

<p>DEEPLY CHRISTIAN, SERVING THE COMMON GOOD</p> <p></p> <p>Collective worship & Wisdom Hope Community Dignity</p> <p>page 2</p>	<p>KOLKATA</p> <p>A pupil view of school links</p> <p>Magpie Ideas</p> <p>page 3</p> 	<p>MAGPIE IDEAS</p> <p>Understanding Christianity</p> <p>Staff room display</p> <p>page 3</p> 	<p>NUTS AND BOLTS</p> <p>Resources</p>  <p>Dates for diary School website</p> <p>page 4</p>
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DERBY DIOCESE CHURCH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

WE SEEK TO OFFER OUR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE LIFE IN ALL ITS FULLNESS

Small and Perfectly Formed

As a young child I remember proclaiming my hope that the biggest presents around the Christmas tree would be mine. I also clearly remember my older, wiser sister asking me if I'd prefer a loaf of bread or a bionic man digital watch. A formative moment indeed - small things can be exceptionally valuable.

The Bible is full of stories of the small and seemingly insignificant having mighty impact. A young boy responds to Christ, offering a small lunch and it is transformed into a meal for many as a sign of the kingdom of God (Matthew 14). Esther stands with God's people and risks death by approaching the powerful Xerxes to speak truth and prevent the organised destruction of many Jews (Esther 5). A young unnamed slave girl remains faithful to God, dares to speak out and points the lead soldier Naaman to the prophet Elisha for healing (2 Kings 5). The small, youngest and most insignificant of brothers is chosen by God to be a future King of Israel, because God sees what is on the inside (1 Samuel 16) and on his route to the throne uses his skill humbly honed protecting sheep to kill the giant Goliath (1 Samuel 17). Even Jesus came from the small and least (Ephesians 3). It matters not how small or insignificant a person or place might be in the worldview. We can all serve God.

In Derby Diocese 90 of our 110 schools are 'small' (<210 pupils) of which 58 are very small' (<110 pupils) so it is fair to say we have a high percentage (82%) of small schools. In March 2018 the Church of England published a report, 'Embracing Change: Rural and Small Schools' providing an analysis of the challenges facing small schools. Our small schools do some excellent work and make a huge impact in increasingly challenging circumstances - and this needs to be celebrated. However, the report continues to emphasise the need for small schools to come together in formal groupings such as Federations and Multi Academy Trusts and it also reminds us all of the need to continue to provide 21st century education. We have some very difficult days ahead as we strive to make decisions with pupils at the heart.

There will be times when we may need to be brave and speak out, but it seems to me that many of our biblical heroes used their heritage and experience humbly and were prepared to put others first offering their very lives to God for his purpose. As we celebrate Easter we are reminded that the Christian faith is one of death followed by glorious resurrection. We need not fear change but rather prayerfully seek God's grace, that we might first serve Him and go where he is leading.

David Owen

How does Collective Worship contribute towards Wisdom, Hope, Community and Dignity?

The new SIAMS framework will be looking at how church schools enable pupils to develop the four key elements as laid out in the Church of England Vision for Education - Deeply Christian, Serving the Common Good. At last term's meeting for collective worship (CW) coordinators we came up with the following ways that collective worship can make a contribution to these areas:

Wisdom

Teach the Christian story and its key messages that can help change our lives for the better, both individually and as a school community
Link stories about Jesus to children's experiences

Share stories of wisdom from other faiths and different viewpoints

Have time for questions, thinking, quiet reflection and discussion

Time to recognise that you learn from your mistakes and change

Inspiration that can lead to values in action

Share and apply knowledge and skills with others (young and old)

Hope, aspiration and courageous advocacy

Share hopes for the future

A new horizon for life because of the person of Jesus

Know that we all can make a difference - practical strategies shared with a community to support you (being part of something bigger)

Reminders of forgiveness and the opportunity to start again

Good overcomes evil - the Easter story ultimate story of hope

Celebrate success and encourage a 'have a go' attitude

Prayer and thinking about how God helps us

Know that you are loved and can share your worries

Sharing anecdotes of people who have come through 'bad times'

Community and living well together

CW provides a sense of being part of a wider community

Invite local community into celebration worship in school and church

Harvest - food banks

Whole school together to share space and thoughts - all welcome

Visitors invited in to lead CW (from other churches, faiths, countries)

Have a church service in school on a Sunday

'Messy church' termly worship

Homeless packed meals

Monthly pensioners lunch with a CW element to it

Sharing a meal with members of the local community

Daily CW rituals to emphasise and celebrate the school community

Dignity and Respect

Model a respectful and reverential attitude in CW

Conversation partners to develop listening skills requiring humility

Everyone free to contribute ideas knowing they will be respected

Value everyone in the community

Give every pupil a voice including those with particular needs

Clear choice given e.g. joining in with prayers or not

Awareness and respect of other faiths

Space to think about your own thoughts, feelings and prayers

Magpie Ideas

As we visit schools we pick up all sorts of creative ideas and here are just a few of them;

Langley Mill VC Infant school have used creative and varied ways of addressing staff mental health and well-being:

*Improved staffroom environment with new monthly themed display put up by the Headteacher to share positive/motivational/inspiring thoughts

(eg January had

New Year

Happiness

Tips, 'Feel the

love in February'

board with lots

of valentine's/

love themed quotes and 1/2

day for each staff member non-

contact time to use for their

own well being before the end

of the school year,'March

into Spring' board with quotes

as to why springtime is good

for our health and well being

etc.)

