

DBE Schools Bulletin

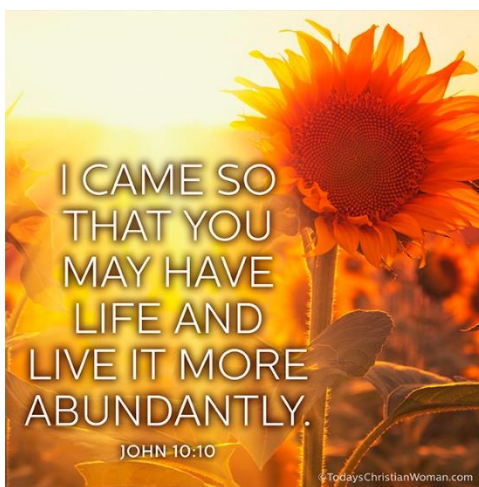
November 2022

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,
our schools will be communities which are:

LOVING
in relationships

AMBITIOUS
in aspirations

BOLD
in actions



"...we are created and sustained by God for living together in families and communities. (This) is at the root of our dedication to educating for life together."

Church of England
Vision for Education

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Key changes to SIAMS

This month, the National SIAMS team from the Church of England have announced a new framework that will come into effect from September 2023. SIAMS is the Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools, as part of section 48 of the Education Act 2005. The national team have described the new framework as 'radically different, radically the same.' It will continue to have a focus on the impact of the Church school's theologically rooted Christian vision in enabling pupils and adults to flourish. The approach, however will be different, with a much greater emphasis around the evidence of 'impact' rather than schools evidencing against lists of criteria. The context of the school will also play a much greater role than at present. One significant change is that inspections will no longer be graded and instead an overall judgement will be awarded. Trusts will also be held more accountable for their responsibilities for Church schools. Our diocesan team will be providing further details and information over the coming months through a range of briefings, courses, cluster meetings and forums (further details can be found on p.3) to support schools in preparation for these changes. Schools that are in the inspection window for this academic year, will continue to be inspected under the current framework.

Finally, a reminder that our Heads and senior leaders conference takes place on the 25th November, the theme is on the Church of England's Vision for Education strand of Living Well Together. Tickets are still available and can be purchased through the link chesterdbe.co.uk/conference. We will be welcoming Nigel Genders, Chief Education Officer for the Church of England, and will hear from a national perspective, the key issues in education currently and within this context, how as school, church and community we can live well and flourish together. We look forward to you joining us.

Headteacher & Senior Leaders Conference 2022

We would love for you to join us for the Headteacher and Senior Leaders Conference on 25th November 2022.

Headteacher & Senior Leaders' Conference

Living Well Together

School • Church • Community

featuring keynote speakers

Rev Nigel Genders
Chief Education Officer
Church of England Education Office

Pastor Mick Fleming
Church on the Street

25 November 2022
The Park Royal Hotel
[Stretton WA4 4NS]
Ticket Cost £150
[additional tickets purchased at £100]
book now
chesterdbe.co.uk/conference

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Chester Diocesan Board of Education

Our first keynote speaker will be the Chief Education Officer of Church of England Education Department, Nigel Genders.

With over eight years' experience in this role, responsible for the development of the Church of England's strategies and policies for education whilst promoting and supporting the Church's voluntary work among children and young people; Nigel offers influential insight into exploring Church of England Schools in a new school system and how they can work effectively together to serve their community.

Our second speaker is Pastor Mick Fleming. We hope you will be inspired by some of the amazing things he has done to support the vulnerable in his community. To give you an idea

of his inspirational journey take a look here: [YouTube Clip](#)

As well as our two speakers there will be a Marketplace where a number of schools will be presenting ways in which they have worked effectively with different types of communities. This is an opportunity to be inspired, get some ideas to take back to school but also to discuss with other leaders about how your school works with your communities.

Through the day there will also be opportunities to meet our pop-up exhibitors including Christian crafts & handmade gifts, sports-coaching service, wood carvings, Chester Cathedral Education dept, Christian posters, Archbishop Young Leaders, Picture News and Christian Aid.

