Simply Collective Worship

United Kingdom:
Traditions, history and culture

- 12 cultural events
- 60 **assemblies** and thoughts for the day

By Phil Lord

Democracy Day
Halloween
5th November
Remembrance
St Andrew's Day
New Year
School identity & history
Shrove Tuesday
Valentine's Day
St David's Day
St Patrick's Day
St George's Day



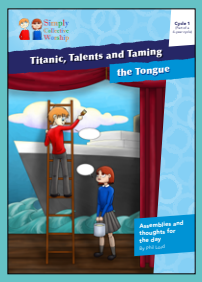
Themes

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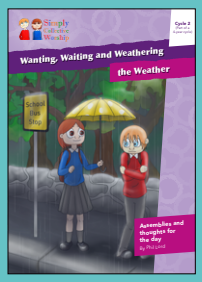
Each theme consists of an assembly followed by four shorter thoughts for the day exploring the theme in more detail.

1.	**Democracy Day**	*(Taken from Cycle 3)*	**5**
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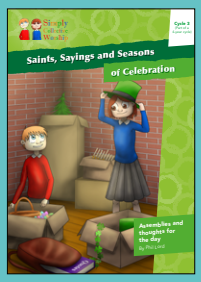
All the assemblies and thoughts for the day are from Simply Collective Worship's four year resource.



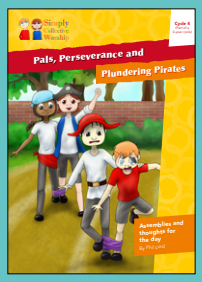
Cycle 1
'Titanic, Talents and Taming the Tongue'



Cycle 2
'Wanting, Waiting and Weathering the Weather'



Cycle 3
'Saints, Sayings and Seasons of Celebration'



Cycle 4
'Pals, Perseverance and Plundering Pirates'

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Theme	.1 Main assembly/theme .2-5 Thought for the day	Key Dates	Values	Spiritual	Moral	Social	Cultural
1	**.1 Democracy Day** .2 Local King .3 Parliament .4 Vote For All .5 A Good Debate	15th September – United Nations' Democracy Day	Fairness Respect			✓	✓
2	**.1 All Hallows' Eve & Halloween** .2 All Souls' Day .3 Dia De Los Muertos, Day Of The Dead .4 Pumpkin .5 Trick Or Treat	31st October – All Hallows' Eve 1st Nov – All Saints' Day 2nd Nov – All Souls' Day	Respect	✓			✓
3	**.1 Remember, Remember The 5th Of Nov** .2 Robert Catesby .3 John Johnson .4 Penny For The Guy .5 Same Event, Different Traditions	5th November – Bonfire Night	Tradition Community Respect			✓	✓
4	**.1 Remembrance** .2 Is It Important To Remember? .3 An Act Of Remembrance .4 The Gift Of Peace .5 Lasting Remembrance	11th November – Remembrance Day					
5	**.1 St Andrew's Day** .2 The Bones Of St Andrew .3 The Saltire .4 Thistles And Kilts .5 Haggis, Neeps And Tatties	30th November - Saint Andrew's Day	Respect	✓		✓	✓
6	**.1 Traditional New Year** .2 England .3 Ireland .4 Scotland .5 Wales	31st December - 1st January – New Year's Eve and New Year's Day	Joy	✓		✓	✓
7	**.1 Who Do You Think You Are, School?** .2 Lifelong Learning .3 Right To Education .4 Latin Phrases .5 Just Saying	24th January – UN nations' International Day of Education	Liberty and rule of law		✓	✓	✓
8	**.1 Shrove Tuesday** .2 Rehab Parliamentary Pancake Race .3 Pancake Greaze .4 Skipping Day .5 Taking Part	Shrove Tuesday	Tradition Thankfulness Community			✓	✓
9	**.1 Be My Valentine** .2 Jack Valentine .3 Bay Leaf Dreams .4 I Love My Hamster .5 Love Is…	14th February – St Valentine's Day					
10	**.1 Dewi Sant (St David)** .2 "Do The Little Things" .3 Can You Be Trusted With Very Little? .4 Can You Be Trusted With The Small Things? .5 Celebration	1st March – St David's Day	Joy Friendship	✓	✓	✓	✓
11	**.1 St Patrick – Bouncing Back** .2 The King And The Fire Festival .3 St Patrick Drives The Snakes From Ireland .4 The Shamrock .5 Practise Setbacks	17th March – St Patrick's Day	Determination Friendship	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	**.1 St George's Day** .2 The Lion And The Mouse .3 Feel The Fear And Do It Anyway .4 But I'm Too Small .5 Bravery Synonyms	23rd April – St George's Day	Courage	✓			✓

1.1 Democracy Day

Preparation

Possible image(s): Your MP; Local Councillor; Mayor; Chair of Governors; Student Council Representative.



The 15th September each year is the United Nations' 'International Day of Democracy'. Today we are going to explore what we mean by democracy. To do this we are going to think about the meaning of a few other words. Before we start I am going to ask you to name a few people who are involved in democracy. Do you know the name of our MP (and/or Welsh Assembly Member)? Does your town have a mayor? Do you know who your local councillor is? Who is the school's chair of governors? Can you name a student council representative?

Govern – Does anyone know what the word 'govern' means? To govern means to control and make decisions that affect the lives and actions of other people. Could anyone give me any synonyms for the word 'govern'. Lead, manage, oversee, regulate. The school governors are an example of some people who 'govern'. They are responsible for setting the overall aims of the school, they are also responsible for choosing the teachers that allow the school to run effectively. The headteacher is responsible for organising the day to day management and control of the school. The headteacher needs to make sure that the school is achieving the aims set by the governors. Can you think of other people who 'govern'? Who are they and what do they do to govern?

Government – Does anyone know what we mean by the word 'government'? A government is a group of people that have the authority to govern a town, county or whole country. The government is responsible for making laws and collecting and spending money that will affect the lives of everybody in the UK. In the UK we have 'a party' system of government. This doesn't mean that those with authority play pass the parcel and eat cake! It means that those involved in government belong to a group of people, known as a party, who have similar views on how they think the county or country should be governed. Can anyone tell me the name of a political party? Which political party is currently in government?

Politics – Politics is a word that is often used on the TV and radio and especially in the news. Politics means the activities that go along with the governance of a county or a country. A politician is a person who is often voted to be part of the governance of this country. Politics affects lots of different areas of our lives. Politics affect the cost of the fuel that goes into a car, the curriculum that is taught in schools, the amount of money parents get to help them look after their children, how old you need to be to learn to drive amongst many many others things.

Parliament – In the past, Kings and Queens, made the rules that affected the lives of everybody in the country. Today the rules or laws are made by government and voted on by parliament. In the UK the parliament is made up of three groups. The King or Queen, The 'House of Commons' (made up of 650 MPs Members of Parliament) and over 750 members of the 'House of Lords'. The King or Queen will sign their name on every act of parliament before it can become a law of the land.

Election – In the UK we vote for people that we think will be able to govern our towns, counties and country. People who want to help govern will explain to others why we should vote for them or their party. Every British and Northern Irish citizen who is over the age of 18 will then be able to vote for the people they want to govern in an election. In a general election I vote for the person or party that I want to represent me in Parliament. There are 650 members of parliament because the UK is divided up into 650 areas called constituencies. The people who live in a constituency is called a constituent. Each constituent can vote for the person they want to represent them in their constituency. The person who gets the most votes will represent their constituents and their party as a Member of Parliament. The government is the party that can get more than half the number of MP's (or seats) in the House of Commons, that is 326 or more.

Democracy – Democracy means a system of government that allows everybody to have a say about how a town, county or country is governed. Democracies may be organised in different ways in different countries. The words that we have thought about this morning help to explain how democracy is organised in the UK. Although the Politicians at the top of this system will ultimately make the decisions about what new laws are introduced, the system is designed to allow everybody to have a say in the decisions our country makes. Our MPs are our representatives in Parliament, our councillors are our representatives in local government. For a UK citizen, the UK isn't just the country you live in, it's a country you can help govern.

The UK hasn't always been democratic and there have been many changes to improve the democratic process in the UK. Changes to the law over the past 200 years have allowed more and more people to vote. In 1969 the law was changed to lower the voting age from 21 to 18 and before 1928 only certain groups of people were allowed to vote. We are going to explore the history of democracy in the UK in our thoughts for the week.

Time to reflect

- What does govern mean?
- Who makes the rules in the UK?
- Who do we go to if we want to improve…
  - our school?
  - our local communities?
  - our country?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for those people in the past that have enabled more and more people to have a say in how the UK is governed. May politicians have the wisdom to make decisions in the best interest of all of those that live in the UK. Amen



1.2 Local King

Yesterday we thought about the meaning of the word democracy. Can anyone remember what the word means? We also explored how democracy in the UK is organised. Can anyone remember any words that help to explain the way democracy is organised in the UK?

In the UK today, the Queen (or King) is the chief representative of the country. The Queen (or King) is the head of state but our laws are made by the government and agreed by parliament. What do you think of when you hear the word Queen or King? For some people the term means a person with ultimate power, a person who can rule and make people obey their every command. The Queen (or King) is the Queen (or King) of the whole of the UK, but it hasn't always been that way.

My name is Egbert and I want to be the first king to rule the whole of England. It is 825AD. After the Romans left Britain, about four hundred years ago, migrants from Europe moved and spread throughout England living in different tribes. There were lots of tribes across England and leaders of these groups began calling themselves kings. Some tribes joined together and others fought over land creating bigger kingdoms. Today there are only about 5 kingdoms left covering much of England. Each kingdom is ruled by its own king. I, like my father before me, rule the Kingdom of Wessex (sometimes called West Saxons) in the south of England. There is lots of arguing and fighting between the kingdoms as the different kings want to take control of other kingdoms and rule over larger areas of land. I have just battled the king Beornwulf of the kingdom of Mercia and won, now my kingdom is the most important in England.

In the middle ages, Kings developed as leaders of small tribes that over time got bigger and bigger. During the time of Egbert, England and Britain was divided up into different kingdoms. The kings had the power to make the laws. Many were focused on raising armies from their people to protect or gain more land.

Time to reflect

- Has there always been one king or queen of England (or the UK)?
- What do you think it was like to be a king in early Medieval Britain?
- When do you think England and Wales were united with one monarch? (1284)
- When do you think England and Scotland were united with one Monarch? (1603)

Irish and British parliaments united in 1801. In 1922 Ireland became a free state, leaving the current four countries of the United Kingdom or Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for those people of the past that have enabled more and more people to have a say in how the UK is governed. May politicians have the wisdom to make decisions in the best interest of all of those that live in the UK. *(Amen)*



1.3 Parliament

Yesterday we heard about what it was like to be a king of one of the kingdoms in England during the Middle ages. Why do you think there became less and less kingdoms in England and Wales? Today we are going to hear from a king that ruled over all of England and Wales. King Edward was one of the first kings to develop and organise meetings of Parliament.

I am King Edward the first. I became king of England in 1272 after the death of my father. England has a history of Nobles and Churchmen meeting to discuss matters that are important to England. I have continued and improved this practise increasing the number of people in my parliament. I ordered the election of two representatives from each county (the old kingdoms). These representatives I called Knights of the Shire. I also had two representatives from each city or town. (These are called burgesses.)

Running a country is expensive. I am building castles across North Wales and I'm at war with Scotland and France. Building projects are expensive and raising an army costs a fortune. I haven't got enough money to pay for all that I have planned. My people benefit from my rule, so my people must pay for the improvements I am making. I call a meeting of Parliament at least once a year to discuss the need to impose new taxes. My nobles collect these from those living on their lands and I use them to protect or enlarge England.

Today parliament is made up of 650 elected MP's in the House of Commons, 750 members of the House of Lords and the King or Queen. King Edward developed a parliament that brought together elected representatives from the towns and cities, knights and nobles (including leaders of the church) and himself as king.

Time to reflect

- How is King Edward I's parliament different to parliament today?
- How is King Edward I's parliament similar today?
- Did the members of King Edward's parliament represent the people or the king?
- Was King Edward's England a democracy?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for those people in the past that have enabled more and more people to have a say in how the UK is governed. May politicians have the wisdom to make decisions in the best interest of all of those that live in the UK. *(Amen)*



1.4 Vote For All

Can anyone remember the groups of people that made up Edward I's parliament? This week we have been thinking about democracy in the United Kingdom. King Edward I developed a parliament that bought together himself, nobles and knights (including leaders of the church) and elected representatives from towns and cities. Two hundred years later parliament had separated into two groups, representatives of the towns and cities began to meet as the House of Commons and the leaders or the church along with the nobles formed the House of Lords.

Today every citizen of the United Kingdom over the age of 18 has the opportunity to vote for who they want to represent them in the House of Commons. (Who is your MP?) Those over 18 are also able to vote for those they want to represent them in local council elections. (Who is your local councillor?) During the time of Edward I and those early parliaments, voting was a rich man's privilege. Only men over the age of 21 that had property over a certain value were allowed to vote. In 1832 a law called 'The Great Reform Act' was passed that allowed the vote to men who were shopkeepers and men paying £10 or more in rent each year (about £9,000 in today's money). During the 19th century the law continued to be changed allowing more men to vote.

In 1918 a law called 'The Representation of the People Act' gave the vote to all men aged 21 and over and women who were 30 and over and owned property or were married to a man who owned their own property. About 2 in every 5 women were allowed to vote. The 1918 law also allowed women to become Members of Parliament for the first time. Ten years later, in 1928, a law was passed, called 'The Equal Franchise Act', that allowed all women aged 21 and over to vote. In 1969 the voting age was lowered allowing all men and women that were 18 and over to vote.

Time to reflect

- How would you feel as a man or woman that was unable to vote?
- Why is it important to be able to vote?
- What do you think the voting age should be? Why?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for those people in the past that have enabled more and more people to have a say in how the UK is governed. May politicians have the wisdom to make decisions in the best interest of all of those that live in the UK. *(Amen)*



1.5 A Good Debate

Democracy means a system of government that allows everybody to have a say about how a town, county or country is governed. The words that we have thought about this week help to explain how democracy is organised in the UK. We have explored a little bit of the history of Parliament and we have also thought about when different groups of people in the UK were given the power to vote for who they wanted to represent them in the House of Commons.

Can anyone think of laws or rules that affect what we can and can't do? Many of the decisions that affect how we live, like the age at which we start and finish school, the speed limit on our roads, when and how often our rubbish and recycling is collected, begin with councillors or MPs debating the issue. What is a debate? A debate is when people discuss their opinions. MPs may agree or disagree with a possibility of a change to the law and a debate will allow them to have their say. At the end of the debate, MPs will vote. If there are more votes for than against, then the new rule becomes law.

