

Church School Update - Summer 2 2021

Collective Worship

In Collective Worship this half term, we have focussed on the themes of 'Truth' and 'Courage' by exploring Bible stories and important characters that have overcome issues with telling truth and being courageous. Both of these themes have gone hand in hand with our school values as shared through Celebration Assemblies. We have continued our daily Collective Worship through TEAMs. Whilst isolating, children have continued to be regular virtual attendees. Our RE leader has been teaching us some sign language to enable us to worship and 'sing' in different ways. Rev. Felicity has continued to visit us remotely once a week and we have continued our regular class worship and class reflection times. The children have continued to participate in Collective Worship in many different ways this half term including reading, leading and writing prayers, reading poems, acting out mini dramas, sharing reflections and identifying what they would like to pray about. We have responded to national events, reflecting on what the Bible teaches us to support our reflections.

Collective Worship Summer 2 highlights

Week 1 - We started the half term digging deeper into what the Bible says about the Trinity.

Week 2 - We began a new theme on Truth and what the Bible says about this.

Week 3 - We continued with the topic of truth and considered how honesty plays a very important part in everyday life.

Week 4 - We finish our three-week theme of Truth, looking at various Biblical characters who struggled to tell the truth.

Week 5 - We began a new theme of courage as part of our end of year transition with all the children. We considered how to overcome challenges.

Week 6 - We dug a little deeper into the theme of courage and how this helps us prepare for change and times of transition.

Week 7 - We ended our year with various celebrations and we considered ways to encourage others.

Before the summer, our planning meeting with Barrington Church of England Primary School and Rev. Felicity has prepared us for September. The identified impact of Covid shaped our planning of themes based on the Christian values. Also as we have identified a need for children to be more familiar with Bible stories, we have included stories from the Bible and from other faiths in preparation for Autumn 1 2021.

The Headteachers met with Rev Felicity to reflect on the Parish School Covenant. This is the understanding between church and school designed to support each other in our mission as a Church School. We reflected on the partnership in place focusing on pastoral support, Collective Worship, RE curriculum and governance. This provided an opportunity to celebrate the successes of the close collaboration we have between the parish and our school, to reflect on the impact Covid has had on this and to identify the next steps to support our shared Christian Vision. We shared our answers with Diocese as they consider what new ways of working may be possible across church schools.

Each class has again written to Pastor Samuel and his church in Malawi and the School Council have taken responsibility for responding going forward. They have also started planning our whole school response to the children's request for help with providing the basic needs for education that we are privileged to have as standard at Petersfield. If you would like to make a donation to the fundraising the School Council are planned for 2020-21, please do contact the school.

Staff and governors attended the Diocese Church School Conference which, due to the virtual nature spread over 3 days, offered many sessions to support church school leadership and the RE curriculum. It provided a time to reflect on our vision and successes, to give thanks and to plan for the future.

Foundation Governors, Rev Felicity and Mrs Penrose met this half term to review the year. As well as considering recent training, the new Emmanuel curriculum, the parent questionnaire responses and the admissions code, a key topic was a review of Collective Worship. Governors reflected on the Collective Worship responses of stakeholders and the

resulting action is that in the autumn term, Rev. Felicity will lead the children in reflecting on what worship looks like at Petersfield and what it means to them.

Mrs Penrose joined the recent Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) meeting and was co-opted onto the committee. The recent Ofsted RE report was among the agenda items.

Bishop Stephen sent us a certificate – now proudly displayed in the school entrance – in recognition of our response to his Lent Challenge. The theme of Hope continues in our school as we talk to the children about their hopes for the new academic year. You can read more about this in the school contribution to the monthly Parish Magazine.



The year 6 pupils received a book "It's your Move" from the Ely Diocese. The year 6 pupils said: "Thank you for the 'It's your Move' booklets. The colours are bright and inviting. It has got lots of fun stuff inside and it looks really interesting. It will help us prepare for secondary school."



On the final day of the school year, our Leavers' Service was, for the second year running, virtual. As usual, pupils lead the Bible reading in the service. However, our tradition of reflecting and giving thanks was continued and Rev Felicity address the school community, including our year 6 parents, before presenting the year 6 pupils with a Bible – a gift from the Parish and the Methodist Church – to support them both as they move onto the next, exciting stage of their learning journey and throughout their future.

Religious Education

Our RE leader and Headteacher have attended RE update training from County and Ely Diocese. Our new RE curriculum 'The Emmanuel Project' is ready to be taught school wide from September 2021. All

staff have had training on implementing the scheme and we hope the children respond well in the Autumn term. We will be reviewing this scheme in due course and will be asking the children, staff and governors to help us with this process.

We carried out a pupil voice questionnaire reviewing pupil thoughts on RE. Here are some quotes from our children about what they like about their RE lessons:

- "Learning about God making insects." (Ash class)
- "We learn loads about different religions, including Sikhism. One of our favourite aspects of Sikhism is Langer.
- It's really fun and we enjoy it." (Elm class)
- "That you get to voice your own opinion and there is often questions which do not have a right or wrong answer." (Rowan class)
- "We enjoyed looking at the RE artefacts." (Yew)

Here are some quotes from our children about what questions they like to ask in RE lessons:

- "Is Jesus still around us?"
- "How do you think Jesus felt?"
- "What was Muhammad's (pbuh) life like?"
- "What happens to your soul when you die?"