

# DBE Schools Bulletin

December 2022

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,  
our schools will be communities which are:

**LOVING**  
in relationships

**AMBITIOUS**  
in aspirations

**BOLD**  
in actions



***<sup>9</sup> After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.***

**Matthew 2: 9-10**

## In this Issue:

Working Together	Page 2
Rural Small Schools NPQs	Page 3
Admissions update	Page 4
AYLA Advent resources	Page 5
CPD Courses	Page 8
News from Schools	Page 10

## Follow the Star

The month of December is a really special time to be in our church schools, as we prepare for and look ahead to celebrating Christmas and the good news of the birth of Jesus, in this season of advent.

On the back of two turbulent years navigating through the challenges of the pandemic, this autumn term has brought further challenges for schools both for staff and families within the school community. The cost of living crisis, the rise in energy bills and inflation have had a wide reaching impact and placed further strain on schools and their budgets.

Such challenges bring into close focus the need and importance of coming together, being there for each other and an aspiration to live well together. Through the many nativities, Christingles and carol services in the weeks ahead, we can receive afresh the Christmas message of renewed hope and inspiration in Jesus Christ. The Church of England's Christmas campaign this year is encouraging people to come together in worship to 'follow the star', to seek where the star is pointing to, the person of Jesus and the light that he brings to our lives and that this will help us to take encouragement and hope from Advent and the Christmas story into the year ahead.

On behalf of the DBE team, can I thank each of our schools for all that you do for your children, families and communities and to extend our warm wishes for a very Happy Christmas and a brighter new year.

## Working Together - School Collaboration

**Bishop Wilson, Capenhurst, Christchurch Ellesmere Port, St Oswald's Mollington**

Our 4 schools enjoy a great deal of collaboration and have been developing our links further this term. Firstly, all four schools joined together for a professional development meeting led by Jen McIlveen looking at Courageous Advocacy. Working together, sharing ideas and seeing each other's schools is always a great way of learning.

On the week beginning 17th October we had our first worship collaboration of the year. This was a series of online worship, one each day, led by the headteachers of the different schools. The theme for our worship was the Story of Jonah. The outline and content of the week can be seen on this padlet page <https://padlet.com/stoswaldsipads>



Finally, on 4<sup>th</sup> November we had our sports afternoon. This was hosted by St Oswald's and consisted of a football tournament on the field and a netball tournament on the playground. All 4 schools played each other once as a mini league. All the games were played with amazing sportsmanship. The winners of the football were Bishop Wilson and the winners of the netball were St Oswald's.

We have further collaboration plans going forward including another sports afternoon next term, and a Christmas singing workshop.



*Dave Wallace* – Headteacher, St Oswald's CE Primary School

**Courageous Advocacy** has become a well-known phrase in our church schools over the last five years, and it was a delight to be able to work with this group of schools to dig deeper into what the phrase really means. Going beyond the charitable work of the school, it seeks to help children identify and find ways to tackle the injustice they see in the world around them, locally and further afield. As SIAMS changes its framework in 2023, Courageous Advocacy remains a vital part of what it means to be an effective church school. You can find out more about this by familiarising yourself with the [Church of England's guidance document](#).

*Jen McIlveen* - Christian Character & CPD Officer

## National NPQ pilot - an exciting opportunity for Chester Diocesan small rural schools.

We have been given a very exciting opportunity to be involved in a special pilot for small rural Church of England schools.

The national Church of England team have secured some funding from the DfE to offer the NPQ suite to small rural church of England schools. In discussion with the DfE they explained that the take up from small rural schools for the NPQs was minimal because of the difficulty in paying for and getting cover for staff to be out of school. They therefore proposed an alternative which would be the offer of the NPQs remotely and as twilights so there would be no need for staff to be out of school. The full suite of NPQs will be on offer (apart from the new EYFS and literacy NPQs) so this includes NPQEL, NPQH, NPQSL, NPQLT, NPQLTD and NPQLBC – details can be found here <https://www.cefel.org.uk/npqoverview/>

We are very fortunate to have the opportunity to be involved in this pilot as one of a small number of dioceses and so would encourage you to speak to staff and consider if you have any staff that would benefit from this opportunity to gain an NPQ that is fully funded and would not require any time out of school.

