

DBE Schools Bulletin

October 2021

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

LOVING
in relationships

AMBITIOUS
in aspirations

BOLD
in actions

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All good gifts around us

This month sees many of our schools and churches celebrating Harvest time, and it has been wonderful that a growing number have been able to hold their Harvest festival and thanksgiving in person, either in school or church, coming together as a school community to give thanks for God's goodness. It is an occasion when donations of food are invited and collated to be distributed across school communities by local charities and organisations.

Sadly, we know that an increasing number of families require this support all year round and are grateful for the help they receive from local foodbanks, many of which are run out of our schools and churches. The foodbanks rely on the generous and on-going donations to provide this necessary support. Thank you to all those in our schools who are involved in this important ministry, and in the many ways you support your local community throughout the year, as we seek to share love and support to our neighbours in practical ways through the love of Christ.

October also marks Black History Month and there are some helpful resources from Mentally Healthy Schools that schools may find of interest and can be found on page 2 of this Bulletin. It also coincides with a special exhibition being held by Chester Cathedral, Global Images of Christ, that includes a large selection of artwork from our church schools. The exhibition runs throughout October and is well worth a visit. It challenges thinking as to how Christ is perceived through a global perspective.

Finally, a reminder that our Headteacher and Senior Leaders Conference takes place on Friday 26th November. Over half of the available places have already been sold, so don't delay and book your place today, with a discount offered for additional places booked. Further details can be found on page 2.



Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.

2 Corinthians 9:10

Headteacher & Senior Leader Conference 2021



Gee Walker is the founder and Patron of the Anthony Walker Foundation. The foundation works to tackle racism, hate crime and discrimination by providing educational opportunities, victim support services and by promoting equity and inclusion for all.



Chris Lubbe

First of all, I am Sam's husband, Khaya and Micah's dad, and a friend of God. At high school, I discovered I had a gift for speaking and led students in protest against the unjust system of 'apartheid'. I've had the honour of working with some of the greatest world leaders including Nelson Mandela. My purpose is to inspire positive change and to help others discover their own purpose.



For further details and to book a place click [here](#)

Black History Month Resources

October marks the start of Black History Month, which takes place every year in October across the world. The month presents an opportunity for children and young people to learn more about Black history through lessons and assemblies. It is also an opportunity for schools to emphasise their dedication to supporting and uplifting Black students.

**MENTALLY
HEALTHY
SCHOOLS**



You may have already planned some curriculum content around Black History Month, looking at cultural or historical Black figures. The resources are provided by Mentally Healthy Schools and includes a toolkit that focusses on mental health themes, helping schools to explore ideas around diversity, self-belief, identity and the impact of racism on those who experience it.

Mentally Healthy Schools toolkit for Black History Month – [click here](#)

Headteacher Wellbeing Programme

Wellbeing can be elusive to Headteachers/Principals who are juggling their daily workload and challenges of headship. This programme provides the opportunity to develop networks and practices that will help your own wellbeing and is aimed at enabling you to achieve a better work-life balance in your career.

We cannot remove the daily stresses of the job, but we can provide the time and space for reflection, a listening ear, practical support, discussion and encouragement aimed at helping to improve your wellbeing.

The programme has been designed to run over the course of the academic year and will include 'face to face' days, access to a mentor, visits to your school and peer to peer support. **There will be two cohorts – 'experienced' and 'early headship – first 4 years'.** The cohort size will be kept purposefully small.

*****PLEASE NOTE THAT SESSION 1 TAKES PLACE ON FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER (EXPERIENCED HEADTEACHERS) & THURSDAY 14 OCTOBER (EARLY HEADSHIP – first 4 years)*****

Click [here](#) for more details.



CPD Programme 2021-22

We are delighted to launch our 2021-22 CPD programme for the new school year.

