



Welcome to the second issue of our RE newsletter. Our aim is to showcase some of the amazing work that is going on in RE lessons at St Richard Reynolds as well as support you at home with what is coming up next term.

In this issue of the newsletter we spotlight on some of the key areas we have been focusing on in Religious Education and Our Catholic Community. You will see sections on Creativity, Class Worship, Pupil Stewardship and Other faiths.

We are delighted to introduce our new Mini Vinnies who have recently been elected. You can read their introductions in this issue.

Wishing you health and happiness for the Lenten season and Easter break.

Mrs O'Byrne & Mrs Morgan

Meet our KS2 Mini Vinnies

Year 6- Sienna, Charlotte and Martha

Year 5- Amelia and Liam

Year 4- Elliot and Sofia

Year 3- Luke and Lily

Year 2- Harry and Francesca

Year 1- Stanley and Cecily

Our Mini Vinnies have been presented with their certificates and await their first meeting to collect their badges. In our meetings we will look at ways of supporting our community and fundraising activities and turn our concerns into actions with a 'See, think, do' approach.

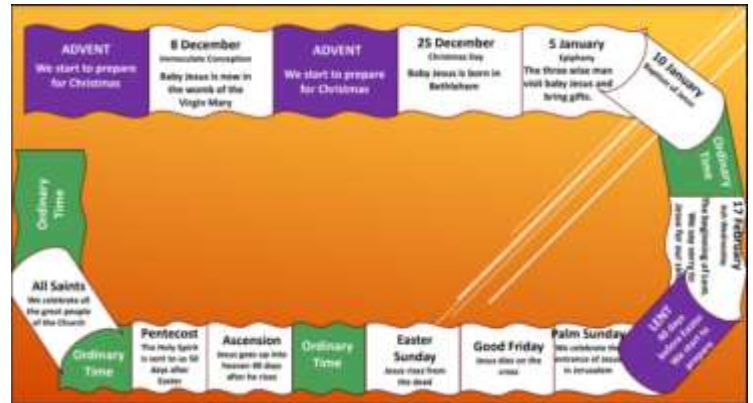


Our prayer garden.

Work continues on developing our prayer garden. This will be a fantastic, dedicated space where pupils can go as a class for worship and also for children to have time for quiet prayer and reflection during the day.

