the day interesting and they had learned a lot."

Training and Collaboration - Our RE leader has attended RE update training this term and has helped equipped teachers with a bank of online resources to help deliver the curriculum including remote learning plans. Mrs Penrose attended training and the Forum for the new 'Emmanuel' scheme of work (created by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich) which we are planning to introduce in 2021. The Diocese of Ely have developed further resources to support the introduction of this teaching resource, focusing specifically on other world religions. Key staff have also met virtually with other schools to share great ideas about how to make virtual Collective Worship even better. We also work as an extended team with Barrington Primary C of E School and Rev. Felicity to share planning for Collective Worship and support each other in the planning and teaching Biblical values ready for Spring 2021.