Also every small school taking part would receive a payment direct from DfE of £200 per person enrolled. All of the courses start on 1<sup>st</sup> March

Our numbers are very limited and so if you are interested please contact [Sue Noakes](#) by 16<sup>th</sup> December with the names of staff and NPQs of interest in your school.

## Valued DBE team member moves on

At the end of November, the DBE team bid farewell to Charlotte Somers as she has left her post, as DBE administrator and PA to the Director, for new horizons. Charlotte has been such an important and integral part of the team and has often been the first port of call for school enquiries and questions. Her hard work and dedication over the last six years, supporting all of our family of schools has been appreciated by all. We wish her well in her new endeavours. For all general enquiries please contact Linda Boys, DBE administrator, on 07549 109590 or [linda.boys@chester.anglican.org](mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org).



## Admissions for Aided schools and academies



Our admissions guidance has been updated following some adjudicator rulings that have been made this year. The latest guidance can be found here

<https://www.chester.anglican.org/schools/school-support/admissions.php>

Please ensure:

- Looked After Children also includes those who were in care overseas
- A clear definition of worship attendance, frequency and time frame with clear cut off. This definition must also be in your Supplementary Information Form (SIF)
- If you have criteria that includes attendance at worship you must have a Supplementary Information Form that allows for a tick box to confirm attendance (not a letter from clergy)
- The waiting list is kept until the 31<sup>st</sup> December and not the end of the autumn term.
- If you have a section on 'summer born children' rename to children educated outside their age group to include those who wish to start school early and those who wish to delay for reasons (e.g. medical) which is not to do with being summer born
- Make sure the map of any parishes is included with the policy

Please remember

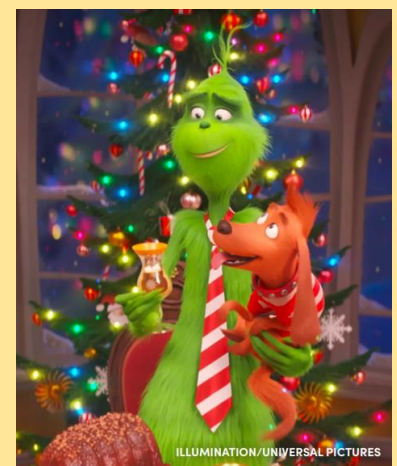
- If there are any changes you must consult for a minimum of 6 weeks before the 31<sup>st</sup> January
- You will need to 'determine' the arrangements for 2024 by 28<sup>th</sup> February 2023 and send a copy to the DBE.

## Picture News - Christmas Campaign 2022



This year, given the difficult circumstances many are facing with the cost of living crisis, we've decided to give children the chance to think about the things that really matter to us and what gifts we can give that don't cost anything. The full instructions and everything you need can be found here: [Picture News Christmas Campaign 2022](#).

We absolutely love seeing and reading your ideas so please email them to [help@picture-news.co.uk](mailto:help@picture-news.co.uk) and on social media, use the hashtag [#giftswecanallgive](#). We hope you enjoy taking part and we can't wait to hear all of your children's ideas!



## Archbishops' Young Leaders Award Advent Resources 2022

The AYLA wants to share our new free resource for Advent this year: '**Follow the Star – Advent Journeys**'.



As we journey towards Christmas this Advent season, we invite schools to join us in exploring some of the journeys made in the Christmas story and to consider how these can help and inspire us on our own journeys in life. Join us in taking a look at the journeys made by Mary as she visits Elizabeth, by Mary and Joseph as they travel to Bethlehem and by the shepherds and wise men as they travel to meet and celebrate Jesus. The journeys offer us an invitation to **hope, search, follow and rejoice**.

Over four weeks the resource will explore what we can learn from these journeys and how they can inspire us to reach out and make a difference to others in our communities this Advent. Each week includes: Bible passage activity, video exploration, questions to reflect on, challenges and prayer. This resource can be used in the classroom or in collective worship. Challenges can be done individually or as a group or class. To sign up, please click the link: <https://www.abyyt.com/advent>

## Headteacher & Senior Leaders Conference 2022

Thank you to all who attended the Headteacher and Senior Leaders Conference on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022.