For tickets go to: chesterdbe.co.uk/conference

New SIAMS Framework

A new SIAMS framework will be introduced from September 2023, the overarching focus of the inspection will remain the same, however, it will see some significant changes to the way inspections are carried out and the judgement reached. Information and an overview of the new framework, including transitional arrangements and templates for self-evaluation can be found in the SIAMS section of the Church of England website [SIAMS Inspections - The Church of England](#)

The Diocesan team will be providing further details and information over the coming months through a range of briefings, courses, cluster meetings and forums to support schools in preparation for these changes. These include;

SIAMS overview – Morning SIAMS process – SLT	17 th November 2022, Church House AM ☞, PM ☞, Full day ☞
SIAMS Evaluation Summary – Afternoon A practical session to begin / continue self-evaluation against the schedule	20 th April 2023, Church House AM ☞, PM ☞, Full day ☞
Religious Education & SIAMS - for RE subject leaders.	23 rd November 2022 ☞ or 23 rd March 2023 ☞ Church House, Full day
SIAMS – for Governors	8 th February 2023 ☞ or 18 th May 2023 ☞ Zoom - 9:30am, Half day

Breakfast Briefings for Heads, Chairs of Governors & Incumbents	Termly – Zoom Meetings. Next meeting - 8:30am 20 th January 2023 ☞
Headteacher Surgeries	Termly – Zoom Meetings, Next meeting - 9:30am 7 th February 2023 ☞
Headteacher Cluster Meetings	Termly -in person. See page 6 for details
Chair of Governor surgeries & briefings	Monthly – Zoom Meetings, Next meetings - 8:30am 24 th November 2022, ☞ & 4:00pm 14 th December 2022, ☞
Clergy with church schools network	Termly – Zoom Meetings. Next meeting - 1:30pm 28 th February 2023 ☞
RE Leaders Cluster Meetings	Termly -in person. See page 7 for details

Admissions for Aided schools and academies



Our admissions guidance has been updated following some adjudicator rulings that have been made this year. The latest guidance can be found here

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/schools/school-support/admissions.php>

Please ensure:

- Looked After Children also includes those who were in care overseas
- A clear definition of worship attendance, frequency and time frame with clear cut off. This definition must also be in your Supplementary Information Form (SIF)
- If you have criteria that includes attendance at worship you must have a Supplementary Information Form that allows for a tick box to confirm attendance (not a letter from clergy)
- The waiting list is kept until the 31st December and not the end of the autumn term.
- If you have a section on 'summer born children' rename to children educated outside their age group to include those who wish to start school early and those who wish to delay for reasons (e.g. medical) which is not to do with being summer born
- Make sure the map of any parishes is included with the policy

Please remember

- If there are any changes you must consult for a minimum of 6 weeks before the 31st January
- You will need to 'determine' the arrangements for 2024 by 28th February 2023 and send a copy to the DBE

Chaplaincy at Elworth Church of England Primary School

Over the past two years I have had the privilege of serving the children and staff of Elworth Church of England School as their school chaplain. My role is one which is distinctive and inclusive; meeting people where they are and accepting them unconditionally, my aim always being to share God's presence by my words and actions. The chaplaincy role is completely relational and depends upon the building of good relationships with our local families.

Part of my role has been to develop a team of young people known as the Worship Warriors. Together we have planned both collective and class worship, have monitored class reflection areas and have raised awareness of our termly Christian value projects. The Worship Warrior team is vital to the spiritual life of the school and it is wonderful to meet with them weekly and to discuss topical Christian issues.

Another aspect of my role as chaplain is to provide a listening ear where it is needed and I have been able to check in with pupils, staff and parents to provide pastoral support. A chaplain is always on the edge and in the centre; at the centre of school with a direct link to the senior leadership team but also one step removed from the school because of the link with the Church meaning that I can therefore be more impartial and take a 'wider' view of situations and reflect back with a more pastoral opinion.

One of the biggest privileges I have is to be able to pray for and with the school community. Sharing a daily thought and prayer has meant a lot to me and has helped me to build on relationships across the school.

As chaplain, I am actively involved in the planning and celebration of Christian festivals as part of the annual Christian calendar of the school. There has been scope to introduce some messy church style activities and also to be part of the school's termly Prayer Spaces days which involve a whole day of prayer activities and reflections together with the school children and staff.

Finally, I have been able to share with the school in various types of charity work. This term the focus has been upon Operation Christmas Child and also the collection of food donations for the Sandbach food bank.

In summary, the role of a chaplain is diverse and varied, always different from day to day but with God at the centre always.