Although the Politicians at the top of this system will ultimately make the decisions about what new laws are introduced, the system is designed to allow everybody to have a say in the decisions our country makes. MPs are our representatives in Parliament and councillors are our representatives in local government. We can vote for the MPs or councillors that share our opinion on things like climate change or health care. We can also write to our MP or councillors to ask them to share our opinions in their debates. For a UK citizen, the UK isn't just the country we live in, it's a country we can help govern.

Time to reflect

- What have you learned about democracy this week?
- What laws would you like to introduce?
- How would you convince others to vote for you?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for those people in the past that have enabled more and more people to have a say in how the UK is governed. May politicians have the wisdom to make decisions in the best interest of all of those that live in the UK. *(Amen)*



2.1 All Hallow's Eve & Halloween

Preparation

You may feel that the theme of this week is unsuitable for some children. Please read beforehand and use at your discretion.



Many occasions throughout the year have their beginnings in events that took place many years ago. In the UK and around the world, a number of celebrations take place during autumn remembering events of the past. It is not only past events that are remembered with celebrations or special days. There are special days to remember important people. In the United States of America there is a one-day holiday (similar to a bank holiday) in January to remember the life and death of Martin Luther King Jr who fought for the rights of black people in the USA. Saints are people who are recognised by many Christians to have lived and died for their faith. Many saints have a day in the year that is used to remember them. There isn't a day in the year that doesn't mark the life and death of a Christian saint, they are often called feast days. Not every Christian will mark the feast of every saint, otherwise there would be a yearlong party. Some saints would be more significant to some Christians than others. You may know of a few famous saints and the date of their feast.

Who is St George and when is his feast day? St George is the patron saint of England and St George's Day is celebrated on the 23rd April each year. Who is St Patrick and when is his feast day? Patron saint of Ireland, 17th March. Who is the patron saint of Scotland and when is his feast day? St Andrew, 30th November. Who is St David and when is his feast day? Patron saint of Wales, 1st March. The feast day of St Francis is celebrated on the 4th October. St Francis is the patron saint of animals and some churches allow pets into a special service early in October to remember the life, work and death of St Francis. Two more notable patron saints are Saint Thomas Aquinas the patron saint of students and Saint Catherine of Alexandria the patron saint of teachers, students and librarians both of which have a specific feast day (January 28th and 25th November).

Although there is a celebration of the life of a different saint every day of the year, not every saint can have their own feast day. There are too many, possibly over ten thousand recognised saints. (Some Christians believe that every Christian is a Saint.) In 609AD the leader of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Boniface IV, declared that an ancient Roman building, called the Pantheon could be used as a church. The Pantheon was an ancient temple that was built around 127AD and used to worship Roman gods. On the 13th May 609AD Pope Boniface IV blessed the building, calling it the church of St Mary and the Martyrs. The word martyr means someone who has been killed for their faith. Pope Boniface IV also declared that the 13th May should be a day of celebration. It became known as All Saints' Day and was a day to remember all the saints, especially those that didn't have their own feast day.

Less than 150 years later, another Pope, Pope Gregory III, changed All Saints' Day to 1st November. Many Christians celebrate All Saints' Day on the 1st November each year, but some still celebrate All Saints' Day on the original date of 13th May. Church services are held on All Saints' Day and it is an opportunity for Christians to remember all the saints and martyrs throughout Christian history. All Saints' Day is also called Hallowmas or All Hallows' Day. Hallow is another term for saint and it means honoured. All Hallows' Day is the day that all the saints are honoured. The day before All Saints' Day is called All Hallows Eve and where we get the term 'Halloween'.

During Halloween, many children dress up as ghosts, witches, vampires or monsters and parade the town, knocking on doors stating that they want a 'trick or treat'. These traditions may have their roots in an ancient festival that used to be celebrated in the UK before Christianity became the most popular religion. The festival of Samhain (pronounced Sa-win) marks the end of summer and the beginning of winter. Celebrated on the 31st October and 1st November, Samhain was thought to be the time when ghosts and the souls of the dead could come back and visit the world of the living. This maybe because the light that separated the two worlds faded as the summer turned into winter. It was a time to honour loved ones that had passed away. The spirits helped Celtic Priests to predict what was going to happen in the future. There are many accounts of different traditions that were practiced to celebrate Samhain. Some people put out the fires that were in their homes. Druids, the spiritual leaders, built huge bonfires and the people shared food and dressed up using animal heads and skins. Bonfires may have been used to help the sun to continue its way across the sky at the beginning of winter.

Samhain is still an important pagan festival today. 'Pagan' is the name given to someone who follows the traditions and beliefs of people who lived in the UK thousands of years ago. The Earth, nature and life and death play an important part in pagan beliefs.

Today we have thought about All Saints' Day, All Hallows' Eve, Halloween and Samhain. Very different festivals, with very different beliefs and practices that all take place at this time of year. Some Christians may go to church and think about a saint that is important to them, pagans may practice ancient Samhain traditions and many others will dress up in a slightly scary costume and wander the streets in the hope of finding some sweets.

Time to reflect

- Can you think of another time of the year when different traditions or festivals take place around the same time? (Christmas, Hanukkah and Diwali or Easter and Pesach)
- Can you name any other saints?
- Do you do anything to celebrate All Saints' Day, All Hallows' Eve or Samhain?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are occasions when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



2.2 All Souls' Day

Preparation

You may feel that the theme of this week is unsuitable for some children. Please read beforehand and use at your discretion.

Can anyone remember the name of the festivals that we thought about yesterday?

- All Saints' Day
- Hallowmas
- All Hallows' Eve
- Halloween
- Samhain (pronounced Sa-win)

Today we are going to think about another special day that takes place at this time of year. The 2nd November is called All Souls' Day and is the day after All Saints' Day. For many Christians, it is a day to remember those loved ones that have passed away. The day is closely linked with All Saints' Day and they are both known as Hallowtide.

Some Christians believe that there is a waiting room where a person's soul may go to after they have died but before they go to heaven. During Hallowtide a Christian may pray that the souls of loved ones that have passed away arrive quickly and safely in heaven. Some Christians may go to church services, but it is also a time to visit the graveyards where their loved ones are laid to rest.

It is common for Christians to hold a vigil the night before a special day or festival.

A vigil is when someone stays awake, when they should be going to bed, to think and/or pray. Church Services often take place late at night to help people focus on the meaning of the special event that will take place the following day.

Can anyone remember which two days are celebrated during Hallowtide? Vigils will be held on the events of Hallowtide and they are why it is called Hallows Eve or 'All Hallows' Eve'. It is where we get the term Halloween.

Time to reflect

- Why is Halloween called Halloween?
- Can you describe how Halloween is linked to events in the past?
- Are there any nights that you stay up late to celebrate a special event? New Year's Eve, Bonfire night, a family birthday, Ramadan during the summer (so that you can eat after the sun has set)?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are occasions when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



2.3 Dia De Los Muertos, Day Of The Dead

Preparation

You may feel that the theme of this week is unsuitable for some children. Please read beforehand and use at your discretion.

In Mexico there is a celebration called the 'Dia de los Muertos' or 'day of the dead'. The roots of the Day of the Dead began thousands of years ago; it is believed by some that the souls of the dead visit the Earth during the festival. Dia de los Muertos brings together the ancient South American beliefs and the Christian festivals of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day.

For many people in Mexico it is time to celebrate the life and the death of their loved ones. They welcome the dead by making an 'altar'. The altar is a special place in the home that is decorated with candles, flowers and photos of loved ones who have passed away. Food and drink are also placed on the altar as the spirits may be hungry or thirsty after their long journey. Skulls and skeletons may also be found on the altars.

During the festival, people get dressed up in costumes and parade through the streets, dancing and celebrating to lively music. Some people get dressed up as a rich old lady called 'Catrina'. Catrina demonstrates that no matter who you are or how much money you have, we will all pass away. Decorated skulls and skull sweets are also a reminder that underneath our belongings, our beliefs and our cultures, we are all the same. The celebration is very different to Halloween; it is not a celebration of fear and there are no ghosts or witch costumes, instead the dead are honoured and welcomed. In the UK, death is a sad event and often feared, but in Mexico, death is celebrated and has its own festival.

Time to reflect

- Why do you think some people celebrate death?
- Why do some people get dressed up as Catrina?
- Why do skulls and skeletons represent all of us?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are occasions when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*

**In 2008 the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNSECO) placed the festival on a list called 'Representative list of the intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity' to demonstrate and raise awareness of human diversity. Disney Pixar's film 'Coco' is based around beliefs celebrated in this festival.*



2.4 Pumpkin

The carving of pumpkins into lanterns is a popular activity during this time of year. Has anyone got a pumpkin lantern at home? Only a few hundred years ago, pumpkins could only be found growing in North and Central America. The pumpkin harvest is in late October. Creating lanterns goes back many hundreds of years, but people didn't use pumpkins, they made lanterns out of turnips or potatoes. The lanterns were placed in windows and outside doors to frighten away evil spirits.

The following Pumpkin related world records were correct at the time of writing, Guinness World Records website has up to date and further details on each of the individual pumpkin related worlds records.

- Heaviest pumpkin – a man from Belgium named Mathias Willemijns grew a pumpkin that weighed over one metric tonne. It weighed in at 1,190.49kg (187.47 Stones), just under the weight of a Mini. The record was set on the 9th October 2016 in Germany. The pumpkin wasn't big enough for Cinderella's carriage, but it might have made a great car.
- Longest line of carved pumpkins – On the 30th October 2016, people in the city of Richland Centre in the USA created a line of 3,975 pumpkins measuring over 1 kilometre.
- Fastest 100m in a pumpkin – on the 23rd May 2013 Dimitri Galitzine, from the UK, paddled a pumpkin over 100metres in 2 min and 0.3 seconds. He carved out the middle of the pumpkin and used a kayak paddle to complete the record.
- Most pumpkins carved in one hour – on the 21st October 2014, Trevor Hunt carved 109 pumpkins on a TV show in New York in the USA.
- Largest lit pumpkin lantern display – The City of Keen, New Hampshire, USA holds an annual pumpkin festival. In October 2013 30,581 pumpkin lanterns were displayed in the town's central square and main street. The town first set this record in 1996 with 13,044 pumpkins and broke it again in 1998, 2000 and 2004.

Time to reflect

- What is your favourite pumpkin related record? Why?
- If you could break a record with a pumpkin, what would it be and why?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are occasions when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



2.5 Trick Or Treat

There are many traditions, beliefs and celebrations that take place around the end of October and the beginning of November. Today many children go 'trick or treating'? Can anyone tell me what it is? The tradition may have its roots in a few different, much older practices connected to the different festivals. Many years ago, adults and children would visit each other's houses asking for food on All Souls' Day, in return they would pray for the soul of loved ones who had passed away. This was called 'Souling'. People in some places in Ireland still leave a soul-cake out for those that have died. Children in many parts of England would (and may still do) make a life size Guy Fawkes by stuffing old clothes with straw to burn on bonfire night. On the evenings before the 5th November they would parade their Guy, knocking on doors, asking for a 'penny for the guy' in the hope that they could collect enough money to buy fireworks. In Scotland, children would knock on doors and perform jokes or sing songs in order to earn a treat. This was called 'gaising'. Trick or treating as it is known today became popular in the USA from the 1930s onwards. Some children asked for sweets to stop them playing a trick on those living in the house, hence the phrase 'trick or treat'.

Time to reflect

This week we have heard about a number of different festivals that take place around this time of year. What facts can you remember about the following festivals? Can you think of something a person may do to celebrate these festivals?

All Saints' Day (All Hallows Day) – Some Christians pray to a saint that doesn't have his or her own feast day and some Christians may go to a special church service.

All Souls' Day – Some people remember loved ones that have passed away and they may place flowers on the grave of loved ones.

All Hallows' Eve – Some Churches hold a special service in the evening, called a vigil, for people to come and remember the Saints.

Halloween – Some people carve a Pumpkin into a lantern. Some children dress up in scary costumes and go trick or treating.

Samhain – Some people have a bonfire and honour those that have passed away.

Día de los Muertos – It is a national holiday in Mexico, people dress up as a skeleton or old lady Catrina and make an altar in their homes to loved ones who have passed away.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are occasions when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



3.1 Remember, Remember The 5th Of November

Preparation

Search and display an image of the gunpowder plot.

Many occasions throughout the year have their beginnings in events that took place many years ago. In the UK and around the world, a number of celebrations take place during Autumn remembering events of the past. Sukkot is a Jewish festival that remembers Jewish ancestors living in tents looking for a land to call their own. Diwali is celebrated by a number of religions including Hinduism that recalls the story of Rama and Sita. Some festivals like Sukkot and Diwali are on a different date each year. Other occasions like Halloween and All Saints day are celebrated on the same day each year. What day is Halloween? (31st October) When is All Saints' Day? (1st November)

Celebrations are a link to the past; they are a reminder of events that took place many years ago and provide an opportunity for communities to celebrate and remember together. Most celebrations will remember a specific event in the past with people today performing certain actions or rituals. During Sukkot, many Jews remember their ancestors living in tents by making a makeshift shelter in their back garden and sleeping and eating in it. During Diwali, the story of Rama and Sita is retold with the use of puppets.

The 5th of November has its own unique events that remind us of the past. What is the 5th of November commonly called? What events in the past does it remember? What happens today?



The original event that is remembered took place in 1605. The details as to why a number of people wanted to blow up King James I and the House of Lords are slightly complicated, but on the 5th November, the state opening of parliament, Guy Fawkes was found in the cellars of the Houses of Parliament with barrels full of gunpowder. The plot to blow up the King and his government had been stopped and it is said that celebration fires were lit across London. In January, the same month of the trial of Guy Fawkes and the other conspirators, Parliament passed the 'Thanksgiving Act'. The 5th November was declared as an annual celebration. Originally celebrated with prayers and bell ringing it soon developed the practices that we still use today.

Many folksongs were written about the event, one that you may recognise goes like this.

Remember, remember!
The fifth of November,
The Gunpowder treason and plot;
I know of no reason
Why the Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot!
Guy Fawkes and his companions

Did the scheme contrive,
To blow the King and Parliament
All up alive.
Threescore barrels, laid below,
To prove old England's overthrow.
But, by God's providence, him they catch,
With a dark lantern, lighting a match!
A stick and a stake
For King James's sake!
If you won't give me one,
I'll take two,
The better for me,
And the worse for you.
A rope, a rope, to hang the Pope,
A penn'orth of cheese to choke him,
A pint of beer to wash it down,
And a jolly good fire to burn him.
Holloa, boys! holloa, boys! make the bells ring!
Holloa, boys! holloa boys! God save the King!
Hip, hip, hooor-r-r-ray!