On the back of our Headteacher and Senior Leader Conference there were a number of schools presenting ways in which they have worked effectively with different types of communities. We wanted to share the information they created about each of their inspiring projects here: [Project Showcase Pictures](#)

We also shared interviews with some school pupils about what Living Well Together means to them. You can watch their responses here:

[Living Well Together pupil interviews](#)

## NATRE free webinar.

Are you a primary or secondary Early Career Teacher of RE, or a secondary teacher who is new to the teaching of RE?



These online sessions are a series of FREE monthly webinars designed to support you develop your subject knowledge skills. It will also provide evidence to meet the ECT standards

[NATRE ECT free monthly webinar](#)

## Headteacher Cluster Meetings

		Spring	
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Mon 30 January 1.30pm	Hoole
Congleton/ Nantwich		Weds 1 March 1.30pm	<b>tbc</b>
Macclesfield		Tues 14 March 1.30pm	Macclesfield St John the Evangelist - School Hall
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Thurs 2 Feb 1.30pm	Norley
Rural Chester		Tues 21 March 10am	Utkinton & Cotebrook
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Thurs 2 Feb 10am	Edgeley St Matthew's
Trafford		Mon 20 March 1.30pm	Sale St Annes
Warrington/ Halton		Thurs 9 March 10am	Church House - Congo
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	Friday 20 January	Leasowe Castle
<b>Secondary Heads</b>		Wed 8 March 1:30pm	Church House - Congo

## Tales From the Miracle Book'

### A Christmas Tale



The Christmas films are a part of the annual subscription service for Collective Worships/ RE lessons with over 60 films and Collective Worships to choose from! Do check out the subscription on <http://talesfromthemiraclebook.co.uk> Great to embed Christian values and school values and your school vision too. The trailer for the Christmas Film series is

on <https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/481799780>

### Angels Delight! A Key Stage 2 Christmas Adventure Novel!

Sometimes the nativity can be seen as something Primarily for Key Stage 1. 'Angels Delight' makes Christmas relevant for Key Stage 2 pupils. An audio version of the book will be broadcast on UCB2 around 3.30pm during advent. 'Angel's Delight' is available on Amazon or <https://www.mikepeacock.net/books>



## RE Cluster Leader Groups

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Meetings are being arranged for the autumn, more details to follow. Groups and leader details below:



		Spring	
Cluster Name	RE Leads	Date & Time	Venue
<b>Cheshire West &amp; Chester South (Chester &amp; Ellesmere Port)</b>	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE) Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)	Wed 25th January	Zoom Meeting
<b>Cheshire East South</b>	Fiona Pulle (Brereton) Liz Ward (Wybunbury Delves)	Wed 15th February 4.15pm	Wybunbury Delves CE School.
<b>Cheshire East North, Cheshire West &amp; Chester North (Northwich)</b>	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.) Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)	Tue 7th March	POSSIBLY IN PERSON (AS PER CARYS - VENUE NOT ADVISED)
<b>Cheshire West &amp; Chester (Rural)</b>	Finola Jackson (Saughton CE)	Wed 8th March	Saughton CE
<b>Stockport/Tameside</b>	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges)		
<b>Trafford</b>	Natalie McLoughlin (St Annes Sale)	Thu 2nd March 3.40pm	St Annes Sale
<b>Wirral</b>	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead) Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)	Thu 12th January 4pm	Bebington St Andrew's

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or [linda.boys@chester.anglican.org](mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org) for further information

## The Bible Society – The Bible in 4 minutes



The Bible Society have released a video that takes us on a journey through the bible in 4 minutes. It's a great resource to share with staff and older students to give them a summary of the Bible's message from Genesis to Revelation. They have also created resources for various ages to be used alongside further videos that look at each section in more detail. Please follow the link here



<https://www.biblesociety.org.uk/explore-the-bible/spoken-truth/the-bible-in-four-minutes/>