Cathryn Houghton – Children and Families Worker and School Chaplain

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award

Advent Resources 2022

The AYLA wants to share our new free resource for Advent this year:

'Follow the Star – Advent Journeys'.

As we journey towards Christmas this Advent season, we invite schools to join us in exploring some of the journeys made in the Christmas story and to consider how these can help and inspire us on our own journeys in life.



Join us in taking a look at the journeys made by Mary as she visits Elizabeth, by Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem and by the shepherds and wise men as they travel to meet and celebrate Jesus. The journeys offer us an invitation to **hope, search, follow and rejoice**.

Over four weeks the resource will explore what we can learn from these journeys and how they can inspire us to reach out and make a difference to others in our communities this Advent. Each week includes:

Bible passage activity Video Exploration Questions to reflect on Challenges Prayer

This resource can be used in the classroom or in collective worship. Challenges can be done individually or as a group or class. To sign up, please click the link: <https://www.abyyt.com/advent>

The Bible Society – The Bible in 4 minutes



The Bible Society have released a video that takes us on a journey through the bible in 4 minutes. It's a great resource to share with staff and older students to give them a summary of the Bible's message from Genesis to Revelation. They have also created resources for various ages to be used alongside further videos that look at each section in more detail. Please follow the link [here](https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/spoken-truth/the-bible-in-four-minutes/)



<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/spoken-truth/the-bible-in-four-minutes/>

NATRE free webinar.

Are you a primary or secondary Early Career Teacher of RE, or a secondary teacher who is new to the teaching of RE?



These online sessions are a series of FREE monthly webinars designed to support you develop your subject knowledge skills. It will also provide evidence to meet the ECT standards

[NATRE ECT free monthly webinar](#)

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Autumn			
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Mon 3 October 1.30pm	CANCELLED
Congleton/ Nantwich		Tue 15 November 10am	Brereton Primary
Macclesfield		Mon 10 October 1.30pm	CANCELLED
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Wed 12 October 1.30pm	Whitegate CE Primary
Rural Chester		Wed 16 November 1.30pm	Tarporley
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Thu 10 November 10am	Hyde St George
Trafford		Tue 1 November 1pm	Altrincham Primary
Warrington/ Halton		Mon 7 November 1.30pm	Runcorn All Saints
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	Friday 14 October	Leasowe Castle
Secondary Heads		Wed 9 November 9.30am	Bishop's Blue Coat CE High School

Tales From the Miracle Book'

A Christmas Tale



The Christmas films are a part of our annual subscription service for Collective Worships/ RE lessons with over 60 films and Collective Worships to choose from! Do check out the subscription on <http://talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk> Great to embed Christian values and school values and your school vision too. The trailer for the Christmas Film series is

on <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/481799780>



Angels Delight! A Key Stage 2 Christmas Adventure Novel!

Sometimes the nativity can be seen as something Primarily for Key Stage 1. 'Angels Delight' makes Christmas relevant for Key Stage 2 pupils. An audio version of the book will be broadcast on UCB2 around 3.30pm during advent. 'Angel's Delight' is available on Amazon or <https://www.mikepeacock.net/books>

'Full of imagination, a perfect mix of silliness and seriousness, gently revealing the cosmic purpose of the birth of Jesus.'

Paul Burbridge, Founding Member & Artistic Direct of Riding Lights Theatre Company



RE Cluster Leader Groups



Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Meetings are being arranged for the autumn, more details to follow. Groups and leader details below:

Name of Cluster Group	Group Leaders	Meeting & Venue
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port)	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE) Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)	Tues 15th November - 4:00pm for 4:15 pm Hoole CE Primary CH2 3HB
Cheshire East South	Fiona Pulle (Brereton CE) Liz Taylor (Wybunbury Delves CE)	tbc
Cheshire East North & Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich)	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.) Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)	Tuesday 8 th November
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural)	Finola Jackson (Saighton CE)	Tuesday 27 th September Saighton CE
Tameside & Stockport	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges)	tbc
Trafford	Natalie McLoughlin (St Anne's Sale)	Tuesday 20 th October 3:40pm St Anne's Sale
Wirral	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead) Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)	tbc

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org for further information

DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

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sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org	Director's PA & Administrator	07549 109578
linda.boys@chester.anglican.org	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

November, December & January 2022 CPD Courses.

