

# TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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## R.E Newsletter No. 9

May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

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

### Collective Worship

Our value for May has been '**Koinonia**'. This means Christian fellowship. Here are some questions for you to consider and discuss as a family.

- What is Koinonia?
- What is the importance of Christian fellowship?
- What examples of Koinonia can you think of?
- What happens where Koinonia is missing?
- What does the Bible teach about Koinonia?
- When does working in fellowship help solve problems?
- Which groups do you belong to? What are the benefits?
- What do other faiths say about working in fellowship?

### Visitors



On Tuesday 9th May Mrs Curtis came to talk to us about Community Groups. Mrs Collins started the Collective Worship by helping us think about all the different groups we belong to at school– including sports, dance, singing, art, music, languages and technical. Mrs Curtis explained some of the groups available in the community, both for children and grown-ups and how belonging to a group can support friendship and well-being.

On Monday 15th May Mr Curtis came to talk to us about Koinonia. He told us about the disciples and how after the Resurrection they went out to spread the word but only ever went out together in pairs.



Mrs Collins followed up this idea by showing us how by working together we can solve problems and when the problem becomes more complex more people working together can help. Can you think of an example where this could be the case?

## Hooked on Worship

On Tuesday 23rd May another group of children delivered an act of Collective Worship to the school. Aimee Beaton, Amy Davies, Charlie Gadsden, Emma Laird, Grace Lydon, Jack Spyrou, Emily Stratford and Rubi Tite (supported by her friend Jaida Bullock) presented on the value of Wisdom. The children told the story of Augustine who had been foolish but became a Christian and showed great wisdom during his life which is still remembered today. They also talked about times when they had shown wisdom and other signs and symbols of wisdom. Well done to all for a thoughtful act of Worship.



## Querk

In May a large number of pupils at school celebrated their First Holy Communion at their RC Churches. Sally Beben, Lily Butler, Ava Cunningham, Charlie Dickens, Daniel DeFilippo, Josie Finn, Cormac Hayes, Michael Kelly, Emily Stratford and Jack Townley all stood in Collective Worship to tell us something special about their day. After the special service they all enjoyed family celebrations.

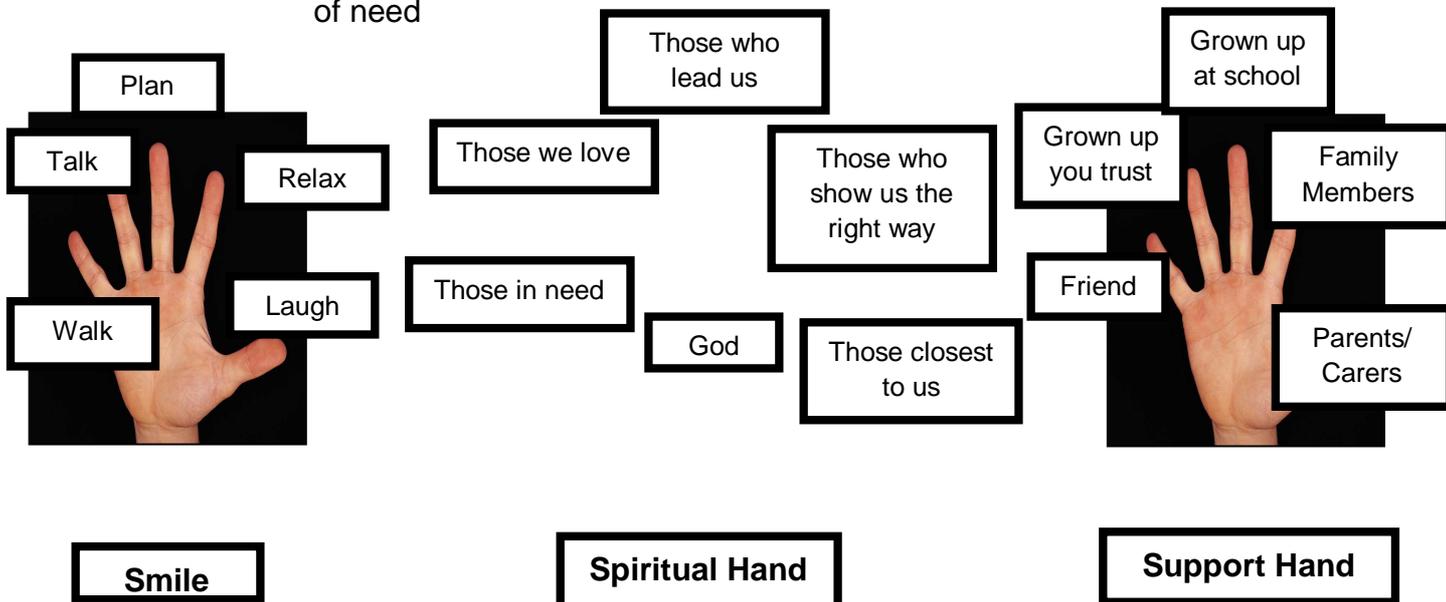
Ava Cunningham took Querk home to enjoy this special day. She told us about the special significance of the service and we enjoyed seeing photographs of her special day. Congratulations to all the children and thanks go to Ava for taking Querk along.

The Catholic Sacrament of Holy Communion: The Holy Eucharist refers to Christ's body and blood present in the consecrated host on the altar, and Catholics believe that the consecrated bread and wine are actually the body and blood, soul and divinity of Christ.

## Healthy Hearts and Minds

At the end of each half term we hold a special Healthy Hearts and Minds Day. At school we have 3 hands which remind us how to look after ourselves.