Bonfire night is a reminder of an event that happened over four hundred years ago. Guy Fawkes had his part to play in the plot to blow up the houses of parliament, but he is just a small part of a much bigger story. The events of the original bonfire night would make a great film; they give us an insight into what people believed and how they lived. For some people, it is important to find out as much as they can about the events that are celebrated today, for others the celebration is about spending time with family and friends. This week we are going to explore some of the traditions that take place during bonfire night.

Time to reflect

- What events in the past do you celebrate?
- What customs do you practice that directly remember an event in the past?
- Do you know the full story of events that you celebrate?
- Do you think it is important to remember the past in this way?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



3.2 Robert Catesby

Does anyone know who came up with the gunpowder plot? Robert Catesby. He thought up the plan and found others that wanted to help meeting in a pub called the Duck and Drake in London. The 5th of November 1605 was the state opening of parliament, this was the day when the members of the government met in the houses of parliament for the first time after a break. The explosion would have killed many important people of the time. Guy Fawkes was involved as he was an expert in explosives. Robert Catesby and others had planned to start an 'uprising' across England that would change the way England was ruled.

Those that were involved in the plot had friends who would have been at the state opening of parliament. A letter was written and given to one parliamentarian ten days before the state opening warning him to stay away. The letter made its way to an important member of parliament. Inspecting the cellars, barrels of gunpowder were found and so was the only member of the group Guy Fawkes.

Time to reflect

- Why do you think it is Guy Fawkes that is remembered rather than Robert Catesby?
- Do you think it is important to know the whole story?
- Do you know the stories behind the events you celebrate?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



3.3 John Johnson

Who was the person that came up with the plot to blow up the House of Lords? What was the name of the pub that he and others met in?

Guy Fawkes joined the group because he was an expert at using explosives. The group rented a house in London under Guy Fawkes' false name of 'John Johnson'. They also were able to rent a cellar under the Houses of Parliament. In the months leading up to November, the cellar was filled with 36 barrels of gunpowder. On the evening of the 4th November, two men, Sir Thomas Knyvett and Edward Doubleday found the gunpowder and John Johnson. Even though the gunpowder had been found, Robert Catesby decided to continue with their plan and try and start an uprising to see an end to King James I rule over England. Robert and others rode to Warwick Castle and then on to Holbeche house in Staffordshire where they were all either killed in a gun battle or caught and sentenced to death.

Knowing more about the events in the past can help us to understand why we do some of the things that we do today. Bonfire night celebrates Sir Thomas Knyvett and Edward Doubleday stopping Guy Fawkes from blowing up the houses of parliament.

Time to reflect

- Have you learned something about the 'gunpowder' plot that you didn't know before?
- Does it make bonfire night more interesting? Why?
- Do you need to know the original story to be able to enjoy bonfire night?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



3.4 Penny For The Guy

Preparation

Search and display an image of 'penny for the guy'.

What will you be doing (or what did you do) around the 5th November this year?

The story of Guy Fawkes has been remembered for over 400 years but over the years, certain traditions have become an important part of bonfire night whilst others have come and gone.

Bonfires
It is said that bonfires were lit on the 5th November 1605 as people heard about Guy Fawkes and the failed plan to blow up the houses of parliament. Bonfires have been a way of bring communities together long before the time of Guy Fawkes. Nowadays, there are organised bonfires and firework displays in towns and cities across the UK.

Penny for the guy
Have you heard the phrase 'penny for the guy'? People have been making 'guys' since the late 1600's. Old clothes were filled with straw to make them look like a person. The 'guys' were then carried through the streets with children carrying them shouting "penny for the guy". Money collected would be used to buy sweets (or fireworks when they became popular). The burning of the guy became an important part of bonfire night celebrations in the 1800's, although making and burning figures of people goes back much further. Making and burning guys is still popular in some places of the UK today.

Bonfire night food
Do you have any foods that your family likes to eat around bonfire night? Over the years different foods have been connected with this time of year. Potatoes cooked in the bonfires are popular, as is bonfire toffee or a special cake called 'parkin'.

Time to reflect

- Discuss traditions that pupils' practice during this time of year.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



3.5 Same Event, Different Traditions

The bonfire plot was organised to take place during the state opening of parliament. The state opening of parliament is when the King or Queen starts what is called the 'parliamentary year'. We have the school year; MP's have the parliamentary year. In 1605 the state opening of parliament took place on November 5th, the state opening of parliament now takes place around May. Each year, before the state opening of parliament, the houses of parliament are searched by the Queen's bodyguard looking for any potential Guy Fawkes.

This week we have explored the first bonfire night and we have looked at some of the modern-day traditions. Different towns and cities around the UK may have different traditions around bonfire night. In the town of Ottery St Mary in Devon, the men of the town carry flaming tar barrels. Lewes in Sussex boasts the largest November 5th event in the world. ***There are some good photos online – but remind pupils 'not to try this at home.'***

Yesterday we talked about the different traditions that pupils in this class celebrate at this time of year. Traditions connected to bonfire night have developed over time, some traditions have faded away whilst others are quite new. Some traditions like penny for the guy make us think of the original event whilst others like bonfire toffee have nothing to do with story of Robert Catesby or Guy Fawkes. Traditions no matter what they are celebrating are an important way for communities and families to come together.

Time to reflect

- What family traditions do you have that others don't?
- Do you know how some of the traditions started?
- There are not that many countries that celebrate bonfire night, what would you say if someone asked you, 'why is bonfire night celebrated?'

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



4.1 Remembrance (Infant friendly)

Preparation

Please enlarge each of the following images onto a sheet of A4, and print them, one per sheet:

- rotten apple
- fresh apple

Lay the sheets of A4 images down on the floor at the front of the room. Rotten apple on one side and the fresh apple on the other, make sure you remember which one is which.



This/or last Sunday is/was a very important day in our country. Can anyone tell me what it is/was called? Remembrance Sunday is an important time when lots of people walk around the streets wearing poppies, brass bands often play, and church services are held to remember soldiers who fought in different wars. Poppies are put in special places in villages, towns and cities all over the UK. ***Mention if your school was involved in a Remembrance Day parade.***

We celebrate lots of things to help us remember, who's had a birthday recently? How did you celebrate your birthday?

Your parents and family would have remembered the day you were born; you probably can't remember that day can you? Lots of religious festivals remember important people and what they did in the past. Remembering the past is important, but why do we have a special day to remember things that are not very good, like war?

Ask a volunteer to come to the front. Ask them to look at the image of the rotten apple and the fresh apple at either side of the room without showing the images to the other children. Once they have seen them, they can sit down. Repeat with 5 or so other pupils.

Well, I wonder what they saw. Ok volunteers, if you were given the choice of being given either of those, point to the one you'd choose. ***Show the two images to everyone.*** I know which one I would have chosen. ***Ask the rest of the children to point to the one that they would choose.*** The majority of us (if not all) would choose the fresh apple, and we'd stay away from the rotten apple. My volunteers had to remember which one they had seen before they could point to their choice.



At 11 o'clock, on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, World War 1 came to an end, and that is a good thing. Every year on the 11th of November and the nearest Sunday to the 11th, people commemorate the end of the war. The word commemorate means that we remember and respect something. People are often quiet for 2 minutes at 11 o'clock on these two days. They may remember a family member who may be in the army or other armed services. They may think about some of the horrible things that happen in war to remind them that it is not a good thing and that we should do everything we can to avoid it.

It's easier to choose the good when we remember the bad. Our volunteers chose the good apple because they'd seen the bad apple. One reason we have 'Remembrance Day' is to try and stop the bad things from happening again and again. By remembering the past, whether it is good or bad, it can help us to make good choices in the future. If we know how good friends and happy times make us feel, then we should try to be good friends to others. What have you done in the past that you can learn from?

Time to reflect

- Think about a time when you did something you knew you shouldn't, how did it make you feel?
- Think about when you have done something well, how did that make you feel?
- Try to use both of these times to help you make the right choices today.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We know that Remembrance Day is the day we set aside to think of those who died in war. We are thankful for the relative peace we have enjoyed in the UK in the years after World War 2 up until now. We hope for peace in places around the world that are at war now. May we all learn the lessons from the actions of the past. Let us change the bad and repeat that which is good. *(Amen)*



4.2 Is it Important to Remember?

Ask the pupils for examples of events that are important to remember. Why do we remember some things and forget others? Some things we choose to remember as a community, or in other words, we don't want to forget. In the UK, we have chosen to remember the end of the World War 1, and because we have chosen to remember it means that we think it is something that we shouldn't forget. We remember the battles that took place and the men who died fighting. World War 1 taught the world that war should be avoided wherever possible. So in choosing to remember the battles and the men who have given their lives we are also choosing to remember that peace should never be taken for granted.

Time to reflect

- Why is it important to remember?
- What should we remember on Remembrance Day?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We take time this remembrance week to be thankful. May we never take it for granted. May we choose to remember those who were and are not as fortunate as to live in peaceful times. Let our remembrance be seen in our actions as we seek to learn the lessons from our past. *(Amen)*



4.3 An Act of Remembrance

Ask the pupils what they think 'act of remembrance' means. The act of remembrance on either Remembrance Sunday or Remembrance Day involves a two-minute silence. The significance of silence is important for a couple of reasons. The guns fell silent on the 11th November 1918. Imagine how a soldier on the front must have felt knowing the gunfire had come to a permanent end. Imagine just how quiet it must have been compared to the noise of years of shelling, explosions and rifles firing. The silence must have brought back a confidence in life; it meant the fear of death was over. Silence also gives *us* the opportunity to reflect on what is important. Silence must have seemed extremely important to the soldiers on that first Armistice Day. Today, we remember family or friends that are involved in the armed services (The Army, Navy and Air Force) or think about how important it is for us to live in a country without the constant fear of war.

Time to reflect

- Think about how important silence must have been on the 11th November 1918.
- Take some time to enjoy the silence today.
- Think about family and friends.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for this time of year when we remember those that have fought in war. We think of those who lost their lives in war and for those that have fought so that we may live in relative peace. We ask that we may live lives that help bring an end to conflict and wars. *(Amen)*



4.4 The Gift of Peace

Ask pupils to think about a gift they have received from someone important. Gifts come in all shapes and sizes. Some gifts are more important than others and they are important for a whole host of reasons. Firstly, because we have wanted something and waited for it for a long time. Secondly, because it was expensive and thirdly because it was given by someone important. The peace at the end of the Second World War must have seemed like a gift. The war lasted five years. It not only affected the soldiers fighting, but planes bombed towns and cities across Europe. All of those affected by the war must have felt peace was never going to come. The eventual peace at the end of the Second World War cost the lives of an estimated 20-70 million people as well as the cost of rebuilding towns and cities due to the bombing. In Europe and across much of the World, the majority of families would have known someone who had died in the conflict, someone they thought important who died as a result of the war. Some gifts are lasting reminders of what we hold to be important. Remembrance may help us realise the importance of, and work for, a real and lasting peace.

Time to reflect

- Is peace a gift given by others?
- What did peace cost?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

May we remember during this time of remembrance the gift of peace. May we remember the cost of war. We ask that those in positions of power across the world strive for a real and lasting peace in areas of unrest and trouble. Let us also act to bring about peace and understanding in our own communities. *(Amen)*



4.5 A Lasting Remembrance

Many communities across the United Kingdom contributed to fund the building of a memorial or cenotaph to remember those that died during the World Wars. ***Ask the pupils if they know where their local cenotaph is.*** You can see these in most towns and cities and at this time each year poppy wreaths will be placed on them as an act of remembrance. Memorials along with plaques in schools, churches and in community halls have the names of those who gave their lives during times of war. We have set aside this time in November to remember as a community, but the memorials stand as lasting reminders throughout the year. They remind us that we should be working for peace all year round, not just once a year.

Time to reflect

- How can remembering make things better?
- How can we make remembrance last?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

At this time of remembrance, we remind ourselves of the importance of peace. We are reminded that it is our responsibility to make the world a better place. May we be thankful and continue to work for peace throughout the year. *(Amen)*



5.1 St Andrew's Day

Does anyone know what the UK or the United Kingdom is? The UK is the collective name we give the four nations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. What is Great Britain? Great Britain refers to the three nations of England, Scotland and Wales. What are the British Isles? The 'British Isles' is a geographical term relating to the whole group of Islands of Great Britain and Ireland, including Northern Ireland. The nations in the United Kingdom each have a patron saint. Can anyone tell me the name of the patron saints for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales?

England's patron saint is St George, Ireland's patron saint is St Patrick, Scotland's patron saint is St Andrew and Wales' patron saint is St David. Can anyone tell me what a patron saint is? A patron saint is a person regarded as the special guardian or protector of a group of people. Two more notable patron saints are St Vincent de Paul the patron saint of hospitals and St Michael the Archangel the patron saint of the police.

Today we will be thinking about St Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland. St Andrew's Day is on 30th November each year and is Scotland's national day. St Andrew was a disciple of Jesus and born in Galilee in modern day Israel around two thousand years ago. The Bible describes Andrew as a fisherman and the brother of Simon. Later Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter and Peter became the leader of the disciples after Jesus went up to heaven. St Andrew was the first person Jesus called to be one of his disciples and St Andrew introduced Simon to Jesus. In the Greek Orthodox church, St Andrew is known as 'Protokletos' which literally means 'the first called'.
St Andrew is not only the patron saint of



Scotland. Greece, Russia, Barbados and some other countries have St Andrew as their patron saint. He is also the patron saint of singers, fishermen and sore throats.

Like St George's Day, St Patrick's Day and St David's Day, the date of St Andrew's Day was chosen because according to Christian tradition, it was the day that St Andrew died. What is the symbol of Christianity? The Bible describes Jesus dying on a cross. The Romans used crucifixion as a punishment. Hanging people on a cross was a horrible way of getting rid of people that the Romans thought were dangerous to the peace of the Roman Empire. On the 30th November 60AD/CE the Romans crucified St Andrew on an X shaped cross. Like St Andrew, many Christians were killed by the Romans for following the teachings of Jesus. The Scottish flag, called the Saltire, has a white X shaped cross on a blue background representing how St Andrew died.

During his life St Andrew travelled far and wide telling other people about the teachings of Jesus and spreading the message of Christianity. He was born in Bethsaida, a fishing town in Galilee in modern day Israel but he was crucified in

Greece, in the city of Patras over 1600 miles (2700km) away. It takes just over 830miles (1330km) to travel from the bottom to the top of the UK mainland (Land's End to John O'Groats). St Andrew travelled at least twice that distance without the aid of a car or an aeroplane. During his life St Andrew travelled far and wide and legend has it that his bones continued to travel long after his death. The bones and the belongings of saints were really important to Christians in the early church. These relics were a reminder of the past and may have given other Christians courage when they faced difficult times.