## December, January & February 2022 CPD Courses.

Courses are listed on our [courses web page](#) and new [Ticket Tailor](#) site

Date	Month	Course	Location
14 <sup>th</sup>	Dec	<a href="#">Chairs clinic and networking group</a>	Zoom
11 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	<a href="#">Ethos Group - Vision Ambassadors, A Pupil Conference</a>	Church House
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	<a href="#">Being a Governor of a Church School / Academy</a>	Zoom
19 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	<b>NEW DATE</b> - <a href="#">RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 1</a>	Christ Church Moreton CE Primary School
20 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	<a href="#">Heads, Chairs and Incumbents briefing</a>	Zoom
24 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	<a href="#">Collective Worship Leads network</a>	Zoom
25 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	<a href="#">Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 3</a>	St Oswald's
<b>tb</b>		<a href="#">Stepping Into Headship - Two evening course</a>	Zoom
6 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	<a href="#">Chairs clinic and networking group</a>	Zoom
7 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	<a href="#">Headteachers Surgery</a>	Zoom
7 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	<a href="#">'Drop In' RE Surgery</a>	Zoom
8 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	<a href="#">Governor Training - Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS)</a>	Zoom
9 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	<b>NEW DATE</b> - <a href="#">New Headteacher Support - 1 Year Programme - session 1</a>	Church House
9 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	<a href="#">Deputies &amp; Assistant Headteachers' Briefing &amp; Networking</a>	Zoom
27 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	<a href="#">Effective Partnerships - 'Courageous Advocacy &amp; Global Neighbours'</a>	Zoom
28 <sup>th</sup>	Feb	<a href="#">Clergy with church schools network</a>	Zoom

Other Courses & Events			
19/20 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	Christian Leadership Course 2 day Residential	
27 <sup>th</sup>	Jan	CEEO National Conference	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Feb	RE Leads Cluster Meeting	

Any enquires about courses, dates or further details please contact [Linda Boys](#).



# LHU Church School Governance Online Training Programme

The Hope Church School Governance Online Training Programme (CSGTP) is aimed at Governors and Trustees (Directors) in both church schools and schools with a distinctively Christian ethos, providing support for Governors and Trustees (Directors) committed to improving provision and outcomes for children and young people. The programme has been developed by experts and professionals with a background in church school leadership, governance and inspection.



Duration: 6 months | Delivery: Online | Start date: January 2023

COST Full Fee: £350, Subsidised Fee\*: £50

*\*For 2023 only, Liverpool Hope University is able to subsidise up to 35 places on this course, meaning that the first 35 applicants will pay just £50. Subsidised places are available on a first come first served basis.*

To apply or for more information please contact:

Tel: 0151 291 3834/3061 Email: [pld@hope.ac.uk](mailto:pld@hope.ac.uk) [www.hope.ac.uk/pld/educationpld](http://www.hope.ac.uk/pld/educationpld)

## DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

<a href="mailto:chris.penn@chester.anglican.org">chris.penn@chester.anglican.org</a>	Director of Education	07540 722667
<a href="mailto:sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org">sue.noakes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Deputy Director of Education	07540 722668
<a href="mailto:mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org">mark.whitehill@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Effectiveness Officer	07540 722669
<a href="mailto:jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org">jenny.mcilveen@chester.anglican.org</a>	Christian Character & CPD Officer	07581 245812
<a href="mailto:simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org">simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org</a>	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
<a href="mailto:sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org">sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org</a>	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
<a href="mailto:linda.boys@chester.anglican.org">linda.boys@chester.anglican.org</a>	DBE Administrator	07549 109590

## News from Schools

### Bebington St Andrew's



My Space, My Belief Project - To celebrate Interfaith Week at St Andrew's we enjoyed a spiritual development project which celebrated our diversity and gave everyone the opportunity to think about their own beliefs.

Each family was asked to think about their beliefs and create a piece of art to display as part of our 'My Space, My Belief' Project. This was a great opportunity for sharing our beliefs through the special places and spaces we use for thought, reflection or prayer.

There were a wide variety of contributions from places of worship to natural spaces and other buildings. We loved finding out about our school community in this very special way. We were able to ask questions about the displays from our families and appreciate how unique and special everyone is.

To complement our own work we were able to hear from a number of visiting speakers during Interfaith Week. We enjoyed hearing from a Hindu parent and a Sikh parent, as well as a Humanist from Humanists UK and a member of Wirral Deen Centre too.



