

TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

Head Teacher:
Mrs J Spencer, MA Cantab
Telephone:
01525 872360
Fax:
0845 3076285



Manor Road
Toddington
Bedfordshire
LU5 6AJ

e-mail: toddstg@cbc.beds.sch.uk
www.toddingtonstgeorge.co.uk

R.E Newsletter 7

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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 March has been '**Wisdom**'. Here are some questions for you to consider and discuss as a family.

- What is wisdom?
- What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
- Is the bible a book of human wisdom?
- What does the bible say about wisdom?
- What do other faiths teach us about wisdom?
- Who do you know who demonstrates wisdom? How?
- Why is wisdom important?
- Give an example of where you saw someone demonstrating wisdom.



Salvation at Easter

This year, following whole school professional development on 'Understanding Christianity', we tackled the Christian concept of Salvation across the school at Easter. In the Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) the children thought about the question 'Why do Christians put a cross in an Easter garden?'. In Key Stage One (Years One and Two) children thought about the question 'Why does Easter matter to Christians?' and in Key Stage Two (Years Three and Four) children thought about the question 'Why do Christians call the day Jesus died Good Friday?' This work is the perfect opportunity for children to think and discuss in a safe environment some of the 'big questions'.

Easter is the celebration of Jesus Christ's rising from the dead (his Resurrection) after his crucifixion which took place on what we now term Good Friday. Easter is usually celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Spring Equinox on March 21st. This can be any Sunday between March 22nd and April 25th. It is the most sacred of all the Christian holidays or celebrations.

Christ's return (or rising) from death is called the Resurrection. According to the scriptures, Christ's tomb was empty three days after his death. His followers saw him and talked to him after this. Christians therefore believe that they have the hope of a new life (an everlasting life in Heaven) after their earthly death.



The Holy Week is the last week of Lent. It begins with the observance of Palm Sunday, the Sunday before Easter Sunday. The name, Palm Sunday originated from Jesus's entry in Jerusalem. The crowd laid carpets of palms on the street for Him. The Last Supper is commemorated on Holy Thursday of special week (often called Maundy Thursday) and Friday is the anniversary of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ on the cross. The Lenten season and Holy week end with Easter Sunday (the Resurrection of Jesus Christ). On Easter Sunday Christians go to church to celebrate.

How do people celebrate Easter?



For Christians the custom of giving chocolate Easter eggs celebrates new life. They believe that through his resurrection Jesus defeated death and sin and offers people the promise of eternal life if they follow his teachings.

Easter cards are sometimes sent. (This custom grew popular in Victorian times.)



Easter food: Boiled eggs are traditionally used for breakfast. Often roast lamb is the choice for dinner. Traditional puddings include custard tarts and Easter biscuits. Simnel cake is baked for tea. Hot cross buns are another Easter favourite on Good Friday.



There are many customs related to eggs such as egg rolling and Easter egg Hunts. What else can you find out about egg traditions?



Easter Service

On Tuesday 4th April Mrs Spencer led our Easter Service. Mr Curtis came and talked to the children about 'Easter Joy'. There were contributions from Isla Macloed-Irvine who sang a very moving solo of 'When I think about the cross'.



Imogen Collins led the singing for 'Roll back the Stone' and Dagmar Caygill lead the singing for 'King of the Jews', both songs are from the Year Three Easter play.

Lucy Archer led the Easter prayer and Amy Davies gave a Bible reading.

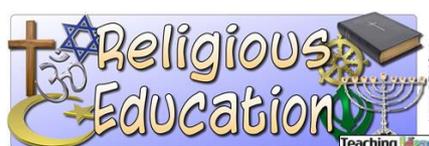


Querk

Please remember to request Querk to join you at family celebrations – across all faiths. Just ask Mrs Collins if he is available. He enjoyed visiting the Tillin family over Easter.

Religious Education

In RE lessons this term Year One will be thinking about 'Who is a Christian, what do they believe?' and 'Who is a Muslim, what do they believe?'. Year Two will be finishing work on 'What can we learn from sacred books and stories?' and then thinking about 'How do we show care for the Earth?'. Year Three will be asking 'How should we live and who can inspire us?' and finally Year Four will be thinking about 'What are the deeper meanings of the festivals?' Further information can be gained from the curriculum leaflet or your child's class teacher.



St Georges Day

George was born in the country now known as Turkey. His parents were Christians and his father was a soldier. When he was old enough George joined the Roman army. He was a very good soldier and was put in charge of many other soldiers. He was sent to a place called Nicomedia as a special guard to the Emperor Diocletian. Diocletian was not a kind emperor. He did not like Christians) and made an order that they were all to be killed.



George was ordered to kill Christians but he would not do it. He told the emperor that he was wrong to order him to and that he was a Christian too. The Emperor was very angry and ordered George to be killed. He died on 23rd April. Many people heard how brave George was, they became Christians too.

For hundreds of years people in different countries all over the world heard about George. After he died, George was called Saint George, which is a name given to some Christians to show they are special. All over the world churches were built and named after him. When English soldiers went to fight in different countries they heard about Saint George. They wore red crosses on their clothes and shields and called it the cross of Saint George.

Over a thousand years ago The King of England, Edward the third, ordered that Saint George should be the special Saint for England. He had a church built near his castle. The Queen still uses it today. Stories started to spring up about George. The story of George and the Dragon is an allegory to show how George conquered evil.



Well done to those children who took part in the St George's Day Celebrations on Friday 21st April as part of the Toddington Spring festival. What amazing singers, dancers and musicians!

