

TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL



RE Newsletter No.3

Dear Parents and Carers,

We send home newsletters about the work going on at school in relation to Collective Worship, Religious Education and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development.

The Values we will share for this term are:

April	Humility
May	Creativity
June	Responsibility
July	Thankfulness



Festivals and Celebrations this half term Ramadan and Eid (Islamic)

Ascension (Christian When Jesus went back to Heaven)

Pentecost (Christian When the Holy Spirit came)

A more comprehensive list of the faith festivals for 6 faiths, national days and some additional celebrations are included for Parents and Carers at the end of this newsletter. At TSG we focus on 3 faiths in particular and also share details of the 6 faiths they will learn about as they move through their lower school years.



What are we up to in RE in school this term?

We teach the **RE syllabus for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton: Identities, Meanings and Values**. Year groups will be studying different key questions. In the Early Years RE is not taught as a specific subject but festivals and celebrated and stories are shared within the year group themes and Early Learning Goals (e.g. Understanding the World, PSE Respect for others).

- Year 1
 - Who is a Christian and what do they believe?
 - Who is a Muslim and what do they believe?
- Year 2
 - Creation. Why should we care for the Earth?
- Year 3
 - What do the religions teach about the natural world and why should we care about it?
 - How should we live and who can inspire us?
- Year 4
 - What is the deeper meaning of festivals?

What have we been learning about and celebrating?

Last term:



Shrove Tuesday: (Pancake day) Key Stage 1 had a hands on assembly learning how to make a pancake. Mrs Spencer and Mrs Cornelius demonstrated tossing the pancakes beautifully. The children also learnt the reason behind making pancakes at the start of the Christian season of Lent.



Ash Wednesday: The beginning of the Christian season of Lent. This marks the time that Christians think about drawing closer to God, through giving up something (like chocolate!) or by doing extra things, (like helping those less fortunate than themselves). This season lasts for 40 days.





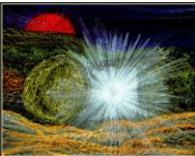
Palm Sunday: Remembering Jesus as he enters Jerusalem.



Maundy Thursday: Remembering the last meal Jesus had with his friends before he died. This is when he blessed the bread and wine and shared it in a special way with his friends and is remembered especially in communion services in churches. This is the day it is remembered that Jesus washed his disciple's feet.



Good Friday: The day Christians remember Jesus dying on the cross.



Easter Sunday: The day Christians believe Jesus rose from the dead.

RE Day – Tuesday 2nd April

On this day we as a school thought about some **BIG** questions about Easter and Salvation.

- Duckling Classes were asked—**What is Easter?**
- Swans, Kingfishers, Puffins, Penguins, Toucans and Hummingbirds were asked-
Why is Easter special to Christians?
- Robins, Wrens, Kestrels and Condors were asked -
Why do Christians call the day Jesus died Good Friday?



The day started with Collective Worship which reminded the children of the events of Easter week.

The children returned to their classes to begin to answer the ***BIG questions*** through a variety of activities such as discussion, drama, art work and writing. The children worked as classes, in small groups and individually.

Duckling Class focused on new life at Easter time, making Easter chicks and bunnies.



Kingfisher and Swan Classes sponge printed or bubble printed cross pictures. ***Swan Class*** also made an Easter garden. The children made Lego crosses.



Puffin and Penguin Classes created Easter eggs that depicted the events of Good Friday and Easter Sunday.



Toucan and Hummingbird Classes thought about their favourite celebrations, explaining why they enjoyed parties, family celebrations, birthdays and Christmas so much. Then they related these celebrations to Easter. Their ideas were then compiled into an Easter Wreath.



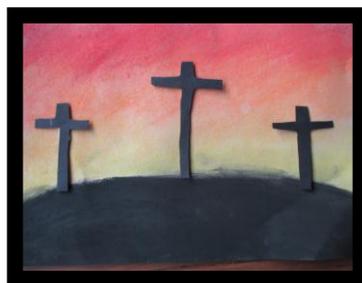
Robin and Wren Classes began by thinking about the events of Easter week and linking them to the emotions people could have been feeling in the stories. They linked these emotions/moods to colours which they then used in their pictures of each event.





Kestrel and Condor Classes started by thinking about the events of Easter week and especially the meaning of Jesus death on the cross. They decided how they felt people were feeling in the stories and how the cross made them feel. Then they looked in the Bible and read the Gospel accounts of Easter week.

In the afternoon they used oil and chalk pastels to paint some stunning pictures of the cross using the colours to depict some of the emotions of the day.



I hope you agree that the standard of work produced was outstanding! But the day didn't end there, each class also made a Land Art cross. They were displayed outside the Year 3 classrooms the day after RE day.