St Andrew was crucified and buried in Patras in 60AD/CE. According to one legend his bones remained in Patras for around 250 years. A Greek monk, called St Regulus (also known as St Rule) looked after St Andrew's relics including his bones. An angel appeared to St Regulus in a dream and told him to hide some of the bones and relics. A few days later Emperor Constantine, a Roman Emperor who looked favourably on Christians, came and collected St Andrew's relics and moved them to the city of Constantinople (now Istanbul in Turkey). After Emperor Constantine had gone the angel revisited St Regulus telling him to get on a boat and go west with the bones he had hidden. St Regulus was told that he would be shipwrecked and that he should build the foundations of a church when he manged to get ashore. St Regulus was told that many people would journey (on pilgrimage) to the church. St Regulus's boat was caught in a storm and ran aground by the village of Kilrymont which later became the city of St Andrew's. In the legend, St Andrew appeared to the local ruler promising him victory over his enemies, the local ruler allowed St Regulus to build the church as a resting place for the hidden bones and relics of St Andrew.

According to another legend, St Andrew's bones were brought to Scotland by Acca, Bishop of Hexham (nr Newcastle) around 732AD/CE. One hundred years later a battle took place between King Athelstan of Northumbria and King Angus mac Fergus, ruler of the people who lived in North and East Scotland. St Andrew appeared to Angus in a dream and promised him victory. During the battle a saltire cross could be seen in the sky and Angus' army won. Whilst both of these stories are legends, St Andrew did become the centre of Christian life in Scotland in 908AD/CE and a place of pilgrimage for people from all over the world. We will continue to think about St Andrew and St Andrew's day in our thoughts for the day throughout this week.

Time to reflect

- Why do you think St Andrew travelled as far as he did?
- Why is he the patron saint of Scotland?
- Are there any places you have visited that are important to you and your family?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



5.2 The Bones Of St Andrew

Can anyone remember the name of the saint that we thought about yesterday? Can anyone remember why he is important to the country of Scotland? Tradition suggests that six of St Andrew's bones were brought to Scotland, possibly by St Regulus or Acca, Bishop of Hexham. A tooth, an arm bone, a kneecap and three fingers. They were kept at a church in St Andrew's. St Andrew's became an important place of pilgrimage. Does anyone know what a pilgrimage is?

I have an example to help us understand what a pilgrimage is. I need a volunteer to go to the back of the room/hall. The volunteer will need to come and collect this apple from the front of the room/hall. On their journey, the volunteer will need to make up a few different actions, that may involve stopping, sitting, hopping, crawling, our volunteer will decide. Once they have completed their journey, they may keep and eat the apple. ***Choose a volunteer and have them complete their journey. I now need a second volunteer.*** Our second volunteer we are going to call a pilgrim and they are going to go on a pilgrimage. Our second volunteer needs to copy all the actions and follow the route of our first volunteer. ***Choose a second volunteer and have them complete the pilgrimage.*** Of the two journeys that we have just seen the first was a journey by a very special person. The second was more like a pilgrimage. On a pilgrimage, a person may visit or recreate the actions to help them remember important events of the past.

St Andrew's bones were taken from St Andrew's in the 15th century. What is believed to be St Andrew's shoulder blade was sent to Scotland by the Arch Bishop of Amalfi in Italy in 1879 and can still be seen in St Mary's Catholic Cathedral in Edinburgh. The city of St Andrew's and the National Shrine of St Andrew in Edinburgh are still places of pilgrimage for some Christians today.

Time to reflect...

- Why did St Andrew's become an important place for Christians to visit?
- Why do you think that Christians would travel long distances, (now and before the invention of planes and cars) to see the bones and relics of Jesus' disciples and other saints?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



5.3 The Saltire

Preparation

Find and show an image of the Saltire flag

Can anyone remember the name of the saint that we have been thinking about this week? Can anyone remember why he is important to the country of Scotland? The feast of St Andrew has been celebrated in Scotland for over a thousand years but St Andrew didn't become Scotland's patron saint until 1320 with the 'Declaration of Arbroath'. The Declaration was a letter from the leaders of the Scottish people to the Pope in Rome asking him to declare Scotland as an independent country, able to make its own laws and rules. The declaration meant that Scotland didn't need to obey the rules and laws of the English king. In Scotland, St Andrew's day is an opportunity to celebrate all things Scottish.

Flying the Flag

Can anyone remember the name of the Scottish flag? The Saltire is flown on flagpoles across Scotland during St Andrew's day celebrations. Can anyone remember the legend that included the Saltire and a battle?

According to this legend, St Andrew's bones were brought to St Andrew's by Acca, Bishop of Hexham (nr Newcastle) around 732AD/CE. One hundred years later a battle took place between King Athelstan of Northumbria and King Angus mac Fergus, ruler of the people who lived in north and east Scotland (including St Andrew's). St Andrew appeared to Angus in a dream and promised him victory. During the battle a white saltire cross could be seen against the blue sky. The sight of the saltire together with King Angus' dream encouraged the Scots and they defeated King Athelstan and his army.

Time to reflect

- Have you seen a Saltire flag (other than in a picture)?
- Do you know any other legends about other patron saints?
- What would you like to find out about the images and colours on the flags of the home nations?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



5.4 Thistles And Kilts

Preparation

Find and show images of a thistle, Kilt and Sporran

Can anyone remember the legends that link St Andrew and the Saltire with Scotland? Today we are going to think about other symbols of Scotland that are important during St Andrew's day celebrations.

National Flower

Does anyone know what the national flowers are of the home nations? The national flower of England is a rose, Wales has the daffodil and Ireland's is a shamrock. Scotland has the thistle. In 1470 King James III issued silver coins with a thistle on them, this was first time a thistle was used as a royal symbol of Scotland. But why is the thistle important?

In 1263, according to legend, King Haakon of Norway attacked Scotland. His ships landed at the coast town of Largs near Glasgow under the cover of darkness. King Haakon wanted to sneak up on the sleeping Scots, so he ordered his men to take off their shoes. Fortunately for the Scots, one of King Haakon's men stood on a thistle and cried out in pain. The Scots defeated King Haakon and his army.

National Dress

Does anyone know what is traditionally worn by men in Scotland? Male traditional clothing is made up of a tartan kilt, a sporran, a sgian dubh (a small knife), kilt hose (long white socks and ghillies (traditional shoes)). Kilts were originally worn by people from the Highlands (in the North West of Scotland). They would have been made out of very long, thick tartan material and wrapped around the waist with the remaining cloth worn over the shoulder and pinned.

Time to reflect

- Do you know the flowers, clothes, foods, music, instruments, dances etc… that are important in the countries you or your families come from? (Google them)

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



5.5 Haggis, Neeps And Tatties

Preparation

Find and show images of Haggis, Neeps and Tatties

National Foods

Can you name any national foods of the home nations?

England – Roast Dinner, Fish and Chips, Full English Breakfast

Ireland – Irish Stew, soda bread, boxty (potato cakes)

Wales – Welsh Rarebit, bara brith, Cawl, Welsh cakes

Scotland – Haggis, neeps and tatties. Haggis is made from lamb or beef mixed with oatmeal and seasoning. Neeps are mashed turnips and Tatties are potatoes, usually mashed.

Time to reflect

This week we have been thinking about the patron saint of Scotland and events that take place to celebrate St Andrew's Day. Can anyone answer these questions?

- When did St Andrew live and when was he born?
- What is he famous for?
- Where and how did he die?
- What legends are connected with St Andrew's in Scotland?
- What is the Scottish flag called?
- What is the national flower of Scotland? Is there a legend linked to the thistle?
- What is the national dress of Scotland?
- What is the national dish of Scotland?

The 30th November is St Andrew's feast day and St Andrew is remembered by many Christians all over the world. For many Scottish people, St Andrew's day is also a day to celebrate being Scottish. Scottish people that have moved to other countries celebrate St Andrew's day to remind them of their history and heritage.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for events and celebrations that take place in our communities. They are times when we can spend time with our families and our friends. They are also times when we can reflect on what is important to us. Help us to enjoy our celebrations of the past. *(Amen)*



6.1 Traditional New Year

Preparation

If you haven't got these to hand, you could print them.

1. 12 grapes
2. Suitcase
3. Bell
4. Goggles
5. Paper plate
6. Animal mask
7. Coloured underpants
8. Ice-cream (Print)
9. TV (Print)
10. Plastic or paper cup

10 volunteers will each need to act out the tradition using the actual or printed item above. The first tradition involves eating 12 grapes, to reduce the risk of choking don't place the pupil under a time constraint and have a drink of water to hand. Make sure the pupil isn't allergic to grapes.

Throughout this week there are references to traditions from around the world and the home countries, if pupils (or you) celebrate variations of these traditions please email them to phil@simplycollectiveworship.co.uk

Do you or your family have any traditions that you do during Christmas or New Year? Traditions are an important part of community celebrations around the world. Today we are going to be thinking about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day traditions. I need ten volunteers to act out traditions from all over the world that take place on or around New Year.

Wording in bold is what the volunteer must act out before you explain the tradition.



Eat the twelve grapes (don't give the pupil a time limit, explain the tradition after the pupil has eaten the twelve grapes). The first tradition involves 12 grapes and is popular in Spain. The 12 grapes and 12 seconds represent the 12 months of the new year. Being able to complete it will bring good luck for all 12 months.

Walk around the hall/room with a suitcase. The second tradition requires a suitcase. In some Latin American countries, like Colombia or Mexico some people carry a suitcase 'around the block' (around where they live) at midnight in hope that they will be able to travel in the new year. Sometimes whole families walk around with suitcases at midnight.

Ring a bell. On New Year's Eve, the traditional ceremony of Joya-No-Kane is held across Japan. Buddhist Temple bells are rung 108 times, representing the suffering of the old year. The bell ringing will finish on the stroke of midnight.

Put on goggles and pretend to dive and swim. In some cold countries like Russia, people will break the ice on lakes, put on goggles, a swimming costume or trunks and go for a New Year's Day swim. On the 19th January some Orthodox Christians cut the surface ice on lakes into a cross shaped

swimming pool and then swim to remember Jesus being baptised in the Jordan river by John the Baptist.

Throw the paper plate on the floor. In Denmark, it is traditional to keep your chipped and unwanted plates, dishes and cups and then on New Year's Eve, smash them against the door of a friend.

Hold up the animal mask. In Romania, mask-dances are popular on New Year's Eve. Masks of animals like goats, bears, or horses are worn and accompanied with a special dance. Some Romanians will not eat chicken or any other bird on New Year's Day just in case their luck flies away.

Hold up the underpants or pretend to put them on. Wearing different coloured underpants represents your hopes for the new year in Brazil. If you wear yellow underpants and the New Year begins, it means you hope for wealth and money in the year ahead. Red represents love and romance and green means that you hope for good health in the next 12 months. Wearing black underpants as the clock strikes midnight may bring you bad luck.

Drop the picture of the ice-cream on the floor. In Switzerland some people drop ice cream on the floor on New Year's Eve believing it will bring them wealth and money in the coming year.

Open an imaginary window and throw the picture of the TV through it. Although it is against the law in South Africa now, some people used to throw their old televisions, furniture and rubbish out of the window on New Year's Eve as they cleaned and prepared their house for the new year.

Open an imaginary window and throw a plastic or paper cup through it. In some Latin American countries, people throw a bucket of water out of a window on New Year's Eve (probably not including the bucket). This represents throwing away the suffering and tears of the old year before the New Year starts.

Today we have heard about ten traditions that take place in various countries around the world. During the rest of the week we are going to hear about New Year traditions that take place in our home nations – England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales. During New Year and at various times throughout the year, people around the world take part in individual, family or community traditions as a way of marking special occasions. Many of the New Year traditions represent hope for the coming year. The hope of a holiday in the case of the suitcase, the hope of good health by wearing green underpants and the hope of a clean and orderly life by throwing stuff out of the window.

Time to reflect

- What do you hope for this year?
- Is there anything that you can do to help that hope come true?
- From the ten traditions you heard today, which is your favourite?
- Do you think everyone in those countries follow these traditions?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for individual, family and community traditions. We are thankful for new beginnings and fresh starts. This year, may our hopes come true, may our actions and our motivation enable us to make what we hope for become a reality. *(Amen)*



6.2 England

This week we are thinking about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day traditions. Yesterday we heard about 10 traditions from around the world, which was your favourite tradition? Today we are going to hear about some traditions that take place in England.

In the Northumberland village of Allendale, there is a procession through the streets on New Year's Eve that has been going on for over 150 years. 45 men, called 'Guisers', often in fancy dress, carry flaming barrels filled with tar on their heads. They parade through the village streets until they finally throw their barrels onto a bonfire. Only family members of previous Guisers are allowed to carry the barrels.

There is a tradition in Yorkshire to say "black rabbits" three times just before midnight and then "white rabbits" three times as the bells signal the new year believing it will bring you good luck for the next twelve months.

There are many traditions that probably no longer take place. It was once popular for young ladies to drop an egg white into water believing that the first letter of the name of the man they would marry would appear. Another tradition that probably doesn't take place today involved farmers placing a cake on the horns of a cow, singing a song and performing a dance. If the cake fell forwards the farmer would have good luck for the rest of the year.

Time to reflect

- Have you heard or seen any of the traditions mentioned today?
- What traditions do you do at or around New Year?
- What do you hope for this year?
- Is there anything that you can do to help that hope come true?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for individual, family and community traditions. We are thankful for new beginnings and fresh starts. This year, may our hopes come true, may our actions and our motivation enable us to make what we hope for become a reality. *(Amen)*



6.3 Ireland

This week we are thinking about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day traditions. Yesterday we heard about four traditions from England, can you remember what they were? Today we are going to hear about traditions that take place around New Year in Ireland.

In Ireland, bad luck and evil spirits can be chased away by banging bread on the wall. The tradition encourages good luck in the hope that there will be plenty of bread in the coming year.

For some in Ireland, the first person to enter your house on New Year's Day could either bring good luck or bad luck for the coming year depending on who they are. A handsome man with dark hair will bring a year of good fortune. Some families would send a dark-haired male from the family to walk out the front door and then be the first person to walk back in.

Another New Year's Day tradition involves visitors entering your house by the front door, but they must leave by the back door. Leaving through the front door will bring bad luck.

Time to reflect

Discuss the meaning of the following Irish Blessing…

"Count your blessings instead of your crosses.

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes.

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears.

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full times instead of your lean.

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth.

Love your neighbour as much as yourself."

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for individual, family and community traditions. We are thankful for new beginnings and fresh starts. This year, may our hopes come true, may our actions and our motivation enable us to make what we hope for become a reality. *(Amen)*



6.4 Scotland

This week we are thinking about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day traditions. Yesterday we heard about three traditions from Ireland, can you remember what they were? Today we are going to hear about some of the many traditions that take place in Scotland.