4th April Rama Navami Hindu Faith Celebrations in April

At Rama Navami Hindus celebrate the birth of Lord Rama. It falls on the ninth day of Chaitra in the Hindu calendar (March/April). Rama Navami is one of the most important Hindu festivals. Lord Rama is an incarnation of the god Vishnu and the hero of the epic Ramayana, which is recited in its entirety in the week leading up to Rama Navama, and on the day itself.

9th April Palm Sunday Christian

Palm Sunday marks the beginning of Holy Week - the week leading up to Easter. On Palm Sunday Christians remember Jesus's arrival in Jerusalem, when crowds cheered and laid palms at his feet before his arrest and crucifixion. In some churches large palms are carried in procession, while in others small crosses of palm leaf are handed out to the congregation, to symbolise the palm leaves which the people waved when Jesus arrived, and to remember the cross on which he died. The crosses are burned at the start of Lent the next year to provide the ash for Ash Wednesday.

10th-18th April Passover (Pasach) Jewish

At Passover, Jews remember the Israelites' liberation from slavery in Egypt. It's one of the most important festivals of the year. Passover lasts for eight days. Jewish people celebrate with special ceremonies, and observe specific customs which remember the escape from Egypt, as told in the Book of Exodus.

13th April Maundy Thursday Christian

Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter, which Christians remember as the day of the Last Supper. The Last Supper took place on the evening before Jesus's crucifixion. It's also the night when, according to Christian tradition, Jesus was betrayed by Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane.

14th April Good Friday Christian

Good Friday is the day in the calendar when Christians remember the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. It's a solemn day of mourning when believers reflect on the meaning of Christ's suffering and death.

14th April Vaisakhi Sikh

At Vaisakhi, Sikhs celebrate the founding of the Khalsa, the collective body of baptised Sikhs created in 1699. The word Khalsa means 'pure'. To join the Khalsa, Sikhs must undergo the Amrit ceremony (initiation ceremony) sanctioned by Guru Gobind Singh. Baptised Sikhs resolve not to remove or cut any bodily hair, not to use tobacco, alcohol or other intoxicants, not to eat meat and not to commit adultery. At Vaisakhi, those ready to join the Khalsa are baptised.

16th April Easter Day Christian

Easter commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ and is the most important festival in the Christian calendar. According to Christian tradition, Easter marks the day when Jesus's followers visited his tomb to find the stone sealing the entrance had been moved, and the tomb empty. Later that day Jesus was seen by some of his followers who concluded that God had raised Jesus from the dead.

23rd April Lailat al Miraj Muslim

Lailat al Miraj is when Muslims commemorate the Prophet Muhammad's nighttime 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.

Success Shields for March

Jasmine Smith Swimming L4 / 10m	Finley Cooper Football Award	Chayse White Football Awards
Luis Tham-Williams Football Award	Ethan Lawrence Football Award	Isla Macleod-Irvine Vocal Solo
Georgia O'Donnell Gymnastics L5 / Irish Dancer of the Week	Ellie Lefkaditis Swimming L5 / Street Dance Star of the Week	Charlotte Dow Swimming 50m / Became a Brownie
Lucy Stringer Gymnastics Award	Tilly Cornelius Gymnastics L5 / L6	Sophie Cooley Football Award
Sam Tillin Street Dance Star of the Week	Jude Lucas Swimming L2 / 5m	Josie Finn Irish Dancer of the Week
Luca Evans Karate Brown Belt	Harrison Mitchell Football Award	Jemima Cornelius Gymnastics L5 / L6
Ruby Pickard Brownie Badge	Emily Whitmore Brownie Badge	Jack O'Brien Beavers Badges
Leo Stone Street Dance Star of the Week	Eva Pearson Street Dance Star of the Week	Jacob Leigh Swimming L5
Sophie Cooley Football Award	Isabella Bacon Irish Dancing Awards	Tilly Cornelius Irish Dancing Awards
Daisy Harding Irish Dancing Awards	Darragh Knee-Holmes Football Award	Eloise Urquhart Irish Dancing Awards
Mark Wilson Football Awards / Tickets	Jaden Fraser Football Awards	Cameron Choosey Football Awards
Harry Kilpatrick Sky Diving	Dagmar Caygill Street Dance Star of the Week	Phillip Spalding Street Dance Star of the Week
Isabella Choosey Swimming 50m	Millie Porzio Swimming Awards	Jemiah Wilson Swimming Award
Paul Cooper Football Award	Siobhan Brown Football Award	Zoe Gray Swimming L3
Charlie Dickens Football Award	Victoria Barker Irish Dancer Star of the Week	Harry Randlesome Karate Yellow belt
Mason Greene Swimming 10m	Harrison Greene Swimming 10m	Emilia Fowler Irish Dance Star of the Week
Isobel Squires Karate Purple Belt	Jasper Lampard Football Award	Samuel Dobbs Football Award
Charlie Gadsden Karate Student of the Week / Karate Orange Belt	Rose Cozens Swimming 100m / Annie Performance	Lara Mayne Swimming L4 / Pony Club Badges
Mia Skidmore Swimming Award	Aydin Khan Karate Red Belt	Taygen Slowey Beavers Badges
Ava Cunningham Irish Dancer of the Week / Irish Dancing Awards	Mollie Evans Irish Dancing Awards / Basketball Player of the Month	Oliver Dobbs Swimming L3 / Football Award
Roxy Schapp-Garrett Annie Performance	Oscar West Street Dance Star of the Week	Anya Ojulah Street Dance Star of the Week
Jack Miles Karate Yellow Belt	Ewan Phelan Judo Award	Scarlett Miles Orange Belt Mixed Martial Arts
Lily Reynolds Rainbows	Emily Stratford Annie performance	Riley O'Connor Football Award
Holly Conway Annie performance	Molly Simpson Basketball Star of the Week / Basketball Tournament	Lewis Batt Pottery Dragon / Swimming L5 / Football Award