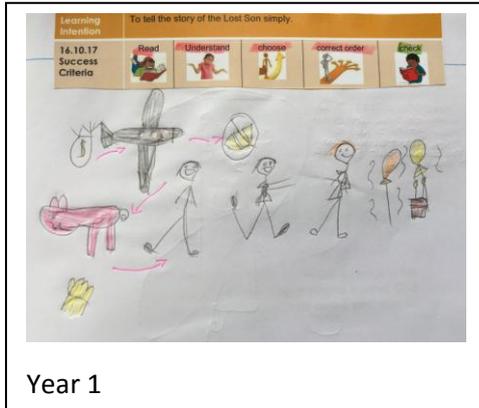


## Religious Education Newsletter

### Mrs Kelly - RE & Worship Leader



Our school has now undertaken the first full year of the Understanding Christianity project. There are more and more schools undertaking the training, so we are in a good position being one of the first to have piloted the project. The Understanding Christianity project, in my opinion, has very much engaged our pupils. It has given them a greater understanding of the bible, how to find their way around the bible and have been able to discuss how they feel about what is in the bible and critically reflect to help inform their

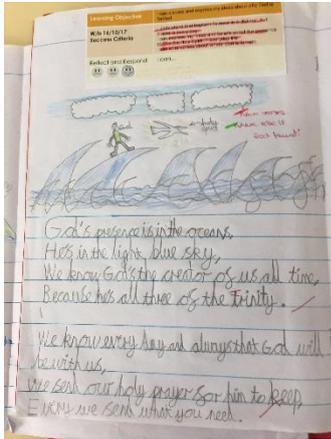
understanding. The pupils have expressed their learning in a variety of ways through; writing, discussions, art work, drama, music, presentations, group work, prayer/s and more. The pupils are continuing to use their 'Reflection Diaries' and 'Class RE' books which are beginning to take shape. The pupils enjoy having them and they are very proud to show visitors to our school the contents of these books. The Reflection Diaries show areas that they have discussed that are not in the curriculum, for example, it might be something that they have heard on the news and teachers have felt it was worth a discussion so that children are not left with misconceptions.



At the beginning of the Autumn term, our pupils had the opportunity of linking bible stories to our school values of; Love, Forgiveness, Respect and Aspiration during our 'Values Harvest'. These bible stories are on display in the main foyer and we have used one of our pupils RE home learning project for the display – a large, decorated wooden cross made by Billy.

I have recently attended a network meeting for all RE Leaders in our Christchurch Learning Partnership group and this has given me an opportunity to work alongside other RE Leaders, learning from each other. I attended two local Bournemouth schools on Tuesday, 7<sup>th</sup> November to share good practice with their RE Leaders. They will be visiting our school soon for an opportunity to moderate our RE books together and to help validate judgements we make on our assessments.

We had a visit from Sue Bowen, our RE Consultant from the Diocese on Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> October. She was positively encouraged with all the work that is happening for both RE and Worship at The Priory. One of the recommendations that she gave us was to include a Spirituality statement on our website. You can now find this on the website; look under 'A Church School', 'Spiritual Development'.



Year 3

The Medium Term Planning for RE is on the website (2017-18) showing the 6 values that we are focusing on in our worship throughout the year. We were focusing during Autumn 1 on 'Generosity' and are currently looking at 'Compassion'. Our focus for Spring 1 will be introduced by Mr Ruffle (our new Head teacher) and this will be 'Perseverance'. Autumn 1 learning was added to the blog and Autumn 2 will shortly follow – this allows you to see what your child is learning in RE in class and you might want to follow this up with them to gauge their understanding and their opinions surrounding their learning.

During worship one of our Year 6 pupils (Sophie) introduced the work of Triple F who provide for the homeless in the local area. Sophie led the worship with a video of what goes on in the soup kitchen, how important it is to those who attend and the additional work that they do to wash clothing, provide blankets and a lot more. Sophie and her mother have set up an area in the foyer where you can provide essentials for the homeless, these are distributed regularly to those in need. I would like to thank the great work that this family carry out on a weekly basis, it is truly commendable. If you would like to become involved please ask me and I can point you in the right direction.