Christmas has not always been a country wide celebration and Christmas was actually banned in England and Scotland in 1644 until about 1660. The Scottish church didn't place the importance on Christmas in the same way that the English church did. Up until the 1950's Christmas was a 'normal' working day for many people in Scotland. Christmas became a public holiday in England and Wales in 1871 but it didn't become a public holiday in Scotland until 1958. Whilst the celebration of Christmas is relatively new, the celebrations and traditions around New Year go back much further.

Hogmanay is the name given to the Scottish celebration at New Year. Hogmanay is thought to have its roots in the Vikings coming to Scotland over 1100 years ago. Processions with traditional bagpipes, drums and flaming torches take place across Scotland. A flaming torch is often a wooden pole tightly bound with rags at the top that are lit. In Comrie, Perthshire, the flaming torches are made out of long, thick birch branches. In Stonehaven in Aberdeenshire giant fireballs are swung around on long metal poles whilst parading through the town. Edinburgh's Hogmanay celebrations are the biggest with hundreds of thousands of people flocking to the city to welcome in the new year.

On New Year's Day the tradition of 'first footing' involves a dark-haired man being the first person to set foot in the house carrying items that will bring good luck in the coming year. The items vary for different families and regions. Common items are coal, bread, money and salt. What do you think these items represent? Coal to represent heat and warmth. Bread representing food. Money represents wealth. Salt is called a preservative which means it makes things last longer.

Auld Lang Syne is sung across the UK at New Year. Although versions of it were sung to the same tune for over 300 years the version that is sung today was written by a famous Scottish poet called Robert Burns, who published the song in 1788.

Time to reflect

- Why do you think the New Year celebration of Hogmanay is such a big deal in Scotland?
- Have you been to a Hogmanay celebration? What was it like?
- If not, what do you think it would be like?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for individual, family and community traditions. We are thankful for new beginnings and fresh starts. This year, may our hopes come true, may our actions and our motivation enable us to make what we hope for become a reality. *(Amen)*



6.5 Wales

This week we are thinking about New Year's Eve and New Year's Day traditions. Yesterday we heard about three traditions from Scotland, can you remember what they were? Today we are going to hear about some of the traditions that take place in Wales.

Calennig is a Welsh custom in which groups of young boys used to knock on the doors of people in their community and wish them good health and prosperity for the coming year singing to the inhabitants and splashing them with water. The boys may have given the householder an apple decorated with twigs, cloves, dried fruit and holly. In return the children would receive gifts of food or money.

In Wales there were many traditions that took place on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Plygain is the custom of Welsh men meeting at the church or chapel at 3am on Christmas morning to sing Christmas carols for three or more hours.

On Christmas Eve, Noson Gyflaith or toffee evening involved boiling toffee in a pan. Bits of the toffee or taffy were then dropped in ice cold water. The taffy would curl into all sorts of shapes, some families hoped the taffy would form the first letter of the name of the person, that younger family members would end up marrying.

Mari Lwyd is a horse's skull and jaw bone that was decorated with bells and draped with a white sheet on a pole that would be paraded through the streets of Welsh towns and villages by a group that would knock on doors and hurl abuse (in Welsh) at the people inside, who in turn would say offensive things back (in Welsh). Then the group would go in to the house for a drink before moving on. Some Welsh towns are reviving a version of this tradition.

Time to reflect

This week we have heard about lots of traditions that take place around the world during New Year.

- Do you think everybody from a country celebrates with the same traditions?
- Are there traditions from the UK that you have never heard of before?
- Do you think different communities and families might practice the same traditions but in a slightly different way?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for individual, family and community traditions. We are thankful for new beginnings and fresh starts. This year, may our hopes come true, may our actions and our motivation enable us to what we hope for become a reality. *(Amen)*

Throughout this week there are references to traditions from around the world and the home countries, if pupils (or you) celebrate variations of these traditions please email them to phil@simplycollectiveworship.co.uk



7.1 Who Do You Think You Are, School?

Preparation

Find out when your school was built? Who founded the school? Have you moved from an older site? When? Where is/was the old building and when was it built? Do you have a plaque with an opening date? Who opened the school? Who were they? Are you an amalgamation of two other schools? What are their histories? You may want to spend a considerable amount of time explaining the history of your school and include pictures etc… You may want to set a group of pupils the task of researching the school's history and create a presentation with images and photos. Many School Board or LA school Head Teachers kept log books between the 1870's and mid 1900's. Many LA archives hold these records and may allow your school to use them for research purposes.

The 24th January is the UN's International Day of Education. **Start the assembly by talking about the history of your school. See preparation.**

When and where do you think the first school started in the UK? The first school in Britain was started by the church over 1400 years ago. St Augustine started a church in Canterbury in 598, it included a school for the study of the Bible. The King's School in Canterbury is probably the oldest school in Britain and it is still educating children today. A similar school was started in 604 in Rochester and during the 7th century more schools were founded. Schools taught their students about the Bible and often trained choirs to sing in cathedrals and churches. The first schools taught Latin grammar and this is where we get the term grammar schools. Latin was the language of the Roman Empire. The Bible had been translated into Latin late in the 4th century. Even after the breakup of the Roman Empire in 476AD, Latin continued to be used by the catholic church. The Bible continued to be written and read out in Latin. Latin is still used in Roman Catholic Worship today.

Do we need to pay to go to school nowadays? A thousand years ago, if you wanted to be a priest or a monk, or work in the government or law you would have needed to understand Latin. Only parents who wanted their children to work in the church or law sent their children to school. School education wasn't free and only wealthy parents could pay for their children to be educated. Free education wasn't available until about 500 years ago. Free grammar schools or charity schools were often called 'blue coat schools' or simply the 'blue school'. They were paid for by charity donations and were often run by the local church. They taught children from poorer families to read and write. Whilst they were open to many of the children in the community, many parents from poorer families sent their children to earn money by working, rather than sending them to school. By 1870 only about half of all children in England and Wales went to school.

The word compulsory schooling means that it is the law that every child goes to school (or has the chance to go to school). Before 1870 there weren't enough schools



to ensure that every child had a place at a school. Local groups called 'School Boards' were created in 1870, they were responsible for setting up schools in places where there hadn't been schools before. Lots of schools began to be built in communities all over England and Wales. In 1880 it became compulsory that children in England and Wales went to school until the age of 10. Scotland passed a similar law two years later. However, Germany had started compulsory education 100 years earlier. In 1899 school attendance became compulsory for 11 and 12 year olds and in 1902 secondary schools were introduced. Local Education Authorities were created to oversee education, the Local Education Authorities replaced the School Boards.

Today free school education is available for everybody that lives in the UK. But we have learned today that this hasn't always been the case. Some schools, like The King's School in Canterbury still charge parents for educating their children. What do you think we mean by 'free' school education? Parents don't need to pay for their children to go to school. But it costs a lot of money to run a school. What do you think will need to be paid for in the running of a school? In the early 1900's Local Education Authorities began paying teachers wages, they paid for the upkeep of schools buildings and for the resources used for teaching and learning (the church had been doing this for many church schools for centuries). By the end of the 1800's compulsory schooling and free school education was available to all children living in the UK. From that time until this all children have been provided with the opportunity to learn to read and write.

Around the world today there are many countries that have had a similar history. In 1880 it is estimated that 80% of the world's adult population could not read or write, with the development of education that dropped to 14% in 2016*. Education is a human right in Europe and around the world, but there are still some countries that do not provide compulsory education to all of their children. There are charities and organisations like the United Nations that are working to ensure that all children have the opportunity to benefit from a good education.

Time to reflect

- Why is an education important?
- How long have we had free school education for everybody in the UK?
- How will reading and writing be able to help you in the future?
- How would not being able to read and write affect your life in the future?
- How important is it that everybody is able to have a free school education?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for education and the benefits that education can provide. We are thankful for the developments and the people throughout history that have worked and are currently working to ensure that every child has access to schooling. May we appreciate and make the most of our own learning opportunities today. *(Amen)*

**OECD and UNESCO*



7.2 Lifelong Learning

Can you remember one fact from yesterday's assembly? Schools allow us to develop the skills that help us to continue learning throughout our life. Up until 1870 most children didn't go to school in the UK.

Since the start of schools in Britain in the 6th century, if you could read and write you were more likely to get a well-paid job. You could get a school education if you were lucky enough to be born into a wealthy family or if you were able to go to a charity school. In 1870 only about half of all children in Britain went to school. From 1880 onwards compulsory education provided all children with the opportunity to learn to read and write.

Although many children couldn't read or write, they did learn the information and skills they needed for the work they were doing. Humans have the ability to learn, adapt, use tools and solve problems. Learning is part of who we are as humans and we continue to learn throughout our lives.

Time to reflect

Discuss the meaning of the following words:

- **Education** – the process of learning and teaching
- **Educate** – to teach someone something
- **Teaching** – passing on knowledge or a skill from one person to another
- **Learning** – remembering knowledge and gaining or developing a skill
- **School** – a place where children go to be educated



- Does learning only happen during the school day? What do you learn at home?
- Does learning stop when you leave school? Do you continue to learn as an adult?
- What will help you to continue to learn throughout your life?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for education and the benefits that education can provide. We are thankful for the developments and the people throughout history that have worked and are currently working to ensure that every child has access to schooling. May we appreciate and make the most of our own learning opportunities today. *(Amen)*



7.3 Right To Education

The European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) is an agreed list, 'or treaty', of basic human rights that were created in the 1950's to help protect peoples' freedom. A human right is what we think every person on the planet should have. A right to life, a right to be safe and a right to education are all basic human rights that are protected by countries that sign up to the ECHR.

A protocol is a rule or action. The ECHR also includes a protocol on the right to education. Article 1 Protocol 2 states:

Right to Education:

"No person shall be denied the right to education. In the exercise of any functions which it assumes in relation to education and to teaching, the State shall respect the right of parents to ensure such education and teaching in conformity with their own religious and philosophical convictions."

The ECHR covers countries in Europe. The United Nations (UN) is an organisation that started in 1945 after the Second World War. The UN created the Universal Declaration of Human rights in 1948 with the aim of all the countries in the world agreeing to look after and protect the important human rights for every human being on Earth. Article 26 of the UDHR covers the right to an education. It states:

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Time to reflect

- Discuss the ECHR and UDHR's declarations on the right to an education

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for education and the benefits that education can provide. We are thankful for the developments and the people throughout history that have worked and are currently working to ensure that every child has access to schooling. May we appreciate and make the most of our own learning opportunities today. *(Amen)*



7.4 Latin Phrases

Latin was the language of the Roman Empire, it was also (and still is) the language of the Roman Catholic Church. The first schools in Britain taught Latin and Latin is still taught in some schools in the UK and across the world today. Latin phrases are used in Law, it is used for musical terms like forte meaning 'loud, or strong'. Latin is used in the scientific names given to plants and animals. The Latin or scientific name for a dandelion is '*Taraxacum officinale*'. Does anyone know what '*Canis lupus familiaris*' refers to? A dog. Lots of words in the English language have their roots in Latin. This morning we are going to find out about some Latin words that we still use regularly today.

Time to reflect

Do you know the following Latin words?

- **Alibi** is the Latin word for elsewhere. The word is often used today as proof that you were somewhere else. 'I didn't know what my homework was because I was at the dentist.'
- **Bonus** is a Latin word that simply means 'good'.
- **Carpe diem:** This Latin phrase means 'seize the day' used to remind people to make the most of the opportunities they have.
- **E.g.** comes from the Latin phrase 'exempli gratia' or 'for the sake of example'.
- **Etc** comes from the Latin term 'Et cetera' which means 'and the rest' or similar. E.g. some games are played with a ball like football and basketball etc…
- **Extra** is a Latin word that means, well… extra. Do you take part in any extracurricular activities at school?
- **I.e.** is from the Latin term 'id est' which means 'that is'.
- **Intro** is a Latin word that means 'to enter'. You could say you enter a book through its introduction.
- **Multi** is the Latin word for many.
- **Re:** is often used in emails and means 'about'. We are thinking about Latin phrase because of this week's theme, Re: Education
- **Semi** is a Latin word that means half. Can you think of words that start with semi?
- **Versus** is a Latin word that means 'against', it is often used in a sports tournament, e.g. Jack versus John.
- **Vice versa** is a Latin term that means 'the other way around'.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for education and the benefits that education can provide. We are thankful for the developments and the people throughout history that have worked and are currently working to ensure that every child has access to schooling. May we appreciate and make the most of our own learning opportunities today. *(Amen)*



7.5 Just Saying

Time to reflect

Read the following quotes and discuss what they could mean.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." – Nelson Mandela

"The roots of education are bitter, but the fruit is sweet." – Aristotle

"I have no special talent. I am only passionately curious." – Albert Einstein

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for day; teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." – Unknown

"A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read." – Mark Twain

"Intellectual growth should commence at birth and cease only at death." – Albert Einstein

"To the uneducated, an 'A' is just three sticks." – A.A. Milne

- Which is your favourite quote? Why?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for education and the benefits that education can provide. We are thankful for the developments and the people throughout history that have worked and are currently working to ensure that every child has access to schooling. May we appreciate and make the most of our own learning opportunities today. *(Amen)*



8.1 Shrove Tuesday

Preparation

Search and display an image of a pancake race.



Does anyone know what will happen on Tuesday of this (or next) week? Pancake Day is an important day for many people around the world. It is the day before Ash Wednesday which marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. For many people in the UK, this is the time of year to give up something that is important to them. Lent is a time of year when many Christian and non-religious people fast. Fasting means to go without something that you think is important. Some people may stop eating chocolate and others may stop watching TV during Lent. Lent is the 40 days (not including Sundays) starting on Ash Wednesday and ending on Easter Sunday.

The tradition of fasting during Lent comes from an event that is described in the Bible that happened before Jesus started healing the sick and using parables to teach people. The Bible describes Jesus being baptised and then going into the 'wilderness' for forty days. The Bible explains that Jesus went without food and was tempted by the devil.

During Lent, Christians have traditionally thought about the things they have done that they may need to ask forgiveness for. They may ask God to help them not to do them again in the future. The season of Lent is supposed to be a sad time, a time to go without and a time to think about how a person's actions may have hurt others or hurt God. Traditionally Christians would have gone without meat, eggs, milk and butter.

The celebration before Lent has a few different names. The most common in the UK is 'Pancake Day' but it is also called 'Shrove Tuesday'. The word 'Shrove' or 'Shrive' sums up the period of Lent. The word means to think about what we have done wrong and then to ask and receive forgiveness for those wrong things. Over time Shrove Tuesday became known as 'Fat Tuesday' or in French 'Mardi Gras'. It was the day to use up the fat and other ingredients that couldn't be eaten during Lent. Pancakes became a way of using up these ingredients.

