



# Encountering the risen Jesus

*From sadness to hope  
From fear to courage*

Summer 1 2021

Collective Worship Planning

# Collective Worship Planning Summer 2021

## At all times remember the following:

1. Collective worship is more than 'just a statutory requirement,' or 'another thing I have to do.' Worship has the potential to **set the tone for your whole day** and is a key driver for delivering messages of hope, courage and endurance in a challenging time.
2. Worship in a classroom space can be difficult. Invest in a **routine** which signifies that something different and special is about to happen. Create a focal point and consider seating arrangements carefully.
3. **Let the children lead.** Younger children always want to get involved and their responsibilities will be small in comparison with the capabilities of older children. Younger children can participate by leading the gathering, choosing artefacts for the focal point or reading a prayer standing at the front. Older children should be able to plan acts of worship from Bible stories or themes. Consider putting them all on a rota, allocating them stories and seeing what they put together!
4. There must be an **opportunity to worship God**. Worship is an attitude of the heart focused on God. In a school situation this will involve leading people to the threshold of worship by providing a setting where they may worship God if they so wish. As a class teacher you will be used to filling every moment, but do not be afraid to leave empty spaces and silence for children to meet and experience God should they want to.
5. It is important that we remember collective worship should be inclusive, inspirational and invitational no matter where it is held or who is leading.
  - **Inclusive:** something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with.
  - **Inspirational:** a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development.
  - **Invitational:** an opportunity for those of any religious faith or none to focus and reflect on stimuli which allow the human spirit to respond with integrity.
6. The main elements of **G-E-R-S** (gather – engage – respond - send) should be present in each of act of worship. This will help children to understand the Anglican structure of worship and it also really helps to have a structure to follow each day. You could use the Flippin' Praise booklet to help you – see 'Working on Worship 20 – Flippin Praise' available at <https://www.cofesuffolk.org/schools/school-leaders/collective-worship/collective-worship-resources/>
7. There should be a focus on **Biblical or Christian content** in each worship session. This content should be explored and made relevant to life today.

**It is the task of collective worship to provide a setting in which the integrity of those present is not compromised but in which everyone finds something positive for themselves.**

## Notes on using the collective worship plans

The following collective worship planning has been written to provide you with a starting point. The themes chosen to reflect this time of challenge for many children.

Each week is on one page in an easy to refer to format. It will not be needed by all teachers or schools but is available to those who would benefit from it. Each school will have a different structure to worship over the week and will have developed their own approaches to daily class-based worship based on this. The following structure is just a suggestion and one way of using this resource.

### Structure for the week:

<b>Monday</b>	Collective worship linked to the current value or theme. These worships (or at least the engage) could be delivered by one person across the school by zoom or a pre-recorded video.
<b>Tuesday</b>	Collective worship with Christian content linked to the value/theme.
<b>Wednesday</b>	On a Wednesday schools could develop their worship by working through a collection of Bible stories – one story at a time in order. This could be as simple as starting at the beginning of the Lion Storyteller Bible (used by Open the Book) and reading one story at a time, or starting at the New Testament stories. There are plenty of different Bible story collections to use and most teachers will have access to one. When stories are read – variations of the same questions could be asked: What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn about the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today? And others of course!
<b>Thursday</b>	Collective worship with a focus on prayer and reflection.
<b>Friday</b>	Many schools will choose to end the week with a celebration of learning and behaviour. However, it is important that this celebration assembly still includes opportunities to worship and so every Friday suggestions are included.

### Other notes:

- Feel free to use your own school's gatherings and sendings rather than the suggested ones
- Focus on the quality of the time rather than the quantity. Five minutes of really good input and time for reflection is better than 15mins of time filling. What is important is that you use the time you have wisely and that worship contributes to a child's education as well as allowing an opportunity to learn about and meet with God. Print off the plans and put them somewhere easily accessible in your classroom to refer to.
- Find creative ways to **make reference to your schools unique context and vision.**
- The sending should be developed to give children something to think about or put into action over the course of the day.

## Thy Kingdom Come



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Thy Kingdom Come 2021 includes the online video Cheeky Pandas series which EYFS-KS1 classes may want to use to mark the season. More information at: <https://www.thykingdomcome.global/cheekypandas>

## The Church Calendar

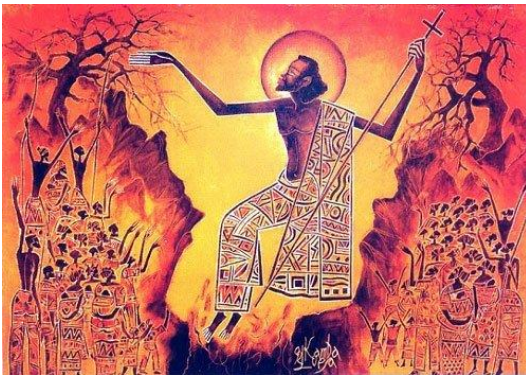
**It is still Easter!**

**Easter is not just a long weekend...**

Last half term we marked the 40 days of Lent, up to the resurrection of Jesus. But 'Easter' still continues, it is a season not a day. In fact, Easter continues for another 40 days after Easter Sunday leading to ascension day with Jesus returning to heaven, and then the season continues for another 10 days marked with the arrival of the promised Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