*All staff are the 'guardian

angel' of a another member of

staff for the whole of

the academic year and have to

commit 'random

acts of kindness'

for their

given person as

and when they

see fit! Staff are

loving this.

*Weekly uplifting Monday

morning meeting with all staff -

relates to something personal,

local, national etc.

*Happy jar - where staff write

post-its of things that have



A Pupil's View of a Link with a School in Kolkata

The link between Stanley St Andrew's Church of England Primary School and its link school in Dum Dum, Kolkata, in India, is a strong and exciting one. From all of the wonderful fundraising activities, to all of the kind donations, everyone does anything they can to strengthen the link between these two totally different schools.

Even though the school is nearly 4,972 miles away from our school, we all love and care about it. So far, our school has set up many fundraising activities to support our link school, including a highly popular Tuck Shop, run by a handful of older students. Recently, Mrs Stanley-Wainwright and Mrs Davies, the Headteacher and a TA at St Andrews, have flown out to India, and visited the children of our school in Dum Dum. They took all of the many donations that they had been given (like pyjamas and toys), along with all of the resources that had been bought with the money raised from the fundraising, to give to the school. When they arrived at the school, the children were ecstatic to see the two teachers, due to a previous visit by Mrs Stanley-Wainwright. The children absolutely loved their gifts and couldn't wait to use them.



The school itself is very different from our school in Stanley. For starters, the building is very different. It is very small, and there are only two classrooms, which has no tables or chairs, meaning the children have to sit on the hard floor. A lot of the teachers are not qualified, meaning their subjects knowledge isn't as solid as our teachers. However, despite this, the children love coming to school, and are very lucky – there are a lot of children in the surrounding area who can't pay to go to school, who have to work on the streets. In the school, a lot of the remarkable resources that are available to us are just not there, and nor is the funding, however, our school in Stanley Village hopes to change that.



In conclusion, our school has completely changed when we heard about the children in Kolkata. Suddenly, everything that we took for granted has changed to something that we were extremely thankful for. Clearly, it has made the parents see this too. Together, we are bringing two completely different places together.

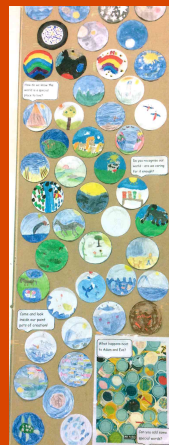
By Jacob Pattison, Age 11

made them happy during the week (school related or not). These are shared at the Monday morning



meeting - with all stuck into the 'happy book'.

Eyam VC Primary has been making good use of the Understanding



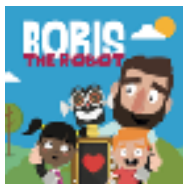
Christianity frieze to stimulate creative and thoughtful work from the pupils. Here they have been using creation paint pots to think about caring for our world.



Codnor VC Primary uses a large display in the staff room. It ensures that all staff and visitors are in no doubt as to what the term's Christian value is and the focus for RE and collective worship. Lot's of brownie points too for including the Church Schools' mailing on the display too!!

Resources

Boris the Robot is available from www.boristherobot.com and is a recent addition to the resources developed by HeartSmart. HeartSmart is a primary school resource that builds resilience, emotional intelligence and active empathy in the hearts of children. HeartSmart is about loving and accepting ourselves as well as loving and responding well to others. Boris, HeartSmart's very own purpose-built Robot, provides a fun, interactive and dynamic way for children to explore their hearts, the very thing that makes them unique.



Home-grown collective worship resources. Heidi Elks from Newton Solney VA Infant has kindly shared her planning for exploring the Christian understanding of the Trinity in collective worship. Also, Fiona Jackson from St Michael's VA Primary, Hathersage has shared a sample of the focus sheets she has devised for collective worship that help the whole school theme to go into the classrooms. You find both of these at



<http://derby.anglican.org/education/schools/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/>

School Website:

Please ensure that you have included the parental right of withdrawal in your RE and also Collective Worship policies and that these are up to date on your website.

Please also check that the title of your church school inspection report is correct on your website. It is the SIAMS report (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) not the Church Inspection nor the Diocesan Inspection, nor the RE Inspection....!!

Dates for Diaries 2017-18

Head Teacher Meeting
21 June
9.00-12 noon or 1pm-4pm
Willerley Castle, Cromford

Aspiring Head Teacher Day
19 June
9.30am-3.30pm
Derby Church House

RE Coordinator's Training
5 June Chatsworth
6 June Jury's Inn, Derby
9.30-3.30

Head Teacher School Improvement Briefings
24 May
8.30 am-12 noon
Hassop Hall

2019 Church Schools' Conference
4 Nov 2019
The Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick

Church School Governor Training
11 June Newbold Primary
12 June Bishop Pursglove
18 June Walter Evans
6.30-8pm

Newbold Primary has introduced a Festival Dayseach each half term. This comes from their desire to be more clearly linked with their parish church. These days focus on a lesser known Christian festival



which is explored through various curriculum areas and culminates in a collective worship at the church. Parents are invited to the collective worship but have also taken part in some aspects of the curriculum as well. Whole school books of children's work are compiled and are evidence of using an enquiry led approach, a glass ceiling on the pupils' learning is removed.



Welcome to New Head Teachers:

Ben O'Connell as of the 21st May will be Head at All Saints Federation, Matlock.

Daniel Sumner at Calow VC

Sarah Burns Acting at Weston VA

Welcome these schools to the Diocesan family:

Firs Estate Primary

Hardwick Primary