The programme reflects the needs of our schools and offers a range of courses for leaders at all levels. The [programme booklet](#) provides a list of courses under the sub-headings of school and leadership roles. Each course title has a hyperlink that will take you directly to the booking page, where you can find out more information about the course and book a place. The [calendar view](#) provides an overview of the programme, both can be found below:

[CPD Programme 2021-22 – Booklet](#)

[CPD Programme 2021-22 - Calendar Overview](#)

It includes an Early Career Framework programme *****new for this year***** delivered over two years and builds on materials from our successful NQT programme. We are also running our RQT programme again and have courses for middle and senior leaders, including a **new course**, 'Stepping into Headship' for aspiring headteachers.

Responding to your feedback, the programme will feature a range of on-line and face to face sessions, with some of the details still to be confirmed due to the current situation.

I am pleased to confirm that prices for both our Family of Schools' membership and course fees for 2021-22 have been frozen for a further year.

[Booking pages are now open](#), enabling you to begin planning your CPD needs and securing your places for the new academic year, invoices for bookings will be sent out following the course (except for our multiple session programmes.). ***please note that face to face training may revert to online if necessary due to restrictions**

October/Start of November 2021 Courses

| DATE | COURSE | STATUS |
|---------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| 11/10/21 | 'Goodness & Mercy' - RSHE For Church of England Schools <i>Choice of: 1.30pm OR 4pm</i> | ON-LINE |
| 12/10/21 | Being a Governor of a Church School | ON-LINE |
| 15/10/21 *Change of date* | Visionary Subject Leadership | CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBUURY |
| 18/10/21 *Change of date* | Help I am a New Religious Education Subject Leader in a Church School | CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBUURY |
| 19/10/21 | Mental Health Champions **BOOKING DEADLINE HAS NOW PASSED** REPEATED IN DECEMBER | ON-LINE |
| 20/10/21 | Chairs' Clinic & Networking Group | ON-LINE |
| 20/10/21 | World Faiths- Global Christianity | TWILIGHT ON-LINE |
| 21/10/21 | Worship that Works | CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBUURY |
| 08/11/21 | Preparing for SIAMS-An Inspector's Eye View & SIAMS SEF Starter | CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBUURY |
| 09/11/21, 16/11/21 | Stepping into Headship- Part 1 Practical Application (9 Nov) -Part 2 Interview Techniques (16 Nov) | TWILIGHTS ON-LINE |
| 17/11/21 | Deputies & Assistant Headteachers' Briefing & Networking (In Person Session) | CHURCH HOUSE, DARESBUURY |

RE Resources for Schools



There are some great new offers for Primary RE resources from TTS. These include books and artefacts that reflect religious beliefs, spirituality, celebration, worship, practices and belonging.

Check the full collection out at <https://www.tts-group.co.uk/primary/re/>



RE Subject Leaders Cluster Groups Autumn Term 2021



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. Don't miss out. Details can be found below:

| Name of cluster Group | Group Leaders | Date & Time of Meeting |
|---|---|---|
| **PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL MEETINGS WILL BE <u>ONLINE</u> UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE** | | |
| Cheshire East South | Fiona Pulle (Brereton CE) Liz Taylor (Wybunbury Delves CE) | Thursday November 11th 4pm |
| Cheshire East North & Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich) | Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.) Paula Perry (Lower Peover CE) | Tuesday 9th November 2021 4pm |
| Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port) | Rachel Inns (Hoole CE) Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port) | Monday November 15th 4:30pm |
| Cheshire West & Chester (Rural) | Finola Jackson (Saighton CE) | Thursday 7th October 4pm |
| Tameside & Stockport | Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges) | Thursday 7th October 4pm |
| Trafford | Vanessa Horner (Bowdon CE) | Tuesday 28th September 4pm |
| Wirral | Charlotte Cummings (Christchurch Birkenhead) Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington) | Thursday October 14th 3.45pm |

If you are interested, please contact your RE Group Leader or charlotte.somers@chester.anglican.org for more information / to register for the meeting.

Youth Alpha at Hartford C of E High School



youthalpha comes to Hartford C of E High School!