**Lent lasted 40 days, but Easter is 50 days!**

**Ascension Day – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2021 - the 40th day of the Easter season**

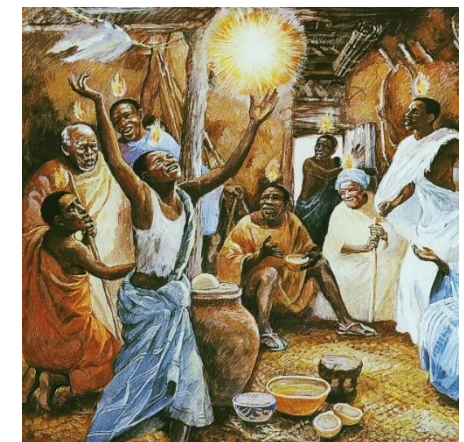


For 40 days after his resurrection on Easter Sunday, the Bible says that Jesus travelled and preached with his disciples, preparing them for his departure from Earth. Ascension marks the day Jesus was literally taken up – ascended - into heaven before his disciples, at the village of Bethany, near Jerusalem. Exactly how this happened is a matter of great mystery. The story is told in the Bible in three places: Luke 24:50-53, Mark 16:19 and Acts of the Apostles 1:9-11. In Acts, two men in white come and ask why the disciples are looking so intently up into the sky, hence the idea of Jesus 'ascending'. The Ascension story answers the question, "Where is Jesus now?" His life walking around on the earth is over, but he lives with God and continues to love the whole world from there. As he left, he clearly passed the baton to his disciples – and to us.

Ascension painting from Democratic Republic of Congo

**Pentecost – Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021**

Pentecost is the day that the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples, 10 days after Jesus ascended to heaven. The account in the Bible reports that Jesus' followers were gathered together and the Holy Spirit "filled the whole house where they were sitting" (Acts 2:2). "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4). This strange occurrence drew a large crowd, and Peter stood up to speak to them about repentance and the gospel of Christ (Acts 2:14). By the end of the day that the Holy Spirit came, the Church grew by 3,000 people (Acts 2:41). This is why Christians still celebrate Pentecost. For many, it is the birthday of the Church. **Watch the BibleProject explain this important event in this 6 minute video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JQhkWmFJKnA>



Jesus Mafa - Pentecost



## The theme for this half term: From sadness to hope, from fear to courage

This half term is an opportunity to make sure that there is an understanding that it is the resurrection which lies at the heart of Christian belief. In the Bible, there are a number of resurrection appearances of Jesus which bring about a change in those who are a part of them. These encounters provide us with some of the most profound and personal moments to be found in scripture. The risen Christ comes to his disciples in all their brokenness – their sadness, fear, doubt, shattered dreams and failure – and calls them to a future filled with hope, confidence and new beginnings. This half term, we will learn from these encounters and consider what they mean for us at this time of great national and personal challenge.



In encountering the risen Jesus, Mary's sadness was turned to hope.

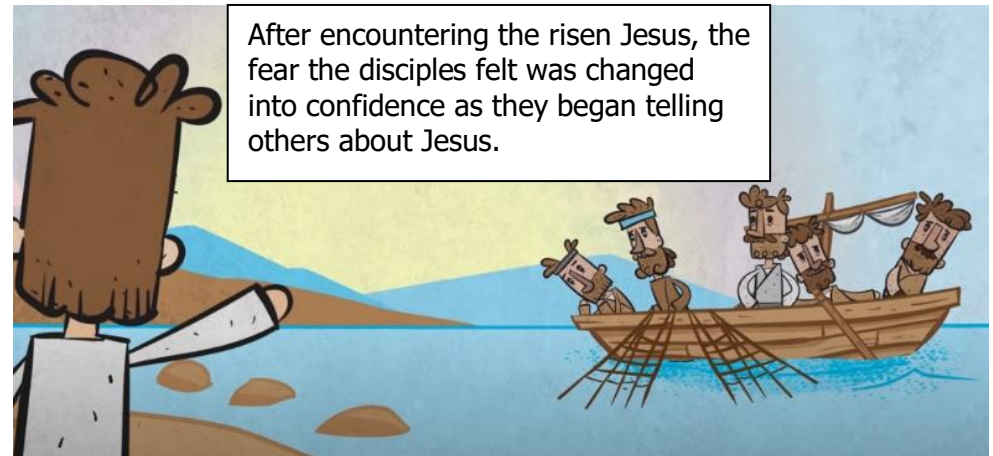
**An encounter with the risen Jesus always results in a desire to know him more deeply and share that good news with others.**



For Peter, meeting Jesus again after denying him three times healed his sense of failure and was replaced with a desire to serve.