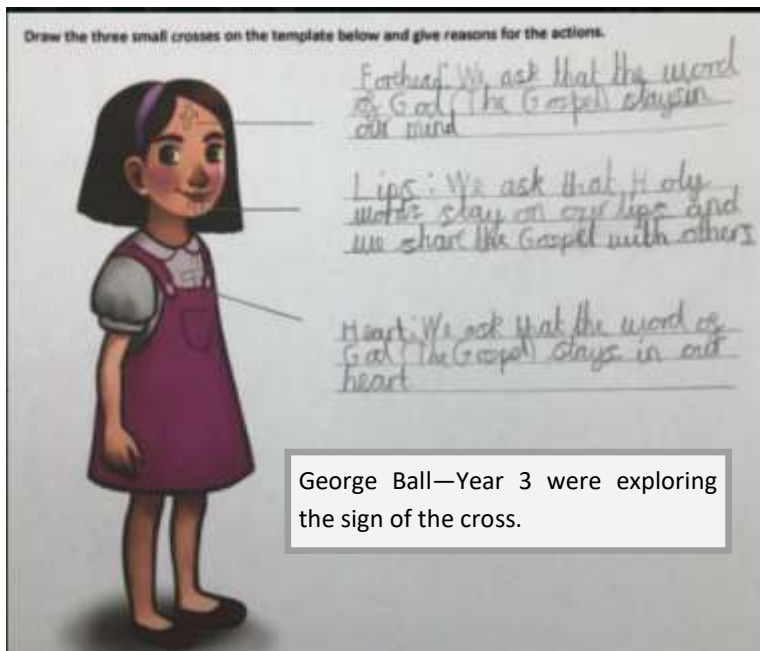


Reflecting on... Lent Term

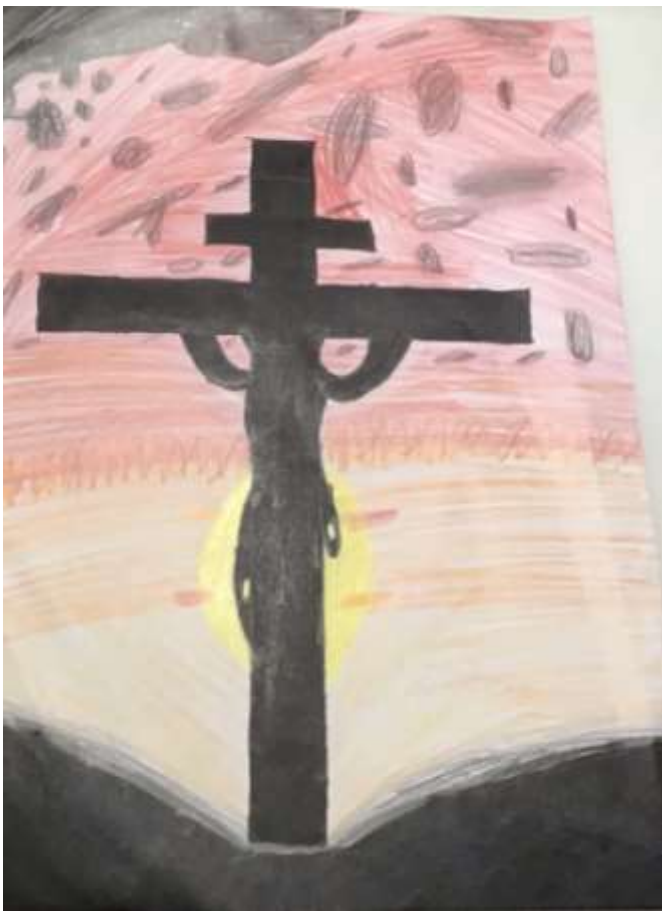


Leon Rubini—Year 3 designed a poster for Year 2 showing the liturgical seasons.

During our recent period of remote learning, it has been wonderful to see how our pupils have engaged in their RE topics. There has been a range of activities from drama, freeze frames to outstanding art work. Here is a taster of some of the pieces created.



George Ball—Year 3 were exploring the sign of the cross.



Kerstin Belaj (above) and Alex Gasparini (right) both in Year 5 had to create a piece of artwork that demonstrated the meaning of 'gathered into one by the Holy Spirit'.



Spotlight on... Creative RE

In the first part of the Spring Term, Year 1 focused on Special People; recognising all of the important people we have in our lives as well as those in our communities and beyond. These special people inspired the children to create some beautiful art work using a variety of media and mediums. Later in the term they learnt about the last supper and explored a wide variety of artworks created by global artists. Pupils were inspired to create their own.



Juliet Ball—Year 1
“Mrs O’Byrne is my superhero because she helps us to learn about everything!”

Maya Dziankowska



Cara Gillespie – Year 1
This is Marcus Rashford. He is a football player. He is kind and wants to help people. He thinks people should not be hungry. My collage is a healthy food rainbow.



Scarlett (and Lily) Goalen



Luke Pendleton—Year 1

Stanley Riehl—Year 1



Spotlight on...

Pupil

Stewardship

Many of you took photos of Lenten sunshine as a sign of Jesus, our light and our hope.

During Lent, the Mini Vinnies have set a creative project for our pupils called 'Lent through a Lens'. The response was wonderful; not only were the photos of an incredibly high standard, but the thought and symbolism children displayed in their pictures was both inspiring and moving. We have been very impressed by the standard and very moved by some of their reasons for their photographs. Here is a sample of some of the wonderful entries we received.

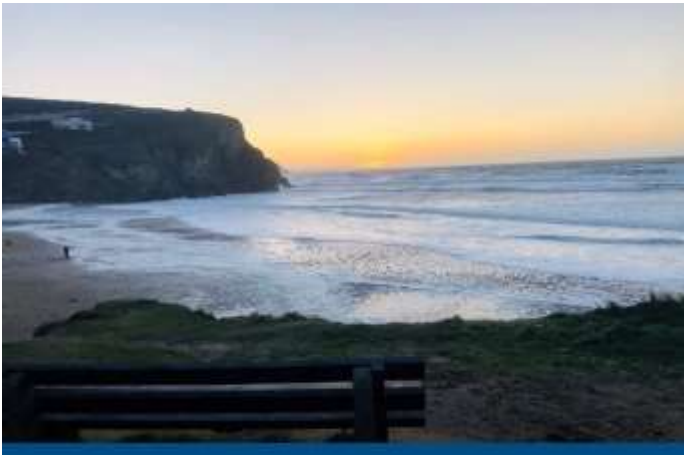


Lily Goalen- Year 4

Fundraising

A big congratulations to our Mini Vinnies who successfully raised £274.69 by organising a Pyjama Day and a Crazy Hair Day at school. The money raised will go to St. Joseph's school in Madagascar.