### Bickerton



Our pupils were asked to attend the Remembrance service held by our local church on Sunday 13th November. Our worship leaders, headteacher and chair of governors attended the service and laid a specially made wreath as part of the memorial service. As a whole school, we created a range of poppies - different shapes, sizes and materials. We used these poppies on our own school wreath. Making such poppies provided us an opportunity to remember the service and sacrifice of all those that have defended our freedoms. We thank our Worship Leaders once again for representing our school.

## Bidston Village

Our school took part in the annual Remembrance service at Flaybrick cemetery in Bidston. The children read from John 15:9-17, read a poem By Wilfred Owen and laid a wreath to honour all who gave their lives for us. The event was attended by members of the public and the Deputy mayor of Wirral. Rev Joe Smith of St Oswalds Church Bidston led the service. The children were a credit to the school and themselves.



## Bishops' Blue Coat



On Remembrance Sunday, students from The Bishops' Blue Coat CE High School in Chester took part in the community Act of Remembrance at St Luke's in Huntington. Sammi shares her thoughts on the day below: -

As we stood on the that cold November morning, remembering those who gave their lives, I couldn't help but be reminded of the children who have heroic great-great grandparents.

The cold we felt was nothing compared to the freezing, muddy conditions of the trenches.

The quiet stillness we stood in was the dream of millions of men as they fought for the freedom we often take for granted.

Even though the First World War began more than a hundred years ago, many brave men and women have been lost and continue to put their lives on the line on the battlefield for that freedom today.

So, as we make our way into Advent, towards the joy of Christmas, let us not forget those that fought for the life that we live today.

## Bridgemere



Thanks to the Ethos and School Council for leading our worship for our Remembrance Service this year.

They came up the with lovely idea of remembering those loved ones we had lost and wanted to put the memories together as a whole school wreath.

## Crowton

Years 1 and 2 enjoyed an interesting and informative trip to Nantwich Museum. Linking to our work on The Great Fire of London, we were fascinated to hear all about The Great Fire of Nantwich! We visited the locations in town as the story, told by 2 lovely guides, unfolded. We had a great day including dressing up, role play, exploring artefacts and writing with quills!



Our Collective Worship Leaders held a competition to help write a new school prayer. Pupils sent their ideas to the Worship Leaders who then read through them and put parts of different prayers together to make our new school prayer.

Dear God,

This is Crowton,

Thank you for the many friends we have to play with.

Thank you for the school staff who help us learn.

Bless our school family and help us to do something beautiful,

To make this the best day yet.

Amen

Remembrance Day:

Our Reception and Key Stage 1 pupils visited the cenotaph in Crowton to lay the school wreath and reflect upon our learning about remembrance.



## Dodleston



The children and community were invited to support the BBC's Rickshaw Relay Rides Again as part of Children in Need. Matt Baker MBE and Quinlan Dunne, 18, rode through the village of Dodleston as they completed their 38 mile journey from Warrington to Wrexham.



## Heswall St Peter's

We have had a really fantastic start to the year at St Peter's. Our focus of the first day of each half term is one of our PETERS values (Pride, Effort, Teamwork, Empathy, Respect, Spirituality) During our Pride values day, we considered The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector.

In R.E. we have been exploring a range of topics, including the Kingdom of God and Incarnation. Our EYFS classes were able to make their first school visit to Heswall Parish, which was really exciting!

We began our second half term with our Effort Values day, focussing on Colossians 3:23 "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,". The children really enjoy our values days and they are a wonderful way to start each half term on a Christian footing.

Our amazing Ethos team have been teaching the other pupils all about Courageous Advocacy. This year, we have signed up to the Global Neighbours award, run by Christian Aid. To launch this initiative, our Ethos Group led a whole school worship, in front of staff, parents and governors! The children did an excellent job of sharing what being a courageous advocate means, and finished the worship with a bake sale too!



Our partnership with the Rock of Joy Trust, Uganda is very important to us. Already this year we have collected over 100 pairs of school shoes to send out with the team of young people who will be visiting Uganda next summer. We've enjoyed exchanging letters and prayers with the children there and successfully organised two second hand book sales, raising over £300.

It has been a wonderful first term so far and we are looking forward to more RE visits, child-led worships, values, courageous advocacy and celebrations as the year progresses!