Courses are listed on our [courses web page](#) and new [Ticket Tailor](#) site

Date	Month	Course	Location
8 th	Nov	Stepping Into Headship - Two evening course	Zoom
8 th	Nov	Spiritual Development	Church House
15 th	Nov	Stepping Into Headship - Two evening course	Zoom
16 th	Nov	Deputies & Assistant Headteachers' Briefing & Networking	Church House
17 th	Nov	SIAMS - a detailed view & SIAMS SEF Starter	Church House
17 th	Nov	SIAMS - a detailed view: Morning Only	Church House
17 th	Nov	Preparing for SIAMS - SIAMS SEF Starter: Afternoon only	Church House
18 th	Nov	Headteachers Surgery	Zoom
23 rd	Nov	Religious Education & The SIAMS Evaluation Schedule	Church House
24 th	Nov	Chairs clinic and networking group	Zoom
25 th	Nov	Headteacher & Senior Leaders' Annual Conference*	Park Royal
29 th	Nov	Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 2	Witton Church Walk
7 th	Dec	Refreshing Understanding Christianity	Church House
14 th	Dec	Chairs clinic and networking group	Zoom
11 th	Dec	Ethos Group - Vision Ambassadors, A Pupil Conference	Church House
tbc	Jan	New Headteacher Support - 1 Year Programme - session 1	Church House
19 th	Jan	Being a Governor of a Church School / Academy	Zoom
19 th	Jan	RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 1	tbc
20 th	Jan	Heads, Chairs and Incumbents briefing	Zoom
24 th	Jan	Collective Worship Leads network	Zoom
25 th	Jan	Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 3	St Oswald's
Other Courses & Events			
11 th	Nov	Headteacher Wellbeing – Group 1	Foxhill
14 th	Nov	Christian Leadership Course School visit (in the week commencing)	
16 th	Nov	Headteacher Wellbeing – Group 2	Foxhill
19/20 th	Jan	Christian Leadership Course 2 day Residential	
27 th	Jan	CEEO National Conference	

Any enquires about courses, dates or further details please contact [Charlotte Somers](#).

News from Schools

Astbury St Mary



Children from our school joined with others on a pilgrimage to Chester cathedral. Children learnt about St Werburgh, dressed as a pilgrim and gave bread and money to the poor. They dressed as Benedictine Monks, took a vow of silence, ate bread, drank apple juice (not ale!) and listened to the story of the lost sheep. Children visited the children's chapel and learnt about prayer. They made a bracelet to represent the four different elements of the Lord's prayer and wrote prayers on leaves to put on a tree.



There was a fantastic teaching session on the organ with a demonstration of the sounds of the organ. To end the afternoon, children joined craft workshops making stained glass windows, tiles and mosaics. The final part of the day was a service in the cathedral and a presentation to the children from Bishop Sam. Astbury children loved looking at the stained-glass windows in the cloisters and particularly enjoyed finding the saints with their names!



Bickerton

We concluded our half term with our Harvest celebrations. Our worship leaders organised an own clothes day in school. Children wore their own clothes and brought in a donation for the Malpas food bank. The children collected a great contribution of donations.



The worship leaders then led us in a lovely collective worship using song and prayer to help us understand the purpose of harvest in our church community. As well as our contributions to the local food bank, we also supported the pyjama appeal during October - collecting pyjamas to be donated to our local children's hospital.



Bishops' Blue Coat High

Social Action with Save the Family



During the run up to half-term, our community at Bishops' Blue Coat worked in partnership with St Luke's Church to collect food for the Chester-based charity [Save the Family](https://www.savethefamily.org.uk).

Save the Family provides residential care for families who are affected by crises such

as domestic violence, addiction, debt and family break-up. The charity aims to support and keep families together and eventually help them get them back on their feet and into the community. Assemblies were given at school on the importance of 'being the change you want to see in the world' and doing what you can as an individual to bring about Jesus' vision of 'life in all its fullness' for everyone. Parents, staff and students gave very generously to our appeal and the sizeable food donation that we provided will bring hope to these vulnerable families and help to maintain the dignity and integrity of their family bonds.

If you would like to continue supporting Save the Family in the run up to Christmas, you can do so by donating to their Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/savethefamily.