- The smile hand: things we can do to improve our mental health and well being
- The spiritual hand: people to reflect on
- The support hand: thinking about those people who can help us or give us support in times of need



## Activities to Promote Wellbeing

Do you support your own well-being? Try these:

- Go for a walk
- Do some exercise
- Read a book
- Join a club / group
- Plant some seeds
- Do some cooking



## Five ways to wellbeing

### Faith Celebrations in May

#### 3rd May Lailat al Miraj Muslim

Lailat al Miraj is when Muslims commemorate the Prophet Muhammad's night time journey from Mecca to the 'Farthest Mosque' in Jerusalem. Muslims believe that during this journey the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven, was purified, and instructed by God that Muslims should pray five times daily. These events are described briefly in the Quran. Muslims celebrate by retelling the story to their children and reciting special night time prayers.

#### 15th May Vesak/ Buddha Day Buddhist

Vesak or Buddha Day is the major festival of the year for Buddhists from the Theravada tradition. Vesak celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha. It's called Vesak after the month in which it falls in the Indian calendar.

#### 21st May Lailat al Bara'a Islam

Lailat al Bara'a - the Night of Forgiveness - takes place two weeks before the beginning of Ramadan. On this night, Muslims pray and ask God for forgiveness for their sins either at the mosque or at home. They believe that on this night one's destiny is fixed for the year ahead. Visiting the graves of relatives and giving to charity is traditional at this time.

#### 23rd May Birthday of Guru Amar Das Sikhism

Gurū Amar Das (1479 – 1574 C.E.) was the third of the Sikh Gurūs.

#### 25th May Ascension Day Christian

Ascension celebrates the day when Jesus Christ is said to have ascended bodily into heaven, in the presence of the apostles. The Ascension is believed to have occurred on the 40th day after Easter, and consequently falls on a Thursday. In recent times the Catholic Church has celebrated the Feast of the Ascension on the Sunday after Ascension Thursday.

#### 26th May Ramadān – Islam

The beginning of Ramadan. A holy month of fasting and prayer, in which all adult and physically competent Muslims abstain from food, water, and sexual relations from dawn to sunset. Ramadān ends on June 24th.

#### Shavuot [Feast of Weeks] – Judaism

A two-day festival, beginning at sundown, that celebrates the harvest of first fruits and the giving of the Law (or Torah) to Moses at Mt. Sinai. The name Shavuot derives from the Hebrew words for "seven" and "week," because it marks seven weeks following Pesach or Passover.

## Ascension Day

Ascension Day is one of the four major feast days of the Christian Year (along with Christmas, Easter and Pentecost). This festival marks the transition moment between Jesus' 40 days of resurrection appearances and the coming of the Holy Spirit. Just as the Annunciation is the prelude to the life and work of Jesus, the Ascension is the prelude to the life and work of the Spirit through the church and it opens the third act of God's wonderful rescue plan for the world that moves from creation, through redemption to sanctification. Acts 1 stands alongside Genesis 1 and the Christmas narratives as a starting point for each stage of the great story of salvation. Jesus had already told his followers that he must ascend to his Father (John 20:17) and that, unless he does, the Spirit cannot come (John 16:5-7). Jesus in human form could only be with some people, in some places, at some times, but by going to his Father in heaven he would send the Holy Spirit so that God could be with anyone, anywhere, at anytime (John 14:23). In Luke's version of the Ascension (Luke 24:45-53), Jesus tells his followers that they should wait in Jerusalem to receive the promise from on high. Later in Acts 1:6-11, Luke tells us how Jesus disappeared from their sight up on the Mount of Olives. However, they were not downhearted because they knew that this was not a final goodbye but more of an 'au revoir', because very soon he would return, although none of them quite knew exactly what that would mean. Jesus had already told his followers that he must ascend to his Father (John 20:17) and that, unless he does, the Spirit cannot come (John 16:5-7). Jesus in human form could only be with some people, in some places, at some times but by going to his Father in heaven he would send the Holy Spirit so that God could be with anyone, anywhere, at anytime (John 14:23).



## Success Shields for April

### Lara Hastings

Archery

### Ben Claridge

Basketball Best Skills Award

### Arham Islam

Swimming L1

### Harrison Mitchell

Player of the Camp

### Mark Wilson

Football Knock Out  
Competition

### Daniel Barnish

Swimming L3

### Owen Russell

Swimming L5

### Louie Lawrence

Basketball Best Match Play

### Jaida Bullock

Swimming 50m /  
Gymnastics L3

### Theo Ojulah

Street Dance Star of the Week

### Summer Waller

Gymnastics L6

### Archie Adams

Football Player of the Match

### Finley Lawrence

Football Trophy

### Luis Tham-Williams

Football Special Moments  
Trophy

### Amber Cole

Swimming L4

### Gabriel Luikaj

Football Trophy

### Holly Conway

Gymnastics– First on Beam

### George Davidson

Go Ape Certificate/  
Basketball Shoot Out  
Champion

### Grace Lydon

Football Player of the Match

### Gabriella Hydes

Gymnastics L8

### Isobel Squires

Gymnastics Bronze

### Harry Kilpatrick

Gymnastics L5

### Joseph Wheeler

Steam Engine Preservation  
Society

### Jacob Leigh

Swimming L6

### Sophia Wilson

Rainbows

### Rubi Tite

Hot Shots Basketball Award

### Siobhan Brown

Street Dance Star of the  
Week /  
Gymnastics First on Floor

If you have any further comments or suggestions please speak or write to Mrs Collins.

Thank you