Hold my hand, God,
lead the way,
Help me be good every day.
Let me know what's wrong and right,
Keep me safe day and night,
Let me know what you have planned,
Lead the way God,
hold my hand.
Amen



This picture reminds me of Lent because....
The sun is going down which reminds me
of when Jesus died and the sky went dark.



Lent is in Spring. The crosses remind us
that Jesus died. We keep the crosses in our
garden.



Theo Corth-Year 6

Spring is a symbol of Lent. Nature
is waking up and is giving us new
hope, that even though we sin
sometimes, God is always giving us
another chance to rise again and
do better.



Spotlight on...

Prayer

Whilst our school building has been closed for much of this term we have still come together as a community to pray.

This year's Racial Justice Sunday is more important than ever. The effects of the Coronavirus pandemic, the killing of George Floyd, and the powerful message on fraternity and equality by Pope Francis in Fratelli Tutti speak of the need to actively oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. The theme is 'A Time to Act'. Racial issues and inequalities were identified nationally and internationally in 2020 generating awareness, emotion and outrage. Year 6 have created some wonderful poems on the theme of Racial Justice and we share some here.

As we gather together,
we pray for all those
who are suffering
from racial injustice
in our community
in our nation
and throughout the world.

Help us to act now
to build God's kingdom on earth so it is a place of
racial justice, equality and diversity.

Amen

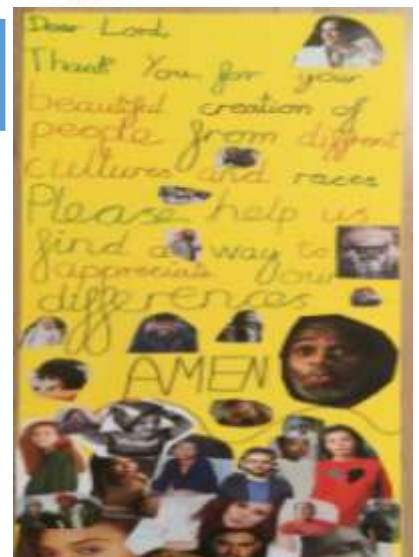


Dear Lord
We pray for all those
of the revolting cruelty
soon change for the better
lives in the knowledge that everyone is equal and has the same
opportunities as you would wish for us to have as we are all
one in the sense that we are all created by you and are all a
Part of your beautiful image for Earth. We pray that soon
all will have the rights they deserve whether they are
Male, Female, Black or white. Please not just for
Racism Sunday, but forever help guide those
Who are being cruel to the light and gift
Them with the love, kindness
And empathy as your son
Jesus taught in the
Holy gospel
Amen

God above,
who have been victims
that is racism and that it may
so that we can all live happier

Bosley Brown-
Year 6

Julia Szewczyk-
Year 6



Looking ahead... Pentecost Term

Reconciliation/Anointing of the sick – 4 weeks

19th April: 8 LESSONS

Early Years - **FRIENDS** - Friends of Jesus

Year 1 - **BEING SORRY** - God helps us choose well

Year 2 - **RULES** - Reasons for rules in the Christian family

Year 3 - **CHOICES** - Importance of examination of conscience

Year 4 - **BUILDING BRIDGES** - Admitting wrong, being reconciled with God and each other

Year 5 - **FREEDOM & RESPONSIBILITY** - Commandments enable Christians to be free & responsible

Year 6 - **HEALING** - Sacrament of the Sick

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk together about times when you have forgiven and been forgiven.

Discuss the importance of saying sorry. Look for opportunities for forgiveness and reconciliation in the day to day life of the family.