## Hoole



We commemorated Armistice Day with a very special worship. It was wonderful to welcome friends from All Saints' Church, the local community and the Belong Care Village in Chester to join with us in remembering servicemen and women who have given their lives for our country.

To commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the Falklands War, the service focused on Simon Weston and the Sir Galahad military boat. We talked about Simon Weston who had been very badly injured but showed perseverance and determination to recover in order to help other people and make a difference in the world around him.

At the end of the service, children laid poppies on our wall of remembrance. Many pupils had written messages of remembrance on their poppies, showing how they had reflected on the sacrifice of the fallen. Visitors were also welcomed to lay poppies and many did this with an escort from our youngest children in Reception Class.



Later in the afternoon, older children were visited by Chris Caroe, a veteran of the Falklands War. Mr Caroe joined us from an appearance on BBC Breakfast News that morning. Mr Caroe spoke to pupils about his experiences and his feelings on Armistice Day. Pupils were enthralled to listen to Mr Caroe and his first-hand account of conflict. I feel so fortunate that we are able to offer children experiences like this which support them in becoming tolerant and responsible citizens of the future.

The children reflected on the day's events. I have shared some of their reflections below:

"It's not all about war and conquest. It is about being thankful for the things you have."

"This taught me to be thankful for the small things and how even though they were the enemy, the soldiers still cared for the Argentinian prisoners."

"It has made me think differently about not only being thankful for the British soldiers but also for all of the others."

"It showed me that friendship helps you to get on in life."

"It has made me realise how special Remembrance Day is for everyone."

"It inspires me to help people and team work with loyal friends."

"This made me even more thankful for every person who fought for our country."

"I learnt to be thankful and live life to the fullest and maybe the impossible may be possible."

## Kingsley St John's



Our school continues to be a Rights Respecting School. We are now preparing for the Silver Award accreditation, in the New Year.

As part of the learning, the school is developing a new display promoting the UN Convention on the Rights for the Child. A beautiful floor book is used to collate evidence of how the school is working to strengthen their understanding of the Rights for the child and how the school can develop how much they appreciate them.

Staff have gathered how the language of the rights respecting approach shapes a positive learning environment.

Article of the month for the school is Article 17 – Every child has the right to reliable information from the mass media. Television, radio, newspapers and other media should provide information that children can understand.

This is a focus through Picture News, Newsround, Children In Need and Childline. The school will take part in Outright 2022-23 this year on Friday 18th November.

### Lostock Gralam



We are working hard to enhance links between school, church and the local community. Today, our Gardening Club visited church to put the initial plans in place for our church/school garden. We have been allocated a plot of land in the beautiful church grounds to plant and care for.

Our children enjoyed a drink and a biscuit with members of the church congregation who meet each Tuesday for their "Open Church" worship. It was wonderful to see the children interacting with the community as they shared their ideas for our garden and swapped stories about what school used to look like. The congregation shared their memories of our school with the children and have come up with the idea of representing light within the garden as our school vision is "Christ is the light that guides us." John 8:12. The children discussed planting in the shape of a cross and a candle and using sunflowers as a reminder that we all turn to the light in order to thrive. We are excited to begin this new venture as we can leave a little piece of school within the church grounds to make the community smile.



### Lower Peover



The Ethos Team at our school organised a charity Pyjama day to coincide with the Children in Need Day on Friday 18th November. Their chosen charity was The Children's Hospital Pyjama Appeal which is a local Cheshire charity that delivers new pairs of pyjamas to children who are poorly and in hospitals over Christmas time to bring a little bit of festive cheer.

This was the first fundraising event that the Ethos Team had organised this year and it was a great success. The whole school (children and adults) came dressed



in pyjamas, onesies and slippers for the day and were asked to donate a new pair of pyjamas or money for the charity.

The total donated as a school was 91 pairs of new Pyjamas and £250 which will all go towards spreading a little festive joy to children in our local Cheshire Hospitals over Christmas time.

## Mollington St Oswald's

### Vision Day

On Thursday 20 October our school had a day focusing on our school Christian vision of 'Love Your Neighbour'. Starting off with collective worship we reminded ourselves of the story of the Good Samaritan. Following that all the classes looked at books that fitted with the theme of 'Love Your Neighbour'.