After a challenging 18 months of recording, mixing and editing virtual assemblies, running 5 weekly Christian Unions in year group bubbles instead of one large one and numerous other changes to our Christian groups and pastoral care, it has been lovely to resume to a degree of 'normal' as schools have returned this autumn. To be able to see the young people's faces as you are speaking to them in the school hall and engage with their reactions has been such a blessing and we praise God for being able to resume things.

However, the pandemic has taken a great toll on our young people. Youth for Christ told us before the pandemic hit, that 95% of young people do not go to church. Of the 5% that did, many have not engaged with online services and youth meetings and are struggling to return. The situation is desperate, and we need to wake up and be intentionally missional. However, **although less than 5% of young people go to church, 100% of young people go to school!** This creates a wonderful opportunity for schools' workers, chaplains, and local churches to engage with young people where they are at.

As such, this term at Hartford Church of England High School, we are running the Youth Alpha Course during our weekly Chapel Service on a Friday afternoon. This is a wonderful opportunity for our Christian youngsters to re-engage, and also for all our students to explore the bigger questions of life and faith and find healing and purpose through Jesus.

Please pray for this exciting venture and ask God to protect us and raise up a generation for Himself.

"How will they know unless they are told?" Romans 10:14

Tracy Morgan, School Chaplain

ABYYT – ‘Community Matters’ FREE Resource



THE ARCHBISHOP OF YORK
YOUTH TRUST
Be the change you want to see

Community Matters is an exciting new **free** resource from the **Archbishop of York Youth Trust** providing activities and ideas to help pupils explore why community matters and how children and young people can play their part in creating positive change, particularly as we rebuild our communities post-Covid restrictions.



Available for KS1, KS2 and KS3 there are two packs focusing on **Social Issues** and **Environmental Issues** with a range of activities designed to ignite, inspire and empower young people to make community matter and explore what it means to live in the wider world, as active citizens. Each pack also contains ideas for collective worship.

Whether you are already running the **Young Leaders Award** or not, the resources provide great supporting ideas for helping pupils develop their leadership skills and character. Find out more here: www.abyyt.com/communitymatters

ABYYT Young Leaders Award - FREE Twilight Webinars



Looking for a programme that supports pupils develop leadership and character through social action? Come and find out more about the **Young Leaders Award Programme** through our free online sessions this term for both Primary and Secondary schools. We are also running our **Introduction to Character Education** sessions again with input from Dr Tom Harrison at the Jubilee Centre for Character and Virtues.

Find out more on the flyer [here](#) or at www.abyyt.com/events

Tales from the Miracle Book



Tales from the Miracle Book have just released another 6 films and worksheet resources for the teaching of classroom

RE, in time for harvest, on **Creation and Adam and Eve**. Check out the trailer [here](#).

Great for SIMS and accredited by Understanding Christianity, Tales from the Miracle Book is a unique resource; hugely enjoyable whilst being educational for a wide range of ages (both Key Stages 1&2). An annual subscription gives you access to 41 films (with more being added this term), plus a huge variety of cross-curricula quality worksheets to delve deeper into RE and PSHE.



Perfect as a focus for **anti-bullying week in November (Bigger Than Giants)** and the **Christmas films (Christmas Tales)** for the end of term. Even the staff love them!!

"The Tales from the Miracle Book resource will engage pupils across the primary age range. A fun way into bible stories, providing a helpful stimulus for teachers and pupils exploring these texts."

Derek Holloway - Understanding Christianity & School Character and SIAMS Development Manager, Church of England

To find out more go to <https://talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk/>

Christingle Celebration at Chester Cathedral

Primary school children are invited to come and sing, dance, and celebrate the magical event of Christingle. From human Christingles to live music, inspiring talks, and dramatic performances – children will love being involved in our fun and theatrical celebration in the beautiful Chester Cathedral. Help to give children across Cheshire and the rest of the UK hope for a brighter future.



The Children's Society

Each school is invited to bring one KS2 year group.