For Thomas, seeing the resurrected Jesus transformed his doubt into faith.



After encountering the risen Jesus, the fear the disciples felt was changed into confidence as they began telling others about Jesus.

**Week 1**

12.04.21	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Easter is not over!</b>	<b>The risen Jesus meets Mary</b>	<b>Next Bible story from class collection</b>	<b>Reflection</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
<b>Gather</b> We prepare to meet with God	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>
<b>Engage</b> We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.	Remind children about the stories of Holy week from last term. Take responses from children over how Easter was celebrated in their families over the holiday. Share your own experience – whether religious or not. The Bible reading today is from Psalm 34:19: "The Lord is close to the broken hearted and saves those whose spirit is crushed." Jesus is especially drawn to the lonely and the hurting, those who are hungry for his presence. Many of his disciples were left feeling this way after his death. We are going to encounter some of the stories from the Bible which explain what happens next after the empty tomb as the easter season for the church continues.  Jesus gave it all song: watch and listen <a href="#">Listen to this</a>	Many of Jesus' followers ran away when he was dying because they were frightened they would be killed too. Jesus' mother Mary stayed by the cross, and another brave woman who stayed with her all the time was Jesus' close friend and follower Mary Magdalene. Read John 20:11-18– how Mary encountered not only angels, but Jesus himself (although she was crying so hard, she couldn't see properly and thought he was the gardener). <a href="#">text to read here</a> When Jesus calls Mary by name, she realises who it really is, and tries to grab hold of him, although he tells her not to. Instead she is sent back to the disciples to be the first witness for the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Mary Magdalene's grief, combined with her faithfulness, acted like a magnet to Jesus. He couldn't stay away from her. He rushed to her side and showed her that his love is stronger than death. He went out of his way to remove Mary's sorrow and fill her with joy.	Read the story Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	Read the story The Garden, the Curtain and the Cross by Carl Laferton Don't have a copy? Watch a reading here: <a href="#">Click here</a>	<b><u>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</u></b> 'Not a single sparrow can fall to the ground without God knowing it.' Matthew 10:29. Every single sparrow is made by God, looked after by him and loved by him. Not even a tiny sparrow comes to the end of its life without God knowing. If he cares for such a tiny bird, how much more must he care for you? <i>Let's celebrate those children who have nurtured their talents and used their gifts in the service of others.</i>
<b>Respond</b> We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.	Lord our God, we thank and praise you for the greatness of your love, shown to us in Jesus Christ, who was willing to die for us, to bring us into your family, and to bless us with the life that lasts for ever. We thank you for the new life we celebrate at Easter; help us to keep growing in the life that never comes to an end. In Jesus' Name. Amen	Psalm 30:5 says 'weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning.' Sometimes our sad feelings – though temporary, are overwhelming. But it is important to feel the sadness then let it go. It is often true that things feel better in the morning. For Christians it is the hope in Jesus that helps.  Thank you, Lord for Mary Magdalen's example of bravery and commitment, to you, even when all seemed lost. Help us to be like her and look for you even in the darkest of times, because we know you will be looking out for us. Amen.	Listen to a piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Allow children the opportunity to say thank you to Jesus if they wish, or alternatively think of someone else they are thankful for.	<b>Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us.</b> Lord's prayer BSL version: <a href="https://youtu.be/5INrnOEmyE">https://youtu.be/5INrnOEmyE</a>
<b>Send</b> We are sent out to love and serve	We are raised to new life with Christ. Let us go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response - Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen us in hope, enrich us with his love, and fill us with joy in the faith, today and for evermore. <b>In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - He is not here. He is risen. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. <b>Response – Amen</b>	<b>Leader</b> - May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts <b>Response – Amen.</b>

Week 2

19.04.21	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Theme</b>	<b>The risen Jesus meets the disciples on the road to Emmaus</b>	<b>The risen Jesus meets seven disciples on the seashore</b>	<b>Next Bible story from class collection</b>	<b>Reflection</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
<b>Gather</b> We prepare to meet with God	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>
<b>Engage</b> We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.	Have you ever been really puzzled by something? What was it like when you did understand it? Did you feel like sharing your new knowledge, your joy, your happiness? <a href="#">Watch this video</a> – saddleback kids Or this rhyming one: <a href="#">watch</a>  The story is a good example of a change in attitude and outlook. The disciples were terrified that they would be arrested and punished for being followers of Jesus. But they were filled with joy at seeing him. Knowing Jesus changed the disciples.	What is it like having the surprise of seeing someone very special when it was unexpected, to see someone whom you have missed and needed