For instance, EYFS read the story of 'Marmalade' by David Walliams, Year 3/4 read the book 'We are all Wonders' by R.J. Palacio and Y5/6 looked at 'Where the Poppies Grow' by Hilary Robinson. All classes did a variety of work based on their books.



At the same time the <https://springsdancecompany.org.uk/> came into school to lead LS1 and KS2 workshops in then hall based on the story of the Good Samaritan. This is the second time we have worked with Springs Dance and we would highly recommend them.

Finally the Y5/6 poppy work developed into a display which was taken to the Remembrance Service at our church St Oswald's Backford.

## Moreton Christ Church

We are fortunate to have such strong links between school and Moreton Christ Church Parish church and our whole school community enjoyed working together to collect shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child appeal. It was wonderful to see so many children and families join us at church on Sunday 20th November to collect their shoeboxes for the appeal. Our head and deputy boys and girls helped the church leaders to collect and stack the shoeboxes.





As part of the service, Reverend Debbi taught everyone about the meaning of the Christingle and the whole congregation became one large Christingle! We reflected together as the red ribbon was wrapped around the whole church body showing God's love for us! Every child who attended the church was given a Christingle during the service; it was so special to reflect together on Jesus being the light of the world.

On Tuesday 29th November, during our HT worship, the whole school reflected on the start of advent, considered what the Christingle symbolises and then had fun in their classes during the day making their own Christingle.

## Mottram

We are delighted to announce that we have achieved Bronze Award status in Christian Aid's Global Neighbours scheme in recognition of our wide-ranging steps to love our global neighbour.

We are thrilled to be recognised for the work we have done as a whole school community to raise awareness of the extreme inequalities across our globe and perhaps more importantly, the steps we can take to address these. We have established a school allotment, alongside local businesses and the community, to become more sustainable. We have already harvested our first crop of potatoes and tomatoes which we enjoyed at lunchtime!



The children have invited member of the local community into school and have held coffee and catch up sessions to share their work on global issues.

We have explored ways to reduce our carbon footprint from changing the photocopier to an eco-friendly printer, to installing LED lighting throughout the school.

We have a link with Katherine's Mercy Home Trust in South India and are exploring ways for the children in both communities to write letters to find out about how life is lived in another part of the world. We have interwoven Courageous Advocacy through our curriculum which inspires us all to make the world a better place for future generations.

We took part in Christian Aid's scheme because it gives us a practical way of living out our school vision as we believe every child is unique and has the potential to change communities for the better. We are excited to move forward and aim for the Silver Award in the coming years.



## Saighton

We are well underway with our exciting Christian Ethics in Farming Pilot Project. The children have been thinking about the importance of being stewards of creation and how this links with our school vision of flourishing. The children have also looked at why climate change is an



issue of justice and are busy channelling this creativity into climate art that expresses their concerns and hopes for our planet, people and animals. Our youngest children have enjoyed reading the very moving and inspirational story of 'Hattie Peck' and this has certainly helped to nurture their love for chickens! Our older children have been discussing ethical questions and issues surrounding free range meat and eggs and are looking forward to raising their concerns with our catering company soon. Unfortunately, we are having to wait a little longer to welcome our rescue hens, due to the current Defra ban but our newly appointed Hen Pals are fully trained up and raring to go!



The children thoroughly enjoyed taking part in 'Sing The Christmas Story' at Chester Cathedral and we were super proud that KS1 sang and signed, using Makaton, a beautiful version of 'Sing'. KS2 also captured hearts with their performance of 'One Bright Star'. This event has been a real highlight of the year and it was wonderful to come together with other schools in this incredible venue.

The whole school enjoyed a very successful festive forest session where the children made s'mores on the open fire and reflected on how they can help others this Advent - our forest is always a special place in which to nurture spiritual experiences. We were thrilled that some of our teaching ideas have been included in Sarah Watkins' book: '99 Eco Activities for Your Primary School'. These centre around how to encourage children to be agents for change in their local and global communities.

