

# TODDINGTON ST. GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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## RE Newsletter No. 7

March 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 March has been 'Endurance'. Here are some questions for you to consider and discuss as a family.
- What do you understand by the word endurance?
- What is the difference between endurance and perseverance?
- Do you ever persevere? When?
- Is it easy to persevere? Why? Why not?
- What barriers are there to demonstrating endurance?
- Where can you look for help to help you persevere?
- Can you think of people you know who have had to show endurance in their lives?
- Can you think of examples of famous people who have shown endurance?
- What happens when people do not persevere?
- What does Christianity teach about endurance?
- What do other faiths teach about endurance?



### Hooked on Worship



On Monday 3rd March another group prepared and delivered their act of worship (the subject was Endurance) to the school. This was led by Daniel De Filippo, Lara Hastings, Seth Massink, Roxy Schapp-Garratt, Jaida Bullock, Molly Simpson and Faith Kenny. They were also supported by Clara Roberts who was unfortunately absent on the day. Their act of worship included examples of times when people have to endure difficulties and what they can do during these times; the story of Noah from the Old Testament in the bible including all the difficulties Noah had to endure; the story of Mary Macloed– Bethune a true story of a young black woman who had to endure all sorts of diffi-

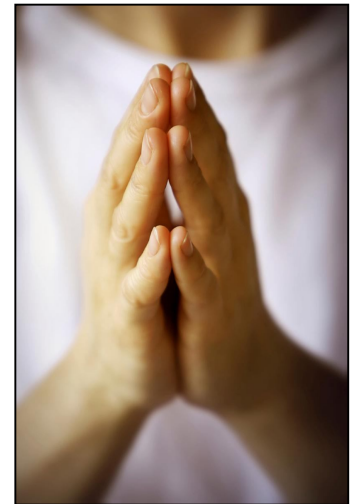
culties and how she overcame them; reference to the games of snakes and ladders and how it illustrates life's ups and downs and finally power point presentations including dramas and quotes. The children were very independent in writing and practising their Worship and should be commended on the great job they did. Well done to all!

## School Prayer

This month Mrs Spencer worked with a group of children to rewrite our school prayer which was written some years ago by a group of pupils who are no longer at the school. The old school prayer was based on the Lord's Prayer. The new school prayer was based on 'thank you, sorry, please'. Mrs Spencer introduced this to the children using the initials 'tsp' and an illustration of a teaspoon to help the children remember it. The new school prayer is a lot shorter and more memorable. You may notice that one line from the old school prayer has been kept. This is 'Let your light shine like sunshine in our school, today and everyday.' This is because this line reflects the schools vision 'Lighting a Spark in Every Child'. The prayer was written by Amy Davis, Jessica Esnard-Marsden, Holly Conway, Jack Spyrou and Daniel Murphy and follows below:

### Toddington St George Church of England School Prayer for Our School

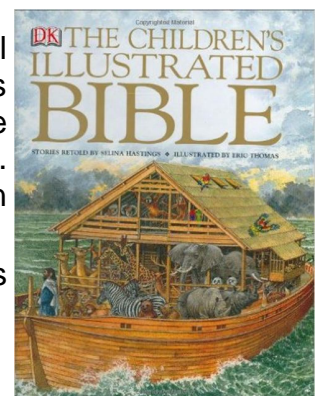
Father God,  
You are the light of the world,  
You lead us through everything in our lives.  
We respect your creation.  
Sorry we sometimes do things we shouldn't,  
Please forgive us and help us put things right.  
Help us respect you.  
Bless everyone here with your love.  
Let your light shine like sunshine in our school.  
Today and every day,  
In your name we pray.  
Amen



A number of parents, and children, speak different languages and they are currently translating the new prayer for us which will be part of a display in the school entrance hall shortly. Our thanks go to all of them. What a lovely way to greet visitors and celebrate all cultures experienced by the children in school. If you speak another language and have not been asked to translate the prayer please ask Mrs Collins for a copy - we would love to include as many languages as possible.

## Bible Timeline

In the school hall we now have a 'TSG Bible Timeline'. This illustrates all the Bible stories and references from both the Old and New Testaments that we have covered in Collective Worship. There is a title page (including the chapter and verse) and an illustration of that text by a pupil. The illustrations have been completed by a large number of pupils in Year 4. Please feel free to come and have a look. This will help the children understand how these stories work together. More able pupils can use the references to compare and contrast the Gospels.

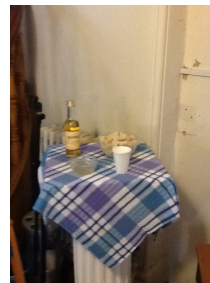


**Year Three: Easter Performance** On Tuesday 28th March Year Three pupils performed their Easter play 'Roll back the Stone' to their families having performed it to the school on the previous day. The children learnt lines, acted and sang songs to retell the story of Easter week and to explain the Easter as more than just chocolate treats. There were also a number of solo performances. The children did an amazing job in a busy week which also included their Learning Futures project, so many congratulations to them and thanks to the grown ups who supported them. A special thank you goes to Mr Townley who played the piano for them, which helped make it such a delight.