Wednesday 26 January 2022, 1.30pm - 2.30pm at Chester Cathedral. (arrival time of 1.00pm to ensure everyone is seated and ready to join in at 1.30pm) For further details and how to book please click [here](#).

Springs Dance Company



A Christmas Story: Refugee, The Easter Project workshops and much more available from **Springs Dance Company!**

Specialising in cross-curricular dance, in particular with Religious Education, Values and PSHE, Springs is offering its much-loved **Christmas Story: Refugee** workshops to schools. Inspired by Anne Booth's Christmas story Refuge, the workshops will guide pupils on a journey of dance, drama and discussion and make connections

between the nativity, the world today and the haven found in showing kindness.

Also available is Springs' sought after **Easter Project**. Delivering fun, engaging and thought-provoking dance workshops, **The Easter Project** provides a fresh and exciting way to explore the Easter story. These workshops can culminate in an informal sharing or performance by the pupils.

Other popular workshops include **Get Fit Go Green, You Are Special, The Selfish Giant** and our **Back to School Wellbeing Workshops**. Further details on all of the workshops we have available can be found [here](#).

Springs can also **bring magical dance theatre to you**, saving you a coach trip and transforming your school into a theatre. To find out more about our literature linked, professional productions, please contact Springs on the details below.:

touring@springsdancecompany.org.uk or call Rebecca Bertram (Tour Booker) on **07876 752 910**.

DBE Officer Contact Details

Contact details for members of the DBE team to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| chris.penn@chester.anglican.org | Director of Education | 07540 722667 |
| 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 |
| sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org | Governance & Administrator | 07549 109590 |

| CLUSTER GROUP | DATE | TIME |
|------------------------|--|--|
| 2021-22 DATES | | |
| Nantwich/Congleton HTS | Monday 8 th November Monday 14 th March Thursday 16 th June | 1.30pm -3.30pm 1.30pm -3.30pm 10am -12pm |
| Northwich HTs | Monday 4th -October Monday 31 January Thursday 26 May | 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Rural Chester HTs | Thursday 30th -September Monday 24 January Monday 20 June | 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Trafford HTs | Thursday 4 th November Thursday 17 th March Thursday 23 rd June | 10am -12pm |
| Warrington/Halton HTs | Tuesday 28th -September Tuesday 8 th February Monday 16 th May | 10am -12pm 10am -12pm 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Macclesfield HTs | Tuesday 12 th October Tuesday 18 th January Tuesday 17 th May | 1.30pm -3.30pm |
| Stockport/Tameside HTs | Thursday 21 st October Thursday 27 th January Tuesday 24 th May | 10am -12pm |
| Chester HTs | Tuesday 12 th October (this is a new date) Thursday 3 March Wednesday 22 June | 10am -12pm |
| Wirral HTs | Friday 1st -October Friday 19 th November Friday 28 th January Friday 1 st April Friday 17 th June | |

News from Schools

Crowton Christ Church C of E Primary School



Helping local communities; people and wildlife

During Covid-19 restrictions, the staff and pupils wanted to get involved in their community and support their local people and wildlife. They found the **Circle of Life** resources online which guided thirty pupils from a Key Stage 2 bubble as they took on a variety of projects in small groups, finding a number of ways to best support their community during this time.

The Projects

This was a true example of how diversely a school can embrace The Circle of Life project. Pupils from Year groups 3, 4, 5 and 6 were inspired to take on a social action project that would have a direct impact on their local residents, flora and fauna. To start generating some ideas, the pupils began working in small groups and discussing how and what they would need to accomplish this. They made sure to focus on what would have the best impact either in their school, village or other community and had to make sure that their idea was feasible, as it had to be completed in at a low cost within 6 weeks.

The pupils were split into six teams based on the similarity of their ideas and how effectively they could be carried out together. One team wanted to create a care package for a local homeless shelter, Chester Aid to the Homeless, so they researched what to include in the package and thought about what would be most helpful for them and how they would be delivered. There was another team that wanted to get involved with their local residential/care home and create a card of cards for them to uplift their moods with meaningful messages.