Can anyone tell me what a 'carnival' is? (A carnival is often thought of as a procession of brightly decorated floats through a town or city.) The word 'carnival' comes from the name of the celebrations that traditionally took place in the week before the beginning of Lent. In many European countries and countries with large numbers of Christians and Roman Catholics, the time before Lent is still celebrated with a procession or 'carnival'. One of the largest processions is the Rio Carnival or Mardi Gras that takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Some Shrove Tuesday traditions in the UK have their origins that go back hundreds

of years. Many towns used to hold 'Mob Football' matches on Shrove Tuesday. Whilst many of these have died out a few of these football matches continue each year. Ashbourne in Derbyshire boasts the 'Royal Shrovetide Football Match'. There are few rules in the game which can last a few hours. In 2003 the annual game was started by Prince Charles. Other towns that carry on this tradition are Atherstone in Warwickshire, Alnwick in Northumberland and Sedgefield in County Durham. In St Columb in Cornwall, the game is called Hurling the Silver Ball. (Photos and details for all these games can be found on online.)

Another tradition that goes back hundreds of years is the pancake race. One famous pancake race continues in the town of Olney in Buckinghamshire. Tradition tells of a housewife busily making pancakes. When the church bell rang to call the towns people to the Shrove Tuesday church service, the housewife ran out of her house carrying the frying pan and flipping the pancake all the way to the door of the church. The Olney Pancake Race website states that the tradition dates back to 1445. Women from Olney (and men dressed as women) continue to race, flipping pancakes to the church door today. There is a traditional 'shriving' service after the race.

The Christian season of Lent is a sad time, one in which Christian's remember Jesus' struggles. Shrove Tuesday and other times of the year are happy ones. Festivals and special days throughout the year remind us that we will all go through times that are happy but some are also a reminder that we will go through times that are sad. Whilst it isn't something that we want to go through we will all go through times of sadness, you could say that they are a 'normal' part of our lives. In those times, it is important to remember that happy times are a normal part of our lives as well.

Time to reflect

- Did you know that Shrove Tuesday was traditionally a religious tradition?
- Why did people make pancakes on Shrove Tuesday?
- Did you know about any of the Shrove Tuesday Traditions described today?
- Can you think of happy festivals or special days?
- Can you think of sad festivals or special days? (Lent, Remembrance Day)

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for our communities and we are thankful for the times when our communities are able to come together and celebrate. Help us to become involved in the celebrations of our own communities and learn from the celebrations of others. *(Amen)*



8.2 Rehab Parliamentary Pancake Race

In London, near Big Ben there is pancake race that takes place every year between members of Parliament, members of the House of Lords and the press. Since 1998, the Rehab Parliamentary Pancake Race has allowed politicians and journalists to compete whilst raising money for Charity. Rehab is "a charity that champions the value of diversity and inclusion for people with a disability or disadvantage, in their communities*."

Is there a parents or teachers' race in our sports day? (If not should there be one?) It is often fun to see someone doing something that's unexpected. Seeing MP's running around a park in suits, tossing pancakes, can remind us of the positive impact we can all have on our communities.

Yesterday we thought about happy and sad times. Some festivals in the church year focus on happy times, others like Lent and Good Friday focus on sad events. The Rehab Parliamentary Pancake Race, like many other charitable events, helps to raise money to improve the physical and mental well-being of others. It is a reminder that we can all do something to help improve the happiness of others.

Time to reflect

- What do you do to support your community?
- Could you do more to help your community?
- What charities does the school support?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for our communities and we are thankful for the times when our communities are able to come together and celebrate. Help us to become involved in the celebrations of our own communities and learn from the celebrations of others. *(Amen)*

* http://www.rehab.ie – *mission/vision*



8.3 Pancake Greaze

Preparation

Images of the Pancake Greaze are available on the internet.

Can anyone remember the three teams that make up the Rehab Parliamentary Pancake Race? Would you expect MPs and Lord and Ladies in their suits racing against members of the press?

The Westminster School in London is one of the oldest schools still open today. On Shrove Tuesday, pupils and staff gather together in the school hall. The chef tosses a large pancake over a metal bar about five metres high. Pupils representing houses or teams then try to grab a piece of the pancake. The pupil with the largest piece receives a reward. The pupils can end up in a pile in the middle of the school hall as they struggle to claim the largest piece.

Can you imagine what a person who is about to take part in the Pancake Greaze is feeling as they stand waiting for the pancake to be tossed into the air. What about the rest of the community, I wonder what they are thinking as they sit watching this age-old tradition.

Time to reflect

- Are those watching just as much part of the tradition as those who are taking part?
- Do we need to take part in community events to be part of the community? (We are part of the community anyway)

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for our communities and we are thankful for the times when our communities are able to come together and celebrate. Help us to become involved in the celebrations of our own communities and learn from the celebrations of others. *(Amen)*



8.4 Skipping Day

Shrove Tuesday in Scarborough, North Yorkshire is known as 'Skipping Day'. Scarborough's Skipping Festival has taken place for just over one hundred years. The festival is thought to have originated from the games played by children during the Shrove Tuesday celebration. Today, roads are closed as children and adults gather together on the sea front. Long ropes are laid out and everyone joins in the fun.

Scarborough also has another Shrove Tuesday tradition. Before everybody had watches and clocks, a town bell was rung at six in the morning and six in the evening to let the townsfolk know what time it was. On Shrove Tuesday the bell was also rung at midday to let everybody know that it was time to start cooking pancakes. Today, the bell, known as the pancake bell, is rung to mark the beginning of the town's celebrations. Before the skipping festival there is a pancake race, those competing wear fancy dress.

Time to reflect

- Can more of the community take part in Scarborough's skipping festival than a pancake race?
- Do think this is a good time for the community? Why?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for our communities and we are thankful for the times when our communities are able to come together and celebrate. Help us to become involved in the celebrations of our own communities and learn from the celebrations of others. *(Amen)*



8.5 Taking part

The traditions that we have explored this week are all very different, but they have their roots in the Christian festival of Lent and Easter. Talk through the different traditions:

- A game of football with very few rules
- Pancake races
- Pancake Greaze
- Skipping festival

The celebrations this week remind us that we are part of our community whether we are involved in the events or not. Those standing and watching the football matches, pancake races, or even the Pancake Greaze can be just as much a part of the community as those taking part. They are community events, because the communities come out to support them.

The Christian season of Lent is a sad time, one in which Christian's remember Jesus' struggles. Shrove Tuesday and other times of the year are happy ones. Festivals and special days throughout the year remind us that we will all go through times that are happy but some are also a reminder that we will go through times that are sad.

Whilst they are not something that we want to go through, we will all go through times of sadness, you could say that it is a 'normal' part of our lives. In those times, it is important to remember that happy times are a normal part of our lives as well.

Time to reflect

- Can those watching be as much a part of the community as those taking part?
- Discuss the different traditions you have heard about this week. How do they help a person celebrate 'community'?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for our communities and we are thankful for the times when our communities are able to come together and celebrate. Help us to become involved in the celebrations of our own communities and learn from the celebrations of others. *(Amen)*



9.1 Be My Valentine

Preparation

Search and display image related to Valentine, possibly a Love Heart.



Does anyone know what is special about the 14th February? When I say the word saint, what does it make you think of? You may hear the phrase, 'you're a little saint', if you have been especially good. The term 'saint' is often used for a person who is recognised by the Christian church as being important because of the good life he or she lived. Can you guess the name of the saint that the February 14th is named after?

We know that St. Valentine was from Rome and that he lived in the third century, that's about 1800 years ago. There are many stories and traditions that are linked to St. Valentine, but we can't say for sure if they are true or not. We are going to explore these stories that surround his life to help explain some of the Valentine's Day traditions that are celebrated today.

St. Valentine is officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome. He was a bishop in Italy, teaching and sharing the Christian message of love and forgiveness. The leader of the Roman Empire at that time, Emperor Claudius (known as Claudius the cruel), wanted to grow his army. He banned all marriages as he thought that married men wouldn't want to join his army because they wouldn't want to leave their wives and children behind. The men would also worry about them if they did go off to fight. St. Valentine, who felt very strongly that couples should marry if they wanted to, would perform marriage ceremonies in secret.

In the second century, marriage provided security for the wife and protection for the children. Not only did he marry couples in secret, but it is said that St. Valentine was able to perform miracles.

In one account, whilst under arrest for his Christian beliefs, St. Valentine healed the blind daughter of the local jailer. Julia, the jailer's daughter and St Valentine prayed together, and her sight returned. The jailer freed St. Valentine, but later St. Valentine was arrested again for continuing to marry couples in secret, he was also told to stop sharing the Christian message of love and forgiveness. When St. Valentine refused to give up his Christian beliefs, Emperor Claudius commanded that he was to be executed. Tradition has it that on the day of St. Valentine's execution, 14th February 269AD/CE, he left a note to the jailer's daughter signing it 'Your Valentine'.

Customs that take place on Valentine's Day have varied in different places and at

different times over the years. We are going to explore some of these traditions in our thoughts for this week. How do people celebrate Valentine's day today? People send each other cards and still sign them 'Your Valentine'.

Whilst today's celebration of Valentine's Day focuses on romantic love, the word love can be used to describe different feelings. The word love can describe how I feel about a boyfriend, girlfriend, husband or wife. The word love can also be used to describe how we feel about our families like our mums or dads, brothers or sisters. We use the word love to describe how we feel about our pets. We even use the word love to describe how we feel about objects or places. Where do you love to go? The word love can mean different things depending on what we use the word love for. How would you show love to someone from your family? How would you show love to a boyfriend or girlfriend? What do I mean when I say I love my bed.

There is a very famous passage of the Bible that is read when describing love. **Two versions are given here as some parts are easier to understand in one and other parts are easier to explain in the other.**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV)

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 GNB)

Who can we show this type of love to? The story of St. Valentine serves to remind us that no matter how bad some people can be, there are individuals through the ages that have demonstrated great courage and love to whole communities as well as individuals.

Time to reflect

- Why do we give cards and gifts for Valentine's Day nowadays?
- How could you show care and concern for your community?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories that help us to reflect on positive and important human qualities. At this time of year when we think about love, my we show our love, care and concern for our friends, families and communities. *(Amen)*



9.2 Jack Valentine

Who was St. Valentine and what were some of the stories about him? Around the world, there have been many traditions and customs that have taken place on or around Valentine's Day. Some customs have disappeared completely, and some still happen today. Over 100 years ago couples would try and leave gifts at their sweetheart's door without being noticed. A similar custom that still takes place today in Norfolk is the ritual of Jack Valentine. Legend has it that Jack Valentine may knock on your door, but before you manage to open it, Jack disappears, leaving a gift on your doorstep. The practise of leaving presents on the doorstep of a neighbour, friend or loved one continues today.

Time to reflect

- Who would you give a gift to and what would you give them?
- Do traditions like this and others (e.g. carol singing), help to show care and concern for our community?

Consider giving a 'don't try this at home' warning with this tradition.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories, traditions and customs that help us to reflect on positive and important human qualities. At this time of year when we think about love, let us show our love, care and concern for our friends, families and communities. *(Amen)*



9.3 Bay Leaf Dreams

Can anyone remember what Jack Valentine does on Valentine's Day? Around 300 years ago single women would pin bay leaves to their pillows before going to bed in the hopes that the leaves would cause them to dream about their future husband. Today in Denmark, men write love poems or notes and send them to their sweetheart on Valentine's Day. If the sweetheart is able to guess who sent the note, then she will receive an Easter egg later that year. But if her guess is wrong, then she has to give an Easter egg to the man who sent her the note. In some countries it is friendship that is celebrated, not just romance, cards and gifts are shared amongst friends.

Time to reflect

- Do you think it is a good idea to celebrate friends and friendship?
- What custom could you come up with to celebrate friendship?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories, traditions and customs that help us to reflect on positive and important human qualities. At this time of year when we think about love, let us show our love, care and concern for our friends, families and communities. *(Amen)*



9.4 I Love My Hamster

In the English language we have different words that mean the same thing, for example, an eraser and a rubber both refer to something that rubs out mistakes made when using a pencil. We also have words that sometimes mean more than one thing. For example, the word seat can mean a stool, chair, bench or even floor. Love is another word that we use but will have different meanings. Think about the word love in the following sentences:

- I love my hamster
- I love my mum
- I love my Xbox
- I'd love a drink
- I love my wife
- I love my children
- I love my brother
- I love my boyfriend
- I'd love to go on holiday

We use the word 'love' to mean 'enjoy', 'like' and 'appreciate'. Do you love a hamster with the same love that you love your mum or your nana? We often use the word love to refer to 'care'. In caring for his community, St. Valentine was able to demonstrate that he also loved the people around him.

Time to reflect

- Can you love a thing?
- Should we try to love our communities?
- How do we show love to our community?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories, traditions and customs that help us to reflect on positive and important human qualities. At this time of year when we think about love, let us show our love, care and concern for our friends, families and communities. *(Amen)*



9.5 Love Is...

Can anyone give me an example of something you love? Why do you love it/him/her? How do you show that you love it/him/her? Yesterday we talked about the word love meaning different things, for example, is 'I love my Xbox' the same as 'I love my mum'. There is a very famous passage of the Bible that is read when describing love. We heard the passage during our assembly on *Monday*. **Two versions are given here as some parts are easier to understand in one and other parts are easier to explain in the other.**

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonour others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 NIV)

Love is patient and kind; it is not jealous or conceited or proud; love is not ill-mannered or selfish or irritable; love does not keep a record of wrongs; love is not happy with evil, but is happy with the truth. Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail. (1 Corinthians 13:4-7 GNB)

This explanation of love helps us to think about how we can show care for our own family, friends and community.

Time to reflect

Read the passage again and ask pupils to pick one or two words that they think would help them to show care and love in their own communities.

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories, traditions and customs that help us to reflect on positive and important human qualities. At this time of year when we think about love, let us show our love, care and concern for our friends, families and communities. *(Amen)*



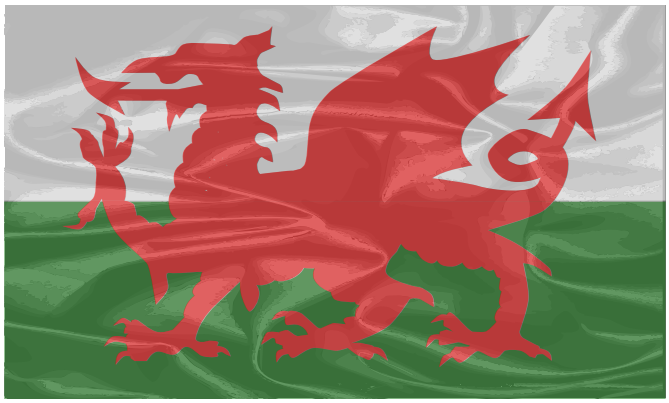
10.1 Dewi Sant (St David)

Does anyone know what the UK or the United Kingdom is? The UK is the collective name we give the four nations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. What is Great Britain? Great Britain refers to the three nations of England, Scotland and Wales. What are the British Isles? The 'British Isles' is a geographical term relating to the whole group of Islands of Great Britain and Ireland, including Northern Ireland. The nations in the United Kingdom each have a patron saint. Can anyone tell me the name of the patron saints for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales?