All of our year groups at Bishops have also now voted on the charitable organisations they are going to be supporting throughout 2022 – 2023. Watch this space for further news of how we will be supporting the Make A wish Foundation, the West Cheshire Foodbank, Mind, Cancer Research and the World Wildlife Foundation!



Brereton

We have enjoyed a lovely end to our term with three celebrations that reflect our commitment to 'Love God, learn learning and love one another.' First, a harvest service led by EYFS and KS1 which focused on farming in and around Brereton and sharing the good gifts we have with others. EYFS reminded us in their recreation of the story of the 'Little Red hen' about the importance of teamwork in a community.

In challenging inequality and reaching out in love to our neighbours, our harvest appeal centred on supporting the Brereton food pantry based at Revd Sandi's Vicarage and Chance, changing lives in Crewe. We were overwhelmed by our parents' generous donations of food and toiletries which have now been shared between both charities. We shall continue to support both charities throughout this academic year.

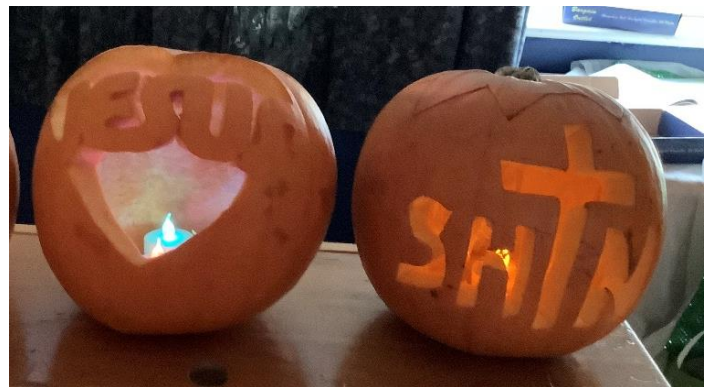


Finally, our final day of term was focused on pumpkins of 'hope' - an alternative to Halloween. Over 120 pumpkins were brought into school by families. The messages of hope carved into them reflected the light, love and compassion of Jesus and the hope of caring for creation so it is preserved for future generations. Back in

classrooms each class focused on

an activity of hope -pumpkin trails for the younger years, spiral prayers and paper chains of hope, hopes and dreams catchers and songs to sing which included, The Rock.

Such a wonderful end to a half term.



Bunbury

This term we have celebrated Harvest in Bunbury school with our annual Harvest Celebration Worship. For the first time since autumn 2019, we have been able to hold our service back in St Boniface church. We were delighted to welcome so many parents, carers, grandparents and relatives to the service and it was fantastic to see that the church was packed.



Throughout this half term the children have been thinking about Thankfulness through their weekly worships. Harvest is a time to thank God for all the gifts of his creation. During the service we thought about the story of Ruth and Boaz. In the Bible, God frequently reminds His people of the importance of taking care of those who are in need. The story of Ruth and Boaz is an example from the Old Testament where they both put other people first. We talked with the children about how we can do

the same today by adding a few items into the food bank box when we go shopping? Our harvest donations this year therefore went to our local foodbank and we had a fantastic amount of produce donated.



We continued through the service to think about Ruth and Boaz. Ruth was not wealthy like Boaz, but she gave something very important – she showed kindness to Naomi and stayed with her through a difficult time. With the children we thought about how we could show the Fruits of the Spirits in all we do so that we can live in peaceful world.

Each of our classes shared their thinking about what Thankfulness means to them. As we continue to live in uncertain times, we have been thinking about being thankful: by loving others, giving cheerfully, caring for creation and giving our time.

Worship at Bunbury is linked to the Christian Values and each half term the children look more closely at a particular value.



Retuning back to school in September we all looked at Thankfulness, what this meant to the children as well as stories within the bible. During the half term, different children are rewarded weekly for showing this Christian value in their everyday lives both within school and in the community. The children really enjoy this in-depth work on each of the Christian values and are always very able to demonstrate how they live their daily lives showing each of these values.

Crowton



children sang beautifully. Another huge thank you to all the donations from our Crowton family and friends.

Brooke in Year 4 has worked hard with her Beaver Colony to raise money for R.N.L.I by completing lots of jobs, like gardening, washing cars and walking horses. She managed to fundraise £50 to help save lives at sea. We are super proud of her at Crowton!