Three teams got involved in creating seed packets of local wildflowers to help encourage the bee population in their area. A lot of thought went into picking the flowers that would be most attractive for the bees, and where would be the best location for the flowers to grow undisturbed. The seeds were put into envelopes and then taken home by the pupils to allow them to create bee and butterfly friendly areas in their own gardens. Between the three teams they created over 50 seed packets.

Bird Feeders

Another team wanted to create bird feeders for their local British bird species, the pupils had to look into what would be the best design and most suitable materials for the task. They also had to find out where to best place the feeders for the birds, so they got the most use. After researching online and discussing amongst the team, they decided on a design that used wooden lollipop sticks and a glue gun to make their bird feeder, which was perfect for saving on materials and costs as they luckily had lollipop sticks in abundance!

The Result

All of the teams needed to be flexible with their planning and rollout as they would be relying on staff who very kindly offered to help them source their resources. The pupils learned to collaborate with each other effectively by listening to others' ideas and offering advice and a chance to discuss any issues that arose.

When the team creating the bird feeders for local species saw that, depending on where the feeder was placed and how sheltered the area was, the birds may not feel secure with the feeder design that didn't include a roof. To overcome this obstacle the pupils came up with an innovative idea to modify the feeder by creating a roof for it themselves. This was so the bird would feel sheltered and safe no matter where it was placed.

The team of pupils creating care packages for homeless shelters found that the original boxes they had sourced weren't big enough to fit all the items they had sourced. The pupils had to go back to the drawing board and think of a cost-effective way around how they were going to deliver all the items together. After some deliberation the pupils found the perfect solution by sourcing some clear cellophane and creating wonderful gift hamper care packages that made them look extra special.



Chester Aid to the Homeless

22 July at 13:23 · 🌐

Would like to say a massive thank you to the children and teachers at Crowton Primary School who created some wonderful care packages for the homeless! Although we are still taking COVID-19 serious and limiting our donations how could we say no to these wonderful gifts.

Frodsham C of E Primary School



Prayer Spaces

All the children and staff enjoyed an opportunity to spend some time in the Prayer Spaces in school, with many children returning of their own free will at lunch times. Prayer activities allowed reflection on the world, hopes, achievements, loss, creation, celebrations, worries, others and ourselves. Children shared their thoughts about the week saying they had enjoyed being able to be quiet and think about places in the world, and 'knowing it is okay to feel sad that someone has died.'

Hartford C of E High School

In July, everyone was excited to welcome The Rt Revd. Bishop Mark Tanner to open the new £10m school building. The building boasts a canteen, drama studio, art, food tech, science, and DT rooms, along with a gymnasium, learning resources centre and classrooms. It is a real asset to everyone, but the opening was a long time coming, and it was postponed twice, due to lockdowns. Finally, everyone welcomed the Bishop, the youngest pupil and longest serving member of staff cut the ribbon. They were accompanied by a few of the school musicians and 4 of the Year 9 Ethos Ambassadors who spent 30 minutes interviewing the Bishop.



Significantly, the new building has been named **'VERITAS'**, (a Latin word meaning **'truth'**) and the existing building **'CARITAS'** (meaning **'love'**). The building names reflect the school motto, **'CARITAS ET VERITAS'**; named for the **Love and Truth of Jesus Christ**. They are referred in this way and not as buildings because they want the bricks and mortar to be part of their living and breathing vision.

Their prayer is that students **come to know caritas: empathy, kindness and serving others**, (*"abounding in love and faithfulness." Exodus 34:6*) and **grow in veritas: humility, knowledge, and faithfulness**, (*"full of grace and truth." John 1:14*).

Hoole C of E School

The school's vision and values were brought to life with children showing their skills as garden designers, horticulturalists, artists, and technicians as they brought the school's plot to life. Planning for the school garden had started earlier in the year and children were so proud to have grown every plant used for our plot by hand from bulbs, seedlings or cuttings.