### Year Two: Easter Experience

On Friday 31st March Year Two pupils visited Toddington Methodist Church to take part in the Easter Experience. There were ten stations related to the story of Easter week and at each one children had to complete an activity in a booklet. They could taste bread dipped in vinegar, bang a nail into a cross, complete puzzles and stick things in. The children behaved very well and thought carefully about aspects of the story. Our thanks go to Tania Stanford and Catherine Burden for preparing and supporting this hands on experience and the parents who



## Faith Celebrations in March

### † 1st March Ash Wednesday Christian

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent for Western Christian churches and is a day of penitence. In some traditions, services are held on Ash Wednesday when worshippers are marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes as a sign of penitence and mortality.

### Lent 1st March– 13th April Christian †

Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. For Western Christian churches, Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, and is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

### 12th March Purim Jewish ✡

Purim celebrates the events told in the Book of Esther in the Hebrew Bible. The Jewish heroine Esther, wife of the king Ahasuerus, persuaded her husband to prevent a Persian nobleman, Haman, from massacring Jews in his kingdom. Purim is a time of praise and thanksgiving, and almsgiving is an important Purim tradition. The Book of Esther is read aloud in the synagogue and the congregation use rattles, cymbals and boos to drown out Haman's name whenever it appears.

### 13th March Holi Hindu ॐ

Holi is celebrated on the day after the full moon in the Hindu month of Phalgun. At Holi Hindus celebrate spring and certain events in Hindu mythology. It's also known as the 'Festival of Colours' due to the practice of throwing and applying coloured water and powder on friends and family. This ritual is said to be based on the story of Krishna and Radha. Krishna would ask his mother why Radha was fair while he was dark, and she advised him to apply colour to Radha's face to see how her complexion changed. At Holi images of Krishna and Radha are carried through the streets.

### 25th March Annunciation Christian †

Annunciation celebrates the day when the angel Gabriel is said to have appeared to Mary to tell her she'd been chosen to be the mother of Jesus. It's celebrated on 25 March, nine months before Christmas when Christians celebrate the birth of Christ.

## Success Shields

These are given as recognition of an achievement outside of school.

Children who have already received a shield in February are:

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**Anya Ojulah**  
Street Dance Star of the Week

**Mia Chadwick**  
Swimming L2

**Aine Cunningham**  
Snow Sports L2 /  
Gymnastics L8

**Isabella Bacon**  
Irish Dancer of the Week /  
Swimming 20m

**Cormac Hayes**  
Swimming 50m

**Vale Rawson**  
Street Dance Star of the Week

**Isabelle Owen**  
Rainbow Promise

**Lily Reynolds**  
Rainbows Promise

**Riley O'Connor**  
Football Award

**Zoe Gray**  
Swimming L3

**Jack Miles**  
Karate Yellow Belt

**Clara Roberts**  
Performed in Annie

**Scarlett Miles**  
Mixed Martial Arts Orange Belt

**Finley John**  
Football Player of the Match

**Harry Randlesome**  
Karate Student of the Week

**Ethan Lawrence**  
Street Dance Star of the Week /  
Football Player of the Match

**Connor Hayes**  
Swimming L1

**Zara Matthews**  
Swimming Medals

**Bronwyn Kenny**  
Student of the Month/  
Karate Red Belt

**Owen Russell**  
Signed by Luton Town Academy/  
Luton Town win V QPR

**Emily Scholes**  
Irish Dancing Grade 1 + 2

**Harry Crawley**  
Street Dance Star of the Week

**Fern Bartlett**  
Irish Dancer of the Week

**Oscar West**  
Street Dance Star of the Week

**Lara Mayne**  
Pony Club Badges

**Lewis Batt**  
Football Respect Award

**Emily Stratford**  
Performed in 'Annie'

**Holly Conway**  
Performed in 'Annie'

**Evan Cullen**  
Horse Riding

**Jemima Cornelius**  
Brownie Promise

**Jamie Emerson**  
Swimming L5

**Freya Lawson**  
Swimming Award /  
Gymnastics Award

**Holly Riley**  
Swimming 800m

**Lucy Archer**  
Irish Dancer of the Week

**Ava Cunningham**  
Snow Sports L2 /  
Gymnastics L8

**Oliver Dobbs**  
Football Award /  
Swimming L3

**Molly Evans**  
Swimming L7 / 1 Mile

**George Davidson**  
Football Player of the Match

**Mark Wilson**  
Respect Trophy

**Ewan Phelan**  
Judo Award

**Emilia Fowler**  
Irish Dancer of the Week

**Charlie Dickens**  
Football Player of Match

**Roxy Schapp-Garratt**  
Performed in 'Annie'

**Rose Cozens**  
Performed in Annie

**Fynn McEvoy**  
Football Respect Trophy

**Jaida Bullock**  
Gymnastics Award

**Joshua Stone**  
Street Dance Star of the Week

**Ollie Scholes**  
Karate Student of the Week/  
Football Player of the Match

**If you have any further comments or suggestions of items you think it would be helpful to include in these newsletters please speak or write to Mrs Collins**