This month, we had a wonderful Harvest celebration at Crowton Christ Church. It was lovely to welcome our new Reception children and their parents into our school family. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 shared a beautiful poem about Harvest, Year 3 and 4 shared a small role play all about the harvesting process for farmers and finally, Year 5 and 6 shared a fantastic acrostic poem. The church was filled with joy and all

A popular and loved little boy who finished Crowton a few years ago. Here's Josh's Story: Back in April this year, I was in Year 8 and enjoying playing football. I started to feel tired and was getting pains in my leg and back. After a visit to the Doctors, blood tests, CT and MRI scans and a bone marrow test I was diagnosed with Leukaemia.

By the beginning of September I had already had 15 lumbar punctures and bone marrow aspirates, 64 rounds of chemo/immunotherapy during which I suffered a stroke caused by the toxic chemotherapy drugs. The list doesn't end there, I have also had 13 blood/platelet transfusions, 14 MRI/CT scans and spent over 50 nights in hospital. My treatment will take 3 years in total!

September was childhood cancer awareness month and I wanted to do something to raise money for two of the charities that had helped me, The Joshua Tree at Sandiway and Little Chics based at Alder Hey. I decided to walk or cycle one mile for every round of chemo/immunotherapy I had had, so 64 miles in total. By the end of September I had completed a total of 110 miles and raised an incredible £5500. The money will make a huge difference to both the charities and the families they support and thank you to everyone who sponsored me. Josh 💜

Lower Peover

Last month we took on our [Gold Ribbon Run](#) to raise funds and awareness for the Childhood Cancer and Leukaemia Group. We are pleased to announce that we raised £6015 for vital research with this wonderful charity.



Year 5 had a brilliant day at Chester Cathedral pilgrim day. We had guided tours around the cathedral where we dressed as monks and had a breakfast of bread and 'ale' (apple juice), learned all about St Werburgh and made prayer bracelets. We were treated to an organ demonstration and took part in lots of different activities such as making mosaics, sewing a pilgrim



pouch, designing a floor tile, learning a song with the choir and creating monks out of icing! Each child also added a piece of Lego to the huge Lego replica of the cathedral which was very exciting!

Marple All Saints

Our school had a fantastic Church Week 2022 being Curious About Worship! The week incorporated iSingPOP leading some sensational Songs of Worship at All Saints' Church culminating with two top quality concerts with singing and dancing at our Church which was packed to capacity (just like the good old days pre Covid!). Emma, our iSingPOP leader was absolutely amazing teaching songs that



will be firm favourites to raise the roof for many years to come I'm sure...! In between the songs, Emma's talent to relate to the children whilst talking about key Christian Values, helped our children to gain so much during this incredibly special week. Joyfulness (another of our school Christian values) abounded from start to finish!



In addition, our team of wonderful Church volunteers led by Sarah Holton our school and families worker set up and ran 3 prayer spaces on the EYFS playground, KS1 playground and KS2 playground. These mainly took place throughout the week at playtimes and lunch times and proved especially popular hives of activity and fun! What I loved was that our children had someone to listen to them and give them quality time to talk to them and pray with them. From bubble prayers, to flower prayers blooming in water and prayer ribbons adorning

our trees, the prayer spaces provided time to wonder, time to be peaceful and develop their spirituality.

Our Harvest Donations this year went to support our local foodbank 'The Pantry' ran by our Church where our Ethos Team took all our generous donations to the 'Connect Centre' in Marple showing KINDNESS to our community (another of our new Christian Values).

Moreton, Christ Church

Our school family is growing and we are overjoyed to have successfully opened a pre-school in September. It is joyous to see such young children thriving in their new learning environment.



As the EYFS department has grown, we have developed our outdoor provision to enhance it and to ensure that provision is progressive for the children as they journey through pre-school and FS2.

As we started the new academic year at Christ Church, all children have settled into school well; we are very proud that our community have returned to school with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm! We enjoyed meeting at our local church- Christ Church Parish on Sunday 25th September for our annual back to school service. This is always a wonderful time for the church, school staff, children and families to unite in worship and to pray

for the new school year.