On the days before the show, children demonstrated their skill as responsible citizens by attending the show site to build the plot in preparation for visitors. Despite the extremely hot temperatures, they worked so hard and refined the design from their prototype plan.



During the show, different teams of pupil volunteers of all ages attended every day. Achieving more of the school aims, they showed that they were confident individuals and respectful friends, approaching members of the public who were admiring the garden to explain the meaning of different elements of the plot. They did such a good job that several visitors were moved to tears as they heard that the garden symbolises the journey everyone had made during the pandemic and how staying on the right path and moving towards the light enabled everyone to enjoy life in all its fullness.



There has been so much positive feedback from the public via messages and emails. Whilst planning and preparing for the show took a lot of time, effort, and energy, we are so proud to have had this opportunity for our pupils to shine so



brightly. We are now looking forward to next year's show.

Marple All Saints' C of E School



On the 13th of September the school had a couple of very exciting visitors who came into school to meet the children and staff and lead Collective Worship. Bishop Mark Tanner, the Bishop of Chester, and Bishop Sam Corley, the Bishop of Stockport, informed everyone how they lead and teach over 500 ministers and vicars in 380 churches. The visit was organised by Rev Lesley Currie who is the Rural Dean.

They began with two conversations, one with Years 1 to 3 and one with Years 4 to 6, followed by a whole school collective worship. Bishop Mark and Bishop

Sam both spoke about how they became bishops and the types of activities that they do every day, revealing that no two days are ever the same. On the day of their visit, Bishop Sam had only been a bishop for two weeks and the children were really engaged and interested in hearing how and why he became a bishop. Bishop Mark spoke about some of the important activities he has to do as part of his role.

Across the school, all the children thoroughly enjoyed talking to and hearing from Bishop Mark and Bishop Sam. Class 6 enjoyed the visit, especially when Bishop Mark wove the success of Emma Radacanu into our collective worship about hope. Class 5 loved hearing from the bishops about what their job actually is and how many churches they look after. They came up with some really interesting questions back in the classroom to ask both Bishop Sam and Bishop Mark in collective worship. Class 4 would have stayed with the bishops all day as they had so many questions to ask them. Classes 2 and 3 were so excited to meet the bishops and were fascinated to hear the answer to: Why did you become a bishop? Reception didn't join the collective worship, but they were so excited to say a big hello to their first visitors of the school year. A key line which stood out for Class 1 was when Bishop Mark said, **"The best thing is having Jesus as a best friend"**



Everyone felt truly blessed to have met such wonderful, caring people. At the end of the collective worship, Alan Bailey, our Chair of Governors prayed that God will guide them along the best pathway for their lives, advise and watch over them. (Psalms 32 v8.)

Moreton Christ Church C of E Primary School



As pupils started the new academic year they settled into school very well, with a large emphasis being placed on children's wellbeing. Everyone was very proud that the community have returned to school with a great deal of energy and enthusiasm.

Emotional & Social Wellbeing

A new reward has recently been introduced, it is called the **Kindness Captain**.



Each class has a bucket displayed in their classroom where the goal is to fill the bucket with nomination forms from children and staff. Children will get nominated for living out Christian values of **love, service, peace, forgiveness, hope and joy**. Each class discussed and agreed about what it would look like to show these values, and the qualities/values of somebody who might be given a kindness award. The children are engaged and excited about looking out in the classroom and playground for signs of kindness and eager to complete a nomination form to fill up their class bucket.

Children use their weekly forest school's session to develop their teamwork, communication, and resilience. It is an area of school which allows children to develop holistically, take risks and broaden their learning experiences. There is also an allotment which has several raised beds of crops that children plant, care for and harvest. The children are often fascinated by the crops that they grow.



Physical Wellbeing



As children have now completed their SAQ (speed, agility, and quickness) baseline assessments, they have used their Health and Wellbeing passports to set themselves personal fitness goals for the autumn term. They have also thought about aspirational targets and have started to record their achievements including successes from extra-curricular activities.