Pentecost – 4 weeks

17th May: 8 LESSONS (*Half term within this*)

Ascension is 13th May Pentecost is 23rd May

Early Years - **GOOD NEWS** - Passing on the Good News of Jesus

Year 1 - **HOLIDAYS AND HOLYDAYS** - Pentecost: feast of the Holy Spirit

Year 2 - **SPREAD THE WORD** - Pentecost: a time to spread the Good News

Year 3 - **ENERGY** - Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Year 4 - **NEW LIFE** - To hear and live the Easter message

Year 5 - **TRANSFORMATION** - Celebration of the Spirit's transforming power

Year 6 - **WITNESSES** - The Holy Spirit enables people to become witnesses

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk about good news in your family and how you shared it.

Ask your child to tell you the story of Pentecost and the work of the Holy Spirit

World Religions – 1 week

21st June : 2 LESSONS

Early Years – **Islam**

Special days/ritual objects: Prayer mats

Year 1 – **Judaism** – Stories: Abraham and Moses

Year 2 – **Hinduism** – Prayer at home: Puja

Year 3 – **Islam** – Places to worship: The Mosque

Year 4 – **Hinduism** – Holy books: Vedas and Bhagavad-Gita

Year 5 – **Judaism** - Beliefs and festivals: Pesach

Year 6 - **Judaism** - Belonging and values: Yom Kippur

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

During this week, ask pupils what they have been learning about and finding out during their study of other world religions. It is not about making comparisons to Christianity but growing in a wider understanding.

Universal Church – 3 weeks

28th June: 6 LESSONS

Early Years - OUR WORLD - God's wonderful world

Year 1 - NEIGHBOURS - Neighbours share God's world

Year 2 - TREASURES - God's treasure; the world

Year 3 - SPECIAL PLACES - Holy places for Jesus and the Christian community

Year 4 - GOD'S PEOPLE - Different saints show people what God is like

Year 5 - STEWARDSHIP - The Church is called to the stewardship of Creation

Year 6 - COMMON GOOD - Work of the worldwide Christian family

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Together, look through a family scrapbook or photograph album of a visit to a place that is special for your family.

Look at a globe or an atlas. Find a special place and pray for the people of that country.

Discuss how we can look after our world and support our neighbours, near and far.

Throughout their education, your child is preparing to live and work in a changing, global society. In this topic, they will be learning about global justice issues, and put their faith into action in order to build a just and fair world. In the final weeks of the summer term, each year group will learn about a different aspect of our **universal church**, through scripture, prayer, stories and a range of different activities.

Through the Universal Church topics children will explore key principles of Catholic Social Teaching:

The Dignity of the Human Person

God made each of us, which means each of us is very special. It is not important if you are tall or small, or happy or sad, or if you have many toys or no toys. What is important is that each of us is special because of God's love. And we must treat others in a caring way because they were made by God too.

We Are Called to Live as Family and Community

Jesus knows that people can only be happy if they have families and friends. He tells us that we can let these important people help us. He asks us to help them too.

Rights and Responsibilities

All of God's people need these things: food, work, clothes, a home, a school, and a doctor to help when they are sick. Every single person on earth needs these. Some people have what they need, but many people don't. Jesus wants the people who already have what they need to help these others. Jesus wants us to take care of this.

We Are Called to Stewardship

God made the earth and sky. God made all the people all over the world. God made the spiders and dogs and butterflies and tigers and pandas and all the other animals. God made the tulips, the trees, the tomatoes and all the plants. And, God tells us we must take good care of them. It is an important job.

An Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

You need food, water, a house, your school, a good doctor and a job for the grown-up who takes care of you. So does everybody else on the whole Earth. But there are many people who do not have these things. Jesus wants us to take extra good care of these people.

The Dignity and Rights of Workers

All people work in some way. Their work should be safe and helpful to them because God made them. By our work, we help ourselves and others, and we show our love to God.

Solidarity

All people are God's children. That makes us brothers and sisters. We are connected to each other. It is as if everyone in the world held hands! We can be very different from each other, but we are still one family—God's family.

Promotion of peace

When we fall out with our friends we must say sorry, try to put things right and then try to be even better friends. We must always try to live in peace and get on with everyone. This is not easy but Jesus wants us to keep on trying.