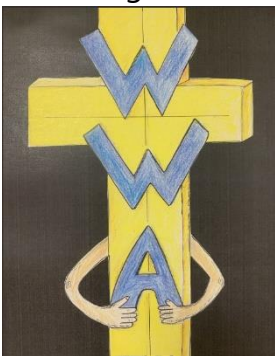
This year, our children proudly led the congregation in singing, readings and prayers and the church gratefully accepted a beautiful banner that the children made in school to display in the church parish centre for the local community to enjoy. The banner has images of our school, the church and Moreton cross with our strapline of **'Together we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.'**

We felt privileged to be invited to be a part of the recruitment process of the new rector for Christ Church and we welcomed the candidates to school to meet members of staff and children in October. The relationship between a church school and the incumbent is very special and we were honoured to being involved in such an

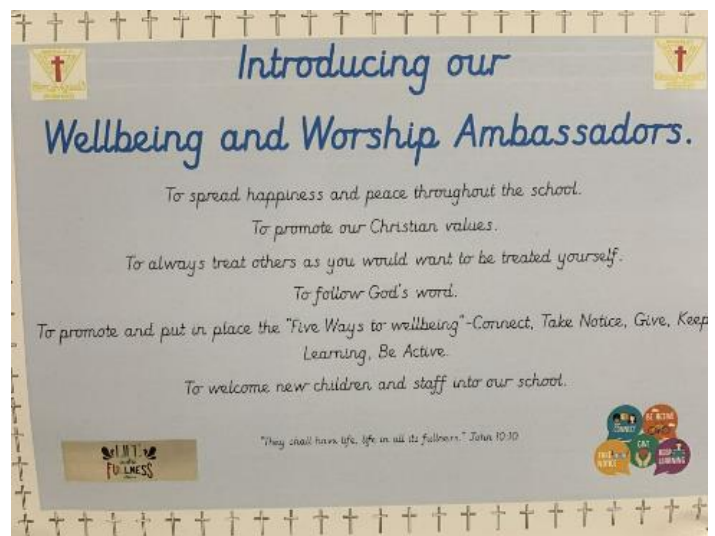
important process with the local community.

Mossley

This half term we have started our new 'Worship and Wellbeing Ambassadors' group. Their role includes promoting peace throughout the school, promoting our Christian Values and following the words of God. The children are also helping to put in place the 'Five Ways to Wellbeing' to ensure that all children are cared for and looked after at Mossley.



The first task that the Ambassadors had was to plan our Harvest festival. The children decided to keep to our recent Harvest tradition of having a tractor come to school to collect our donations. We will also be visiting our local Church for our Harvest celebrations where the Ambassadors will share a special prayer of thanks.



Norley

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you...



We have a fabulous school community here at Norley CE Primary School. When we returned back to school we had been gifted so many lovely things from our special friends.

It is always sad when our year six children move on to their new high schools, but we are very proud of them and they leave us with lots of special memories. The children who have just left us were able to run their £5 challenge project again. In groups the children put together a business plan that enables them to grow

the £5 we invest in them. We have sports challenges, cakes, drinks stall and homemade items, all for a small charge and run at playtimes for one week. The money raised allows them to pay back the £5 investment and then they decide what they would like to buy for school. This year they bought Prayer Bears for each class and a new bin for the field. We would like to thank them very much for their hard work and kind donation.



The PTFA asked the children what they would like to add to their school grounds and the children asked for picnic benches. As part of our Helping Hands reward system children can choose a voucher when they earn 10 'Helping Hands', and one of the vouchers is for fire lighting. We do this at lunchtime and the children sit around eating their lunch and chatting, a highlight of my week. We were finding it difficult sitting with our lunches on

our knees so, the children asked for more picnic benches. This also means we can eat outside when the weather allows. Thank you to the parents for raising money to enhance our school experience and grounds.

Finally, the Parish Council have been very generous and donated some money to us. They heard that our Friendship Bench had come to the end of its life and were keen for us to replace it. We were able to purchase two rocking benches, a decorative bench and a bird bath with their donation and the kindness of Gleaves in Frodsham. No one is short of a friend on our playground now! The children are enjoying rocking and talking together.



We are so lucky to have such a thoughtful and generous school community, we work well together and support each other when needed.

Saughall All Saints

On Tuesday 11th October, Year 1 and 2 attended 3 different wedding ceremonies in one afternoon: a Christian ceremony, a Muslim ceremony and a Humanist ceremony.



We began in the church. Two of our Year 2s were ushers and ensured that the rest of the children knew where to sit depending on whether they were friends or family of the bride or groom.