Mossley C of E Primary School

'They shall have life, life in all its fullness' (John 10:10)



This half term children looked at the Christian Value of 'thankfulness'. Their collective Worship, led by Reverend Langton-Miller, helped everyone think



about how many times a day we say thank you. She shared 'The Prodigal Son' parable from the Gospel of Luke, and it helped everyone to be thankful for all the things that they already have. In Year One, the children drew pictures of their families, animals, and the world, which they are all thankful for. In their class Worships, pupils created thankfulness displays to remind everyone that God tells us in the Bible that we don't need to ask for lots of things to make us happy.

Runcorn All Saints' C of E School

Teachers are very proud of pupils in Year 3 and Year 5 who have received their Young Leaders Award through the Archbishop of York's Youth Trust. The children used a range of skills to develop their confidence, resilience, and leadership abilities. They have worked hard on projects that show how much they care for others, and they have really made a difference in their community. Everyone is looking forward to starting the Award again this year with our Year 2 and Year 4 pupils.



Overleigh St Mary's C of E School

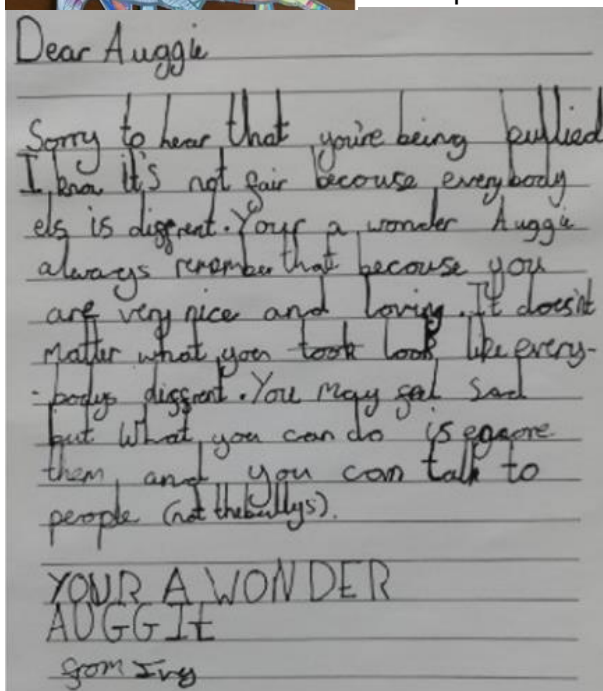


Overleigh St Mary's C of E School began the year with a whole school focus on Christian Value, Compassion and Diversity.

The school symbol is a fish, and a few were made in various ways including out of coloured wire and will form part of a display that will be based in their partner church, Overleigh Without Walls.



They also used Wonder by R. J. Palacio for a stimulus to our work, exploring how we are all unique and celebrating this.



Pott Shrigley Primary School

Pott Shrigley Primary School recently took up a prime spectating spot at St. Christopher's Church, Pott Shrigley on Thursday 9th September to watch the Tour of Britain cycle race. The children painted a 'We Love the Tour' banner and they made plenty of noise as the two groups whizzed past. The police motorbikes provided great entertainment during the build up by displaying their myriad of sirens and encouraging the assembled group to cheer loudly.



Shocklach Oviatt C of E Primary School



Pupils started the term by looking at books such as "My name is not refugee" by Kate Milner and discussing what it might feel like to be a refugee. A collection was organised, and families have been donating. Several car loads have now left Shocklach and are on their way to help refugees from Afghanistan.



Does your school have any news to share from this month?

We are always keen to hear from our schools and aim to include all contributions received. We would particularly like to hear from you if your school has not previously been featured.