## Shocklach Oviatt

Our School Council have now moved our reading shed into the gazebo for winter. Here you will see children settling down to have a read or a draw in the gazebo at break times. At Shocklach we are passionate about developing a love of reading. Squirrels class have been reading a series about a Penguin detective and our oldest children have just started reading a class book called 'Fight back' by A.M Dassu, which tells the story of young Muslim girl and her struggle with bullying, racism and acceptance in her community.





Our Y5/6 pupils have been on the traditional Pilgrim day trip to Chester Cathedral. They learnt what life was like as a pilgrim and as a monk. They ate tea in monk's costumes and were not allowed to talk!! Izzie Dowsett year 5 said she 'had a really enjoyable day and would like to do it all again!' and Annabel Burnett (y5) spoke warmly about the playing of the organ and music which she heard. The children engaged in a range of activities from floor tile making to sugar craft and all thoroughly enjoyed the day.

We wore odd socks for Anti-Bullying week and to remember that is ok to be different.

Elliot, one of our members of the School Council helped explain it as, 'Odd socks is basically a silly day but we think about Anti-Bullying.'

Flo, the Chair of our School Council said, 'Odd is amazing!'



### Stretton St Matthew's



Children at our school enjoyed taking part in our Global Citizenship Artwork week, which involved them working collaboratively to produce artwork based on picture books that contain messages of wider, global issues. They discussed plastic pollution, deforestation, habitat destruction and the ways in which we can help to protect and rebuild God's creation.

### Tilston

Community is one of our core values and we feel very blessed to be part of St Mary's Church and our Tilston community. On Remembrance Sunday, our Head Boy and Girl, laid a poppy wreath on behalf of our school, and took part in the service to show 'We will remember them.'

Reverend Tim and Reverend Norma led a special KS2 service on Armistice Day at St Mary's Church. They read out the names of all soldiers, servicemen and women and took part in a two-minute silence. Mrs Leather, Beth's mum, played The Last Post on her cornet.



## Warmingham

As theologians, Badgers' Class (Year 5/6) have explored how Anne Frank's faith helped her see the good in everything around her. They started by learning about the basic history of the Holocaust before they learnt about the life of the courageous advocate Anne Frank.



After ordering the key events in Anne's life, they looked at how the Holocaust had an impact of her life. Afterwards, they looked at some quotes from Anne Frank's diary, and how her faith helped her to see the good in everything around her, despite what was happening to her and her family. They then thought carefully about which of our Christian values she was using to help her. A truly amazing courageous advocate – an inspiration to us all.

This year's theme for our messy church was Christmas around the world. Each class took an element of Christmas from a country for their activities. Otters Class looked at the 'Stella di natale – Christmas star' in Italy. Hedgehogs created their own baubles based on the traditional hand-painted glass baubles from Italy.

Squirrels created Christmas lanterns based on the ones they make in China and Badgers designed their own traditional advent calendar like they have in Germany. Each class researched the Christmas traditions of their chosen country and then designed their own Christmas artefacts that will be displayed in the children's chapel at St Leonard's church in readiness for the Advent service.

In the afternoon each class talked about the meaning of Christingle and what each part of a Christingle represents. Then every child in the school created their own Christingle for the Christingle service held in St Leonard's church on 1/12/22.



## Winsford St Chad's



At our school as part of our new collective worship programme, we have begun a Key Stage 2 Window on the World worship. During worship the children sit in their house and explore a news item from the week. The children give thoughtful and reflective answers to questions which leads to a time of prayer.

In November, we have been enjoying following the England matches in the World Cup. However, we looked at some new

stories from Amnesty International and have learnt about some of the human rights issues in Qatar.

In order for Qatar to host the World Cup in the desert, they have had to undertake a huge building programme to create stadiums. The government have chosen to use migrant workers from countries like Nepal as builders. Unfortunately, there have been many human rights violations. The children learnt that workers often do not receive the wages they were promised and do not have adequate housing, food or clean water. Should they wish to leave or visit family back home, they can't as their passports have been withheld. In addition, health and safety checks have not taken place meaning there have been many accidents leading to life changing injuries and even deaths.

Our House Captains were so passionate about the situation that they decided they wanted to write to the English FA expressing their love of football, but not at the expense of equality for all. They have written letters to Mark Bullingham (CEO of the FA) and Prince William (President of the FA) speaking out on behalf of the migrant workers.