Once seated, the bride walked down the aisle to the wedding march. She was accompanied by her father and two bridesmaids whilst her groom, along with his best man, waited patiently at the front of the church.



Vows were made, rings were exchanged and the register was signed. The proud father gave his daughter's hand to her new husband, 1 Corinthians 13:4 was read from the lectern and a song was sung. The bride and groom then exited the church, followed by their friends and family.

Back at school, the children were seated ready for a Muslim wedding celebration with boys on one side of the room and girls on the other to show that this is what happens in some Muslim weddings. The parents of the bride and groom met to discuss the amount of money that the groom was going to give his bride as a wedding present and once this was agreed, the wedding took place.



The bride and groom sat on chairs as in some Muslim cultures they sit on a type of throne or platform so they can be seen by all the guests. Vows were made these were suggested by other members of Year 1 and 2 and included 'I will always love you' and 'I promise to always look after you'. There was a reading from the Qur'an, the register was signed and the Imam pronounced the couple as husband and wife. The ceremony ended with a prayer and then the couple headed off with their family for the second part of the wedding where performances, speeches and feasting happen.



After our Muslim ceremony, we headed outside for a Humanist wedding celebration. The bride and groom chose where they wanted to get married and they chose someone who they knew to be the celebrant (the person who carries out the wedding).

There was a welcome from the celebrant, a reading from 'Us Two' by A.A Milne and then the bride and groom made their own personal promises to each other. They exchanged rings and signed the wedding certificate and then they were presented as husband and wife by the celebrant.

Shocklach Oviatt



While Reverend Tim has been on jury service and Reverend Norma has been busy with her new role as hospital Chaplain, we have been very fortunate to have Chris Gilbert leading our Thursday worship. We have learnt some wonderful new songs, all accompanied by actions that have the children smiling throughout!

Chris has also shared his time and expertise to inspire the children to create a new Bible Timeline, to support our teaching of 'The Big Story'. We have selected some of our worship leaders and school artists to work with Chris on this project, which will show the key theological concepts and we are excited to see how the project develops.



Woodchurch



Following on from our exciting involvement in Cressida Cowell's Life Changing Libraries project last year, where as one of six school across the country we worked alongside Cressida and the Book Trust to develop a truly amazing and inspiring library space, with a focus on reading for pleasure, we are proud to share that Woodchurch Church of England Primary school has been awarded the One Education Bronze Reading award. The award recognises



and celebrates the commitment and knowledge shown by our school in building a successful reading curriculum and providing children with the skills, the passion, and the enthusiasm needed for reading.

It has been an amazing journey for us as a school and we now have an accessible and well stocked library which is enjoyed by children and staff alike and often referred to a "haven" within school. We have been fortunate to be able to work with reading experts, authors and the wider community in creating a whole school reading for pleasure culture, which lies at the heart of everything we do.



Worleston St Oswald's

The British Food Fortnight Festival took place on Sunday 25th September in Chester Cathedral. Revd Anne Lawson and four members of the Ethos Committee at St. Oswald's Worleston C.E. Primary School all read prayers during the service. In everyday life we meet many challenges. They showed true courage facing up to and overcoming this challenge.



A message from Revd Anne Lawson

This is to say the most enormous thank you for bringing Layla, Abigail, Ryan and Noah to the Cathedral. They certainly did God, themselves and the school proud. Please pass on my sincere thanks to their parents and grandparents.

Thank you so much. Every blessing, Revd S Anne Lawson



Wybunbury Delves

At our school we have been celebrating being 200 years old! Across the year we have been finding out about our school's history. We found out that although our building is 200 years old, Sir Thomas Delves starting funding Wybunbury education in 1727 – so we are not far off being 300 years old! We have been participating in activities to celebrate and to give thanks for the special place which is our school.



We shared in a beautiful worship which gave thanks for our school. The children spoke brilliantly, sung their hearts out and delivered a clear message about our school history and values. It was lovely to have with us some invited guests including Bishop Mark, the Bishop of Chester and former headteachers. We then all enjoyed a picnic in celebration of 200 years! The children and staff have all been given a Bicentenary Teddy to mark the occasion.

We also received a special letter from Windsor Castle wishing us all the best in our bicentenary celebrations from the Queen and a card thanking us for sending our best wishes for her platinum jubilee.