England's patron saint is St George, Ireland's patron saint is St Patrick, Scotland's patron saint is St Andrew and Wales' patron saint is St David. Can anyone tell me what a patron saint is? A patron saint is a person regarded as the special guardian or protector of a group of people. Two more notable patron saints are Saint Thomas Aquinas the patron saint of students and Saint Catherine of Alexandria the patron saint of teachers, students and librarians.

This week we will be thinking about St David, the patron saint of Wales. St David's Day is on 1st March each year and is Wales' national day. St David is the only patron saint of the 4 countries in the UK that was born in the country that he is the patron saint of. St George was born in Greece, St Andrew was a disciple of Jesus and born in Galilee in modern day Israel and St Patrick could have been born in England, Scotland or Wales.

St David was born over fifteen hundred years ago in South West Wales. Not very much is known about his life. The oldest information we have about St David was included in an



account written five hundred years after St David's death. His father was the son of the King of Ceredigion. St David's mother, St Non, gave birth to him on a Pembrokeshire clifftop during a fierce storm. St David was a Christian who only ate bread and vegetables and only drank water. According to tradition he was very gently, physically strong and very tall.

St David travelled throughout Wales and Cornwall telling people about Jesus and spreading the message of Christianity. St David became an important leader in the church. He started many churches and monasteries (a monastery is a place where monks live and work). He started one monastery in a place called Menevia (or Mynyw in Welsh) in modern day Pembrokeshire. St David's cathedral stands on the site of the original monastery. There is a black stone that tradition says St David brought back from a pilgrimage (or journey) to Jerusalem. The stone sits in an altar in St David's cathedral.

The leader of the Roman Catholic Church, Pope Callactus II (or Calixtus II) made St David a saint in 1120 and March 1st was chosen as St David's Day. He also said that St David's Cathedral was a special place of pilgrimage. This meant it became

an important church that was visited by Christians from around the world. A shrine was built in the Cathedral in St David's honour. The shrine was restored in 2012 and is still visited by Christians from all over the world today.

There are many legends and stories told about St David. During a battle against the Saxon invaders, St David told the soldiers to wear a leek on their helmets so that they knew who was the enemy and who wasn't. This could be one reason that the leek is the emblem of Wales today *(this legend is also attributed to the 7th century king of Gwynedd, Cadwaladr).* Another famous incident took place while St David was telling people about the life of Jesus. People began complaining that they couldn't hear St David, so the ground beneath his feet began to rise creating a small hill on which more people could see and hear St David talking. A white dove then landed on St David's shoulder as a sign of God's blessing.

Legend suggests that St David died on the 1st March, 589. The last words to his followers were "Be Joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things that you have heard and seen me do." Although not much is known about St David, he has had a big impact on the lives of people not just in Wales but people from around the world. Some even travel thousands of miles to visit his shrine in St David's Cathedral. St David was described as gentle and according to his last words, he thought that the little things that we do are important.

St David's last words have become a Welsh saying… 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain' or 'do the little things'. Today will be filled with lots of little things, little steps towards our targets, little words said to our friends, little actions that add up to create big achievements. This week let us act on the wise words of St David and do the little things well.

Time to reflect

- Why are the little steps, actions and words so important?
- What are the little things that you can do well today?
- Does it matter if we don't care about the little things?
- How can we show that we care about the little words, actions or steps?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for the stories that remind us of the good and important qualities and characteristics. Help us to remember to do the little things well. May we understand that our words and our actions are important no matter how small we think they are. *(Amen)*



10.2 "Do The Little Things"

Can anyone remember the name of the saint that we heard about yesterday? Can anyone remember what he is supposed to have said to his followers before he passed away? *Be Joyful. Keep the faith. Do the little things that you have heard and seen me do.* Do the little things or 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain' is a popular Welsh saying today based on the words of St David. We can often think that the little things aren't important. There is a saying that comes from the Bible that is used as a reminder that we should appreciate and be thankful for the things in our lives that began with something small and seemingly unimportant. 'Do not despise the day of small beginnings.' (Zechariah 4:10)

Imagine two children, one is in reception class and is learning her letters and sounds, the other child is in year 6 and is reading large books. Which takes more effort, learning your letters and sounds or reading a book of 200 pages or more. For the reception child, it probably requires the same amount or even more effort to learn their letters and sounds as it does for the year 6 pupil to read a large book. If you think about the effort that is needed to learn something new, we will realise that the small things are sometimes our big achievements.

Time to reflect

- Do small things feel like a great achievement?
- What small beginnings have you recently started?
- Does it require a lot of effort?
- Where could your small beginning lead you?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for the stories that remind us of the good and important qualities and characteristics. Help us to remember to do the little things well. May we understand that our words and our actions are important no matter how small we think they are. *(Amen)*



10.3 Can You Be Trusted With Very Little?

This week we have been thinking about the last words of St David. Can anyone remember the popular phrase that comes from St David's last words? 'Do the little things.' Yesterday we heard a Bible verse that suggests that little things and small beginnings can grow into bigger things. Our targets in school may seem big, but we can achieve them by completing lots of little tasks and taking little steps. The Bible advises us not to despise the small beginnings because they are important. One way in which we can despise small beginnings is by thinking that those times are worthless. The farmer knows that the food on our table comes from a small seed, which is so small but without it, we couldn't survive. Once upon a time, the greatest footballers started by kicking a ball with their mates, the greatest singers started singing in school assemblies and the greatest musicians started practising their scales.

Time to reflect

- What skill are you good at?
- How did you start that skill?
- How could you appreciate the day of small beginnings?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for the stories that remind us of the good and important qualities and characteristics. Help us to remember to do the little things well. May we understand that our words and our actions are important no matter how small we think they are. *(Amen)*



10.4 Can You Be Trusted With The Small Things?

There is another verse in the Bible that talks about little things. *'Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much'* (Luke 16:10). It could be slightly re-written as: 'If you can be trusted with the small things then you can also be trusted with big responsibilities'.

What does the word 'trust' mean? If I trust you it means that I believe that you will do what you say you will do or I believe that you will do what I ask you to do. Small things could be the words that we use with each other that don't seem important (but probably are). Small things could be actions like team work, completing a task to the best of our ability or tidying our room. The small things are probably the things that no one sees us doing, the things that we don't think are important. The Bible suggests that if we can be trusted with the small things, then it shows we can be trusted with much bigger responsibilities.

Time to reflect

- Can you be trusted with the small things?
- What seemingly small things do you think you do well? (Be a good friend)
- What small things do you need to do better?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for the stories that remind us of the good and important qualities and characteristics. Help us to remember to do the little things well. May we understand that our words and our actions are important no matter how small we think they are. *(Amen)*



10.5 Celebration

Can anyone remember the name of the saint that we heard about on Monday? Can anyone remember any of the legends that are related to St David? St David's Day is the national day of Wales. It is a day of celebration. St David's day parades take place across Wales. People wear leeks, or daffodils and the Welsh flag, the Red Dragon or Y Ddraig Goch is proudly displayed in schools, offices and homes. Music and poetry competitions or festivals, called eisteddfods take place in schools and communities across Wales. The stories of St David will be retold, acted out and remembered. St David's Day is a celebration that reminds Welsh people to be proud of their Welsh culture, history and heritage. If you were to ask a Welsh person what St David's Day means to them, what do you think they would say?

Time to reflect

This week we have explored the popular Welsh phrase 'Gwnewch y pethau bychain' or 'do the small things' inspired by St David's last words. What does 'do the small things' mean to you?

- Make the most of small opportunities
- Do the small things well



- Take pride in the small things even if no one else sees you doing them
- Lots of small things add up to bigger things

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for the stories that remind us of the good and important qualities and characteristics. Help us to remember to do the little things well. May we understand that our words and our actions are important no matter how small we think they are. *(Amen)*



11.1 St Patrick – Bouncing Back

Preparation

At the appropriate point in the assembly, possibly display an image of Izzy Weall – 2017 Mirror's Young Achiever Award winner.



Does anyone like trampolining? Does anyone have a trampoline in their garden? According to circus folklore, the trampoline was first developed by an artiste named du Trampolin. Circus acrobats perform acrobatics from a swing called a trapeze that are located very high, near the top of the circus tent. There is usually a net below them, so that if an acrobat falls when performing on the trapeze, they land safely on the net. It is also a convenient and safe way of getting down from the trapeze. It is thought that du Trampolin saw the possibility of using the trapeze safety net as a form of trampoline. He experimented with different sized nets to perform acrobatics. The trampoline, similar to the ones we know today was designed by an American gymnast George Nissen in the 1930's. George Nissen's first trampolines were used to practise gymnastic routines but they were also used in the training of fighter pilots and astronauts. Trampolining, originally called 'rebound tumbling', eventually became a sport of its own and in 1964 Great Britain staged the first World Championships. It became an Olympic sport in Sydney in 2000.

Have you ever heard the phrase 'bouncing back'? It is often used to describe how a person has come back from a disability, illness, blow or defeat or how they have overcome their defeat or disability. Izzy Weall is someone who is the perfect example of bouncing back after having gone through something bad. In 2010, at the age of 7, Izzy contracted a rare illness called bacterial meningitis and as a result Izzy had to have both her lower arms and lower legs amputated (removed). Izzy was in hospital for two months and then had to be wheeled around in a wheelchair for eight months until she learned to walk on her new, prosthetic legs. Izzy is a very determined person and whilst at secondary school she started trampolining. Izzy entered school trampolining competitions and only 6 years after learning to walk again, Izzy became the 2016 Schools National trampolining disability champion. In November 2017 Izzy was presented with the Young Achiever Award at the Mirror's Pride of Sport Awards.

Izzy literally bounced back after a very difficult time. She is determined not to let what has happened to her in the past stop her from attempting and achieving new challenges. In 2017, Izzy was contacted by a motor racing team made up of disabled drivers that (at the time of writing) is hoping to enter the first ever all-disabled team to race in Le Mans.

The 17th March is a day that remembers the life of another person who bounced back. St Patrick is the patron saint of Ireland. On St Patrick's Day each year in Ireland, there is a public holiday when people celebrate the

feast of St Patrick. Over the centuries people from Ireland emigrated to Australia, Canada, the USA and Great Britain. Irish communities around the world celebrate St Patrick's Day. Many people wear an item of green clothing. Parties featuring Irish food and drinks are part of this celebration. The flag of the Republic of Ireland is often seen in St Patrick's Day parades around the world.

Like many patron Saints, St Patrick wasn't born in the country that he is the patron saint of. He was born over 1600 years ago in fourth century Roman Britain. When St Patrick was a teenager, raiders kidnapped him. He and many others were sold into slavery in Ireland. St Patrick was forced to become a shepherd. St Patrick writes that although he had been kidnapped his faith in God only became stronger. After a few years, whilst herding sheep he heard the voice of God in a dream urging him to leave Ireland. In his dream he also heard someone say to him that a ship was ready. St Patrick escaped and walked nearly two hundred miles before catching a boat that returned him to Britain. St Patrick moved to a monastery and eventually after years of study, he became a Priest and then a Bishop.

After the bad things that had happened to him, being kidnapped, taken away from his family and sent to Ireland and sold into slavery, you'd have thought that Patrick would never have wanted to go back to Ireland ever again. But, years later, Patrick returned to Ireland. Patrick travelled around Ireland, teaching people about the stories and miracles of Jesus. Some think that St Patrick designed the popular Celtic Cross that can be seen across Ireland and the British Isles. The Celtic Cross combines a circle with a traditional Christian cross. Some think that St Patrick took the important Irish symbol of the sun and combined it with the important Christian symbol of the cross.

Many thousands of people turned to Christianity due to St. Patrick's life and teaching. The date 17th March is thought to be the anniversary of his death and some people think that he is buried at the graveyard at Down Cathedral in Downpatrick, 20 miles south of Belfast in Northern Ireland.

Today we have heard about Izzy Weall and St Patrick. Izzy and St Patrick overcame setbacks in their past. They both didn't let the events stop them from doing what they wanted to do. There are many stories and sayings that remind us of how important resilience is. Resilience is the ability to try again after you have experienced a setback. You may have heard the saying 'It's not how many times you get knocked down that count, it's how many times you get back up'. Neslon Mandella said 'the greatest glory in living lies not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.' We all face setbacks and we all make mistakes. It is important to remind ourselves that we all have resilience and we can all bounce back.

Time to reflect

- What does 'bouncing back' mean?
- How are Izzy and St Patrick good examples of resilience?
- What setbacks have you bounced back from?
- How can you become more resilient?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We have heard today about two people who did not give up when bad things that happened to them. Please help us to find the resilience to bounce back from difficult situations or the setbacks that we find ourselves in. *(Amen)*



11.2 The King and the Fire Festival

Can anyone remember the names of the two people we heard about yesterday? St Patrick and Izzy Weall. Can anyone tell me why they are both good examples of resilient people?

There are many stories and legends about St Patrick. One such legend took place after St Patrick had become a Priest and returned to Ireland. The Irish people were celebrating a Celtic springtime fire festival called Beltane. The festival would start with the lighting of the High King of Ireland's fire. Only after the High King of Ireland's fire had been lit could other bonfires be set alight. According to the legend, St Patrick lit an Easter fire on top of a hill. People saw the fire and thinking it was the king's started lighting their own fires. The High King of Ireland was furious, he ordered that St Patrick's fire was put out, but no amount of water could put out St Patrick's fire. The High King of Ireland realised that God was helping St Patrick and allowed St Patrick to spread the message of Christianity across Ireland.

Time to reflect

- Would you have gone back to Ireland if you had escaped from slavery?
- How are Izzy and St Patrick good examples of resilience?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories and examples of resilience, may we be reminded that we can overcome setbacks in our own lives and help others overcome setbacks in theirs. *(Amen)*



11.3 St Patrick Drives the Snakes from Ireland

Can anyone remember the legend that we heard yesterday about St Patrick?

There is another legend involving St Patrick that includes snakes, lots and lots and lots of snakes. A plague of snakes had attacked Ireland. The people of Ireland were scared and angry. The snakes were everywhere. There were snakes in their cupboards, snakes on their chairs and snakes in their boots. The people complained to the High King of Ireland, but what could he do! St Patrick knew what to do. He prayed, made a large drum and started to bang it. The drumming was so loud that the snakes, trying to get away from the noise, fled from every house, field, rock and cave. Snakes don't have hands so they couldn't cover their ears. St Patrick, banging his drum, chased the snakes through Dublin town and into the sea.