Please send a short article with a couple of photographs to sandra.reynolds@chester.anglican.org

St Mary's C of E Primary School, Halton

The Big Story – Understanding Christianity



This version of the Big Story was designed by Sara Haslam, a teacher at St Mary's. It was inspired by the illustrations of Arno and Barbara Nascimbeni in the books by Hélène Delval – *Psalms for Young Children* and *Images of God*. With the help of Alison Manriquez, owner of the local *Hummingbird Studio*, Sara worked with groups of Key Stage 2 children to create the seven large canvasses that make up the display. They are designed to be seven parts of one whole, as the different books of the Bible make up one volume. They are each distinctive and have their own character as the books of the Bible do and enable the children to recognise the themes of Understanding Christianity. Running through all the paintings is 'The stream of living water', to which there are references in both the Old and New Testaments. The stream shows that God runs through all elements of the Big Story and links them together; in fact, the river begins and ends before and after the paintings, showing God was there before Creation and will be present for evermore.

Though each painting is simple and realistic, on each visit there is something different to see and there are different layers to explore. For example, the child in the *Creation* image is not just a representation of the humans that God made. He also represents the freedom given by faith in God and the joy of all humans, through all ages, in the natural world all around them. In the *Incarnation* painting, it is clear to see the star at the birth of Jesus, but there is also a path to cross; God's plan for Jesus since before he was conceived. Children visit the Big Story regularly during RE lessons and it has become a central part of our collective worship. They feel free to ask questions about the pictures. This opens opportunities to reflect on how their learning applies to their lives and the lives of Christians locally and globally.

Little Harvesters



It's that time of the year again when we reap what we sow. In the Spring the little ones of St Mary's Nursery plant lots of seeds like carrots, pumpkins, tomatoes, radishes, and potatoes. During the growing season they keep themselves busy with the watering and nurturing of the tiny plants. So, when they returned in September it was such a delight to discover how everything had grown and then to experience the joy of harvesting their vegetables. With great pride they showed off the vegetables to their families before they spent a morning making their very own vegetable soup. Yum yum. A great way to say hello to Autumn.

Tarporley C of E Primary School

Christian Values on Display

The Year 4 children created an incredible, new display to share one of the school's core Christian values, "Trust". The children talked about how the rainbow represents the promise made by God after the great flood. "When we see the rainbow, we know we can trust in the grace of God," explained one of the Year 4 teachers. The bible verse that accompanies the artwork was taken from Proverbs, verse 5, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart". Combining the symbol of the heart with the rainbow was the inspiration for the finished display. Each segment of the heart was created by individual children, using shapes drawn with wax crayon in different shades of the rainbow colours. They were designed to radiate out from the golden heart surrounding the word Trust. Beneath the verse, is a colourful array of smaller individual hearts to represent the children and adults in the school community. The finished piece is displayed on a golden background with a textured finish to reflect and represent the light surrounding everything. Each child in Year 4 played their part in bringing this wonderful display to life.



The Ellesmere Port C Of E College

Year 7 Welcome Service



On Wednesday 8th September Year 7 pupils went to St Thomas and All Saints church to take part in our Year 7 Welcome Service led by Rev Canon Gordon McGuiness. During the service they explored the story of Joseph and how his ability to dream big led to great opportunities in the future however there was a lot of hard work in between.

Prayers were led by pupils and staff and our choral group sang the song that was performed at the virtual Year 6 leavers service. It was the first time since the start of the pandemic that we were able to visit the church and it was fantastic to collectively sing and pray together. A wonderful event which will be treasured by all for many reasons.



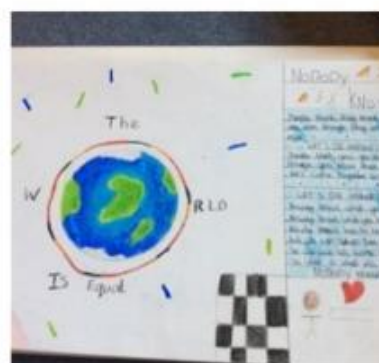
Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E Primary School

Spirited Arts Competition 2021



'We have far more in common than that which divides us.' Jo Cox, MPE

Pupils from Tushingham-with-Grindley C of E Primary School enjoyed creating artwork, dances, poetry, and raps for this year's competition having considered 'The Golden Rule' and anti-racism during RE lessons.



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