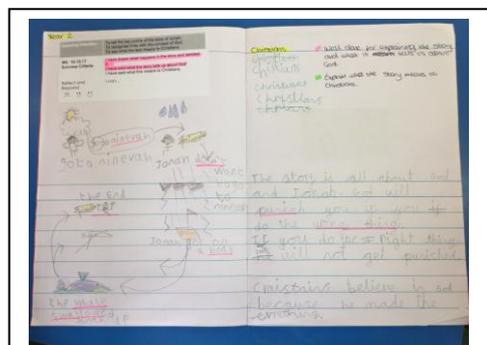
The NSPCC (The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children) led an assembly in Autumn 1 – and as a result of this, our pupils raised £287.15 to help protect children. The pupils took part in active circuits and each class was led by our Head Boy and Head Girl (Sam and Maddi) with the help of the Bronze Ambassadors from Classes 5 and 6. They all did a sterling job. Well done!

Our beginning of term service on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September was led by Father Richard, this was combined with celebrating Harvest. Pupils contributed food to the Harvest service and was distributed later to the Christchurch Food Bank. Many thanks to those pupils who managed to contribute. Every little helps!

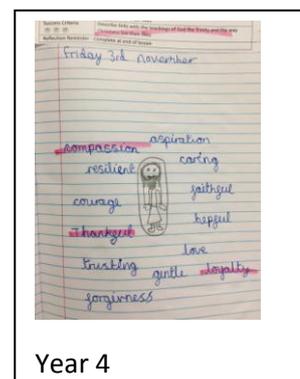
Following this service we had a Parish Eucharist Service at The Priory Church on Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> October. I would especially like to thank the following pupils and their parents for supporting this service; Oliver (Y6), Sam (Y6), Ava (Y1), Isla (Y5), Caitlyn (Y4) and Alice (Y5). We would love to have 15 pupils involved with this service each time. If you are interested in your child taking part in our Sunday services at The Priory Church (we are only involved in approximately three throughout the school year) I would be delighted to hear from you. The pupils have a range of roles within the service and they include; The Reading, short prayers, collecting money during the service and taking the elements (bread and wine) down the aisle to the vicar waiting at the altar (often to the sound of the choir singing). It really is a beautiful service and is always a proud moment for me as the pupils taking part are proud to be in their full school uniform while meeting and greeting the congregation as they arrive, handing out the service sheets. The congregation and in particular the senior members of the church are always delighted to see the pupils representing The Priory School.



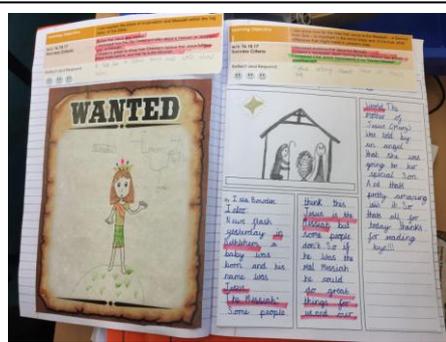
On Wednesday mornings the Priory School are extremely blessed to have either Father Charles or Father Richard to lead worship for our pupils at 9am. Father Charles led worship on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> November, All Saints Day and explained to the children the relevance and importance of this day through the concept of 'super heroes' - after all, we all need a hero.



Year 2

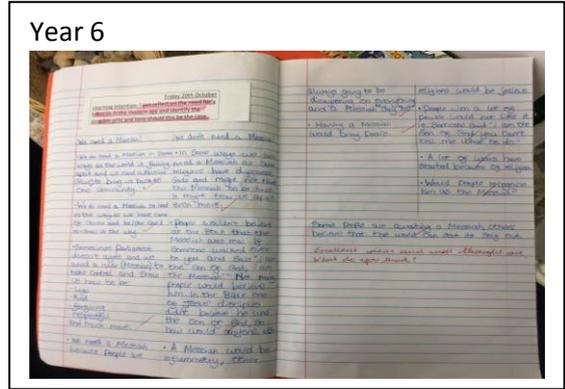


Year 4



Year 5

A group of pupils from Class R led an assembly this term (supported by Mrs Sibbald).



Year 6



On Thursday mornings, we have The Open Book who lead worship for us using the bible to re-tell stories and to explore the understanding of the meaning behind each one.

We contribute to The Christchurch Parish News with articles that can be found on our school website which often demonstrate what is going on in school and how our faith is at the root of all that we do.

*Wishing you all heartfelt wishes for the Christmas period – remember that Christmas starts with Christ.*

Mrs Kelly