

Autumn Term RE



What an autumn term we have had! It is always rewarding to look back over a term and reflect on the things that have happened and what we have been learning: there has been plenty of that over this term!

September 24

Values: Perseverance and Stewardship

September always starts with us reminding ourselves of our prayers and routines, Miss Morris led the staff in a reflection on the new school year on our September inset, and then with support from Miss Coggins we began to “rebrand” our Gospel Assemblies and Class Assemblies to “Celebration of the Word” and “Class Worship” (still a work in progress for those of us with slower memories!). It was wonderful to introduce our new RE monitors to the school at the beginning of the year and throughout this term they have been instrumental in supporting to lead “Celebration of the Word” and other prayer opportunities.



All KS2 children had some “training” on how to lead a “class worship” and themes were given up to Christmas linking in with the RE learning that the children would be doing throughout the term. So , many of the children have brought prayer, silence and song to our themes it has been a delight to see develop.

Mrs McGrath also organised a very successful Macmillian cake sale, and it was wonderful to see many parents join us for this worthy occasion



Across the school most year groups are now using the RED, an updated curriculum that St Francis has been developing alongside the diocese for the past three years. Children have been exploring creation and covenant. This branch across all year groups explores Old Testament texts (Genesis and Exodus). The children have been learning about the basis of our faith, and making links to Jesus’ works in the New Testament. In this unit children also explore the Catholic Social Teaching values of “The Common Good and Stewardship”.

October 24

Values: Responsibility and Participation

October now means that Mr Colyer needs to put up the wonderful Mary’s that the children created 2 years ago in the hall, to remind us that October is the month of Mary- but at St Francis, it is also the month of St Francis as we celebrate his feast day. The children created some wonderful art work, which was up on display for a long period of time in our entrance way. Each year group focusing on different artist interpretation of St Francis and reminding themselves of his importance, in addition to the charism that he gives our school.



Staff joined together for our Deanery Mass held at St Josephs in Epsom. An opportunity for us as a Deanery to join together and pray together. A beautiful Mass was said and well attended by the Deanery.

October also saw a return to Class Assemblies with Willow and Larch leading the way for the school. The children have a wonderful opportunity to share their RE learning through these assemblies, and also link in some of their other learning. We finished the half term, with a food bank collection for Harvest (The Year 6 monitors led our act of worship). The support for the Trussell Trust, is humbling. Thank you so much to all those who donated.



November 24

Values: Respect and Human Dignity

As October ended and the evenings got darker, we were on half term, but many in our school community joined for an Induction Mass for Mrs McGrath our new Head of School. Year 6 represented the school by reading bidding prayers that they had written themselves. Mass celebrated at one of our Parish Churches, Sacred Heart. It was lovely for Bishop Richard to join the celebrations.



On Remembrance Day KS2 joined together in the playground to hold our two minutes silence, whilst the Infants held this in their classrooms. In KS2 we joined together in prayer and heard the last post. We remembered those who have given their lives so that our world can be a better place. Rest in Peace.



Linden and Beech Classes, both did assemblies on the theme of prophecy and promise, exploring women in the bible and those in our lives in Year 6 and the importance foretelling of Jesus' birth in Year 2 with reference to Isaiah. Thank you so much to all the parents who joined us for these, it is always wonderful to have such excellent parental support.

Our RE monitors again led the way, by creating a prayer space during lunch time on “Red Wednesday”, where as a school we all wore an item of red to demonstrate our support of those who are unable to go to church or practice their religion, being persecuted for their faith. Many buildings, including churches, lit up red for the evening.



In their RE learning children have been exploring “Prophecy and promise”. In the Infants and Year 3, in this branch children learnt about the story of Jesus birth beginning with John the Baptist’s birth. Whilst in Upper Key Stage 2 the children learn about David’s life and importance making links to Jesus as a fulfillment of a promise made to him, and the role of women in the Bible, including a study of Mary. A common theme through all the learning is reflecting on artists interpretations of the key events. The children have become familiar with “Elizabeth Wang”, “Mike Moyers” and “Jen Norton”.

December

Values: Patience and Promoting Peace

December always proves to be a busy month in our build up to Christmas Celebrations and it was. We began the month Celebrating St Francis Xavier Day- which now we are in the Xavier Trust is a focus day for us.

As we began the Advent season cloths in the school turned to purple whilst children considered what they could do extra during Advent and made Advent promises. We always create a display of these, and this year was no different, all the children in the school helped to create a stained glass effect of advent promises. Each week in “Celebration of the Word”, we spoke about which week of advent we were in (Hope, Peace, Joy) and lit advent candles.



In the Infants the children were working towards our nativity celebrations. Reception led the way, with Year 1 and 2 working together to create their nativity performances. The children and teachers always work so hard to re- tell this story that is integral to our faith- thank you so much for all your support and for the children for their wonderful singing and acting.



In KS2 we held our yearly Carol Service at “Sacred Heart”, it was a bit of a drizzly morning, but the children were an absolute credit to the school. Year 6 with their fabulous reading and leading of the service, Year 3 children for supporting with “freeze frames” of the scripture; and each year group with the efforts they went to with their singing. This year hearing the part singing of all KS2 children as they sang “Carol of the Bells” and “Rejoice, Rejoice” and “Silent Night” was truly a magical experience for those of us in attendance. The church was bursting at the seams with the number of parents in attendance and thank you to those who also joined us virtually.

Our final event of the year was the “Silver Cross”, where as a school we joined together for one final time to hear scripture and reflect on the Christmas Story. The hall was left as a reflective room for the morning and classes were invited to spend time in prayer. Children brought “coins” in to offer, and we made donations to CAFOD where we were able to buy support for:



Teach a Child to Read
Happy Queen Bee
Emergency Water
Tree for life
Wonderful Worms
Weatherproof Crops
Precious Period Pads
Chirpy Chickens
Goat That Gives



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