For those of you who were not able to see them, here they are –

Duckling's 'Bug hotel' crosses



Swans and Kingfishers



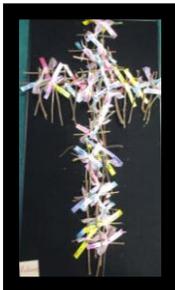
Puffins and Penguins



Toucans and Hummingbirds



Robins and Wrens



Kestrels and Condors



Bible Buddies club: 'Easter Experience'

On Tuesday 2nd April 2019, the 'Bible Buddies' group (both children and leaders) visited the Easter Experience. It was run by a local Christian schools worker charity called Impact.

Impact volunteers retold the story of Jesus arriving in Jerusalem on a donkey (and Palm leaves), the last supper, Jesus's crucifixion and burial and ended the storytelling with the tomb being empty and Jesus appearing to his disciples as the risen Lord.

The children were able to ask questions and were given a comic version of the story to take away.

They thoroughly enjoyed the story being brought to life especially seeing a real life donkey!



Hooked on worship

Hooked on Worship is a lunchtime club for children to plan and prepare a Collective Worship before presenting the Worship to the school. Children from Year's 3 and 4 can opt to take part. In Hooked on Worship the children include music, drama, story, song, poetry, prayer, art work and power point presentations. On Thursday 7th February 2019, a new group of children presented their own act of Collective Worship in our special Hooked on Worship.



The theme was Excellence and Gabriella, James M, Lily K, Ishaan, Isobella C, Kyle C, Ethan G and Meggy CG wrote and performed stories, songs, prayers and power point presentations. They had such fun planning and performing their ideas and were well received by the rest of the school who seemed to enjoy it too.



Open the Book

Our team of Open the Books storytellers who come in and enact plays from the Storyteller Bibles are back again this term! The children love their plays and the time to reflect on the story told. We are so grateful to the team for coming in to school and giving up their time to be with us.

Religious festivals and celebrations April - July 2019



27th May– 25th June Ramadan– Muslim

Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar and is a time of fasting and spiritual renewal. According to the Koran, the Prophet Muhammad received the first revelations of the Koran during Ramadan. Therefore, Ramadan is considered the most sacred month of the Islamic calendar. Every day from sunrise to sunset, Muslims are required to refrain from consuming food and liquids etc.





4th June Pentecost-Christianity

At Pentecost Christians celebrate the day when the Holy Spirit is said to have descended on Jesus's Apostles. The Holy Spirit is the third part of the Trinity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit which is how Christians understand God. Pentecost is regarded as the birthday of the Christian Church, and the start of the Church's mission to the world.



11th June Trinity Sunday-Christianity

Trinity Sunday is the Sunday after Pentecost when Christians celebrate the belief in three aspects of the one God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Trinity Sunday was instituted by Pope Gregory IX in 828CE and is known for being the only major Christian festival that celebrates a Church doctrine rather than an event in its history.



15th June Corpus Christi-Christianity

Corpus Christi is celebrated by Christians on the Thursday after Trinity Sunday. 'Corpus Christi' is a Latin phrase that means 'body of Christ'. At Corpus Christi, Christians celebrate the Eucharist (Holy Communion) when they take consecrated bread and wine which stand for the body and blood of Christ. The Eucharist commemorates the Last Supper as described in the Bible, which according to Christian tradition took place on the day before Jesus's crucifixion. Corpus Christi is primarily celebrated by Roman Catholics.



16th June Martyrdom of Guru Arja-Sikh

Guru Arjan Dev was the fifth of the ten Sikh Gurus and the first Sikh martyr. He laid the foundations of the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India and gave it four doors to symbolise acceptance of all people. He compiled the previous Gurus' writings into one book which formed the basis of the Guru Granth Sahib (Sikh Holy Book).





18th June Lailat-UI-Qadr/ The Night of Power / Honour/ Dignity-

Muslim

This commemorates the night in 610 CE when the prophet Muhammad received his first visit from the angel Jibril (Gabriel) and his revelation of the *Qur'an*. Muslims believe that the date of this night is kept secret by God, but that they 'may seek the Night of Dignity in the odd nights of the last ten days of Ramadan' Many Muslims spend the last ten days and nights of Ramadan secluded in the mosque, praying and studying the *Qur'an*, to ensure they receive the special benefits promised for their prayers and devotions on Lailat-ul-Qadr.



25th June Ratha Yatra-Hindu

Ratha Yatra means 'chariot festival' and is a Hindu festival traditionally celebrated in Orissa State on the east coast of India. Statues of the Hindu gods Jagannatha, Baladeva and Subhadra, are taken from the Temples and pulled on chariots through the streets, accompanied by crowds of people and loud music.



24th-25th June Eid al-Fitr-Muslim

Eid al-Fitr marks the end of the month-long fast during the Islamic month of Ramadan. It's one of the two major holidays in the Islamic year and is celebrated with prayer and thanksgiving to God, as well as feasting and gift giving.



2nd July Dharma Day-Buddist

Dharma Day, or Asala, is when Buddhists from the Theravada tradition celebrate the teachings of the Buddha. Dharma refers to the Buddha's body of teachings, and on Dharma Day Buddhists celebrate the day the Buddha began to teach his Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path. This event is often referred to as the first turn of the 'Wheel of Dharma'.

