



Ethos Information 2020-2021

School closures during the pandemic proved challenging for delivering collective worship. However, opportunities for reflection and self-development took place through directed tasks shared through 'Purple Mash' learning platform. An example of this being pupils focussing on the Trinity And developing their understanding of this. Once schools reopened, collective worship took place via Teams to ensure 'bubbles' were maintained. Half termly themes centred on core Christian values of generosity, compassion, courage, forgiveness, friendship and respect ensuring pupils focussed on 'growing' their understanding in these areas across the year. Information was shared with families through a half termly newsletter to continue to build home school links whilst broadening pupil experiences outside of the school setting.

During each Monday Worship pupils and staff were encouraged to consider a Biblical principal and how this relates to their lives now. To strengthen and embed this across the school week, Wednesday class worship linked with the theme from Monday worship. Regular opportunities were encouraged for children to respond to acts of worship through our collective worship reflection board where a thoughtful question was posed for children to respond to during the week. School purchased 'Roots and Fruits 2' which has a strong focus on the life of Jesus and enabled us to plan ahead to broaden coverage in the next academic year. Additional support was offered through the Diocese with 'Worship to Go' materials emailed out to schools on a weekly basis.

The Chaplain at Blue Coat continued to bring engaging and poignant messages to our pupils, this increased during school closures from once a half term to weekly collective worship, again delivered via Teams. This was particularly beneficial and supportive as links with St James's and St Saviours parish were limited due to church closures and parish commitments. Pupils engage positively with the dynamic style of delivery and this progresses beyond the act of worship through class discussions.

As a school we made weekly phone calls home to ensure pupils and parents felt supported. Increased concerns around mental health and wellbeing meant that we increased the number of pupils accessing school during school closures via 'Head's discretion'. Meaning that numbers accessing school were above National figures. Parents valued this additional support during what proved to be a very challenging time for everyone. Many weekly phone calls were as much about supporting parents' mental health and wellbeing as supporting the child academically and emotionally.

School sent out 'hope bracelets' to members of the community with words of hope attached. Painted rocks were hidden in the local area with inspirational messages and local businesses were sent drawings and paintings from pupils using the rainbow as a sign of hope. School received phone call messages of thanks and appreciation for these gestures.

On return to school, we held a week long mental health initiative where pupils engaged in a variety of activities to support rebuilding and strengthening their mental health in preparation of returning to normality at school. We created several pieces of art which celebrated the value of 'Together as one family' from our mission statement.

A significant amount of leadership time was used to develop our school curriculum, ensuring Christian values and understanding of other faiths were threaded through not just RE, but other subject areas also.

We continued to raise funds for several charities throughout the year, engaging pupils in understanding the importance of 'giving back' and showing Christ's compassion and love to others. Examples of charities supported by school are MacMillan Cancer Research, Shaw food bank and Children in Need.