It is very unlikely that St Patrick really chased snakes out of Ireland. It is true that there are no wild snakes in Ireland today, but it is likely that there have never been any snakes in Ireland. The snake probably represents something else. At the beginning of the Bible, a snake visits Eve in the Garden of Eden and tempts her to eat some fruit that God had told Adam and Eve not to eat. Many Christians think that the account of Adam and Eve explain why bad and evil things happen. St Patrick taught about God's love, goodness, fairness and kindness, all things that can reduce bad and evil things from happening. It probably wasn't snakes that St Patrick chased out the land but the evil and bad things that people did to each other.



Time to reflect

- Can good actions and values replace bad actions?
- What would happen if everyone tried harder to be good, fair and kind?
- How can we help a friend bounce back from an illness?
- How can we help a friend bounce back from being sad?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories and examples of resilience, may we be reminded that we can overcome setbacks in our own lives and help others overcome setbacks in theirs. *(Amen)*

11.4 The Shamrock

Preparation

An image of a shamrock

Can anyone remember the legend that we heard yesterday about St Patrick?

If you search for images about St Patrick's day on the internet, it is very likely that you will find pictures of a shamrock. Does anyone know what a shamrock is? It is a small three leaved green plant that grows all over Ireland. St Patrick used the shamrock to teach Irish people about the Christian belief in the Trinity. The Trinity is the belief that there is one God, but three persons, God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity is like one of the leaves, there are three leaves, but only one shamrock.

Jesus included the things around him when he taught using parables. St Patrick also used what was all around him to teach people about Christianity. It is often easier to learn a new concept or idea if we can touch and experience it in some way. We often need more than our memory when learning a new idea or concept. Using our senses can help us to make sense of difficult information. St Patrick taught using the sense of sight and touch as well as with his words.

Time to reflect

- What things have you learned by experiencing them through your senses?
- What senses did St Patrick use by teaching about the Trinity using a shamrock?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories and examples of resilience, may we be reminded that we can overcome setbacks in our own lives and help others overcome setbacks in theirs. *(Amen)*



11.5 Practise Setbacks

Practise is the best way of becoming better at many things, sports, playing instruments, reading, maths, being a friend, writing. Can you think of anymore skills that improve with practise? So how do you become better at being resilient? It is an interesting thought, but you can only bounce back if you have something to bounce back from. Like Izzy Weall and St Patrick, the most resilient people are the people who have bounced back from the biggest setbacks.

You are resilient! If you can walk you will have used your resilience because you will have fallen over. If you can ride a bike you will have used your resilience because I'm sure you will have fallen off, got back on and tried again. Making a friend, writing your name, being able to complete a stage on a computer game after failing 20 times all demonstrate resilience. One passage in the Bible states that we could 'Consider it pure joy whenever you face trials of many kinds, because… [it] produces perseverance.' James 1:1-2 NIV. Perseverance is another word that we could use to describe resilience. What encouragement or advice would you give to someone who faced a setback? Would you tell them to be happy and joyful? It seems strange to tell others to consider it pure joy when they face trials and setbacks, but we know that many of the struggles are helping us to become better at many things including becoming better at being resilient.

Time to reflect

- What setbacks have you bounced back from?
- What do you currently need more resilience for?
- How resilient do you think you are on a scale of 1–10? (1 having no resilience and 10 being very resilient.)

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for stories and examples of resilience, may we be reminded that we can overcome setbacks in our own lives and help others overcome setbacks in theirs. *(Amen)*



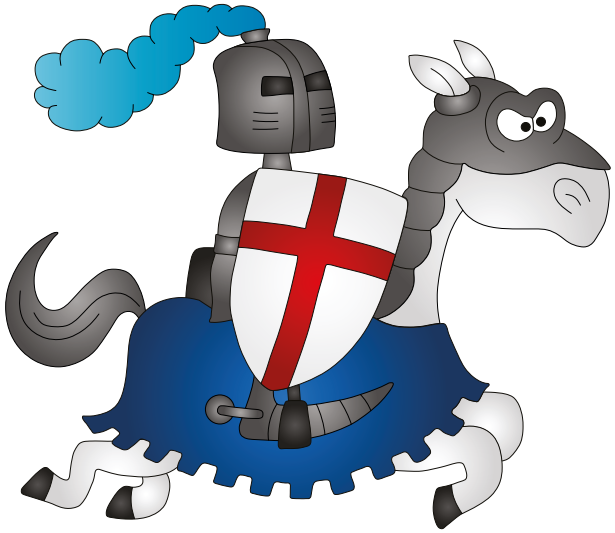
12.1 St George's Day

Does anyone know what the UK or the United Kingdom is? The UK is the collective name we give the four nations of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. What is Great Britain? Great Britain refers to the three nations of England, Scotland and Wales. What are the British Isles? The 'British Isles' is a geographical term relating to the whole group of Islands of Great Britain and Ireland, including Northern Ireland. According to Wikipedia there are over 6000 separate islands that make up the British Isles. The nations in the United Kingdom each have a patron saint. Can anyone tell me the name of the patron saints for England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales?

England's patron saint is St George, Ireland's patron saint is St Patrick, Scotland's patron saint is St Andrew and Wales' patron saint is St David. Can anyone tell me what a patron saint is? A patron saint is a person regarded as the special guardian of a group of people. Two more notable patron saints are Saint Ambrose the patron saint of learning and Saint Gregory the Great the patron saint of teachers, students and musicians.

This week we will be thinking about St George, the patron saint of England. St George's Day is on April 23rd each year and is England's national day. St George, however, was not from England. He was chosen to represent bravery and loyalty. It is believed that St George was born to a Greek Christian noble family in Cappadocia, modern day Turkey in about 280AD/CE. George joined the Roman Army and soon rose to be a leader.

The Roman Emperor, Diocletian, began to persecute and kill those who refused to give up their Christian faith in 303AD. George



was put into prison and then killed in Palestine on April 23rd of that year. George's Christian faith was strong right up to his death and the Emperors wife, Alexandra, was so inspired by George's bravery that she was able to live out her Christian faith before she too was executed. A person who dies for their faith and what they believe is called a Martyr. In 1222, King Edward III made St George the patron saint of England. The day would be celebrated on the anniversary of his martyrdom on the 23rd April each year.

St George's day is celebrated in English Cities, towns and villages. In London, the Feast of St George takes place in Trafalgar Square with activities to do with St George, live music, family games, dance and storytelling. In Liverpool, St George's Day is celebrated in St George's Quarter with lots of family activities. St George is also the patron saint of Scouts due to St George's good example of faith, courage and perseverance for future generations. Scouts, cubs and beavers often celebrate St George's Day with parades, where they march through the streets and end with a Church Service.



The Union Jack is the national flag of the United Kingdom. Does anyone know what England's flag is called? England's flag is the St George's Cross which is a red cross on a white background. Today, during international football, cricket, rugby and other sporting tournaments, people display the St George's Cross to show their support to the English teams. St George's coat of arms, the red cross on a white background, can be seen in other countries and cities across the world. Places including Portugal, Lithuania, Romania, Germany, Greece, Istanbul and Ethiopia also celebrate St George.

There is a legend (story) about St George that has been passed down through generations. The legend came from the town of Silene in Libya which was thought to be guarded by a ferocious dragon that would only let the town folk get water to drink if they offered the dragon their sheep to eat. Once the sheep had all gone the towns people were going to give their princess to the dragon but a Christian Knight came riding on his white horse. At first he charged at the dragon with a spear, but the spear broke on the dragons hard scales and St George fell off his horse. St George determined to beat the dragon drew his sword, he saw that there were no scales under its wing and conquered the mighty beast. The legend continues, that the town's people were so grateful to St George that the king built a church and baptised all the people in the town. Water sprang up from the site where the Dragon had been killed. The water could make sick people better if they drank it.

The legend of St George and the Dragon has been told to millions of children down through the years. St George is the patron saint of England, and he is remembered for his bravery. Different Patron Saints are remembered for their different qualities. During the thoughts for the day this week we are going to think about the quality of bravery. I wonder what qualities people think of when they hear my name? What qualities do people think of when they hear your name?

Time to reflect

- What qualities is St George remembered for? Why?
- What influence has St George had on other people? (The St George's cross)
- What qualities do you have?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for the stories that remind us of the good and important qualities and characteristics. St George was brave enough to be able to stay true to his beliefs. Help us to know what is right and may we be brave enough to be true to ourselves. *(Amen)*



12.2 The Lion And The Mouse

Once upon a time a lion was sleeping after he had eaten. While he was asleep a mouse walked up the lion's tail and jumped around on the lion's back. He boasted to the rest of the animals that mice shouldn't be scared of lazy lions. The mouse then jumped down and was going to play near the lion's foot when the lion woke up, picked up the mouse and roared very loudly. Although the mouse was scared, he boldly asked the lion if he would let him go and he also asked if he could be the lion's friend. He told the lion that if he let him go, then one day the mouse might be able to help the lion. The lion was still full from his meal and thought that the mouse was very small anyway. He thought the mouse was very funny to think he could help a lion! The lion let the mouse go.

There is another part to the story but we will hear that tomorrow. This week we are thinking about the quality of being brave. I'm not sure if the mouse in this story was brave or just foolish playing on the top of a lion. The example of bravery in films or cartoons is often strong people who have no fear. The mouse in this Aesop's fable will always be remembered as the brave mouse, but he felt fear when the lion woke up. Even though the mouse was scared, he asked the lion to be his friend. Bravery is an important quality that can help us to overcome situations that we may be fearful of. We might be scared of standing in front of the school doing an assembly, or starting a new club and meeting new people or we might be scared of starting and failing a new sport or playing an instrument. We all need a little bit of bravery at some point in our lives.

Time to reflect

- Do you think the mouse was brave or foolish?
- Can you be brave and scared at the same time?
- What fears have you overcome? (When were you brave?)

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for bravery. When we face situations that make us feel fearful, help us to remember the story of the mouse and the lion. Help us to be brave and to overcome our fears. *(Amen)*



12.3 Feel The Fear And Do It Anyway

This morning we are going to hear part two of the story of the lion and the mouse. Can anyone recount the story of the mouse and the lion so far? Some time went by and the lion became tangled in a hunter's net. Now the lion was very scared. He roared and roared. The animals in the jungle heard lion roaring. Elephants, zebra's, monkeys all looked at each other and knew they dare not go near the net because the lion had eaten some of their friends. The mouse looked at them and said that the lion was his friend and he would free the lion. There was a lot of mumbling and laughing from the animals. How could a mouse help a lion trapped in a net, and if he could, why would he not think the lion would eat him. The mouse ran over to the trap and started gnawing through the net bit by bit. Eventually the lion was able to get out of the net. The lion remembered that he had laughed when the mouse said that one day the mouse might help lion. The lion wasn't laughing now, he was very grateful and was glad that he was the mouse's friend.

Yesterday we suggested that the mouse was brave, not because he climbed on the back of the lion, but rather he was able to ask the lion to be his friend even though he was scared. The mouse found the courage and boldness to ask the lion to be his friend.

What would have happened if the mouse hadn't been brave in the first place? Would he have been able to rescue his friend the lion? Would they have been friends? When fear stops us from trying new and exciting activities or stops us from making strong and lasting friendships, we need to be brave so that we can benefit from those experiences and those friendships. When we feel the fear we may need to do it anyway.

Time to reflect

- When can fear hold us back from experiencing good things?
- When can fear protect us from harm? (By not jumping off dangerous rocks into the sea, or by riding our bikes sensibly.)

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for bravery. When we face situations that make us feel fearful, help us to remember the story of the mouse and the lion. Help us to be brave and to overcome our fears. *(Amen)*



12.4 But I'm Too Small

Can anyone recount the story of the mouse and the lion? The mouse overcame fear and asked the lion to be his friend. If the mouse hadn't been brave then he would not have been able to save the lion from the hunter's net. There are all sorts of reasons that we can use to talk ourselves out of being brave. What if they don't like me, what if I'm useless at playing an instrument, what if I look silly playing a new sport in front of my friends?

The Bible tells the story of a man named Gideon. God asked Gideon to lead his people, the Israelites, when an opposing army took over their country. Gideon said that he couldn't because he was the least important member from the least important family in his community. God told Gideon that he would help him and although Gideon agreed to lead a revolt against the opposing army, Gideon kept asking God for reassurance. The word reassurance means removing a person's doubt or fear. In one such request, Gideon left a woollen fleece out overnight and asked God to make the fleece wet with dew but leave the ground around it dry. It happened just as Gideon has asked. Still a little scared, Gideon asked God to leave the fleece dry whilst making the ground around it wet with dew. Again, God answered Gideon's request. The Bible continues to describe how Gideon defeated the enemy army with only one hundred men. 'Laying out a fleece' is a still a popular phrase that is still used today.

We often need reassurance when we are fearful and need some help to be brave. It is good to have people around us that can remind us that 'we can do it'. School is a great environment, there are teachers and friends that can remind us that we can do it if we try. It is also a place where we can reassure our friends to do something brave.

Time to reflect

- Can you think of examples of when reassurance from a teacher has helped you overcome a fear?
- Can you think of a time when you have been able to reassure someone else?

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

We are thankful for our teachers, family members and friends that reassure us when we need it. Help us all to help each other overcome fears that may be stopping us reaching our potential. *(Amen)*



12.5 Bravery Synonyms

Can you think of 5 other words that could be used to help explain the word 'brave'? Out of the following list of 9 words, have you got any words that haven't been read out?

- Courage
- Fearless
- Daring
- Heroic
- Gallant
- Gutsy
- Confident
- Plucky
- Boldness

We have thought a lot about bravery this week. In our times for reflection this week we have thought about examples of when we have been brave and when others have helped us to be brave.

Time to reflect

Can we think and talk about examples of the fears that we can overcome and how we might overcome them?

Possible examples

- Courage to talk to a child that is being ignored.
- The fear of getting on a two-wheeled bicycle.
- A child may fear a bully and needs courage to be kind to that bully – a bully may not have experienced people being kind and loving very often.
- Fear of flying may require a good dose of courage to get on an aeroplane.
- Fear of failing may need courage to try something new like taking music lessons.
- Fear of lifts may need a lot of courage to get into a lift or into small spaces.
- Fear of what people might think of us may stop us from…

Reflection (Prayer)

(Dear God)

The example of St George reminds us to be true to ourselves. The story of the mouse and the lion encourages us to think about how bravery can help us to overcome our fears. The story of Gideon can help us to be thankful for the reassurance we get from others. Help us to see the opportunities to be brave today and help us to realise that every time we are fearful it is an opportunity for us to be brave. *(Amen)*



Online Calendar

Digital links to relevant videos can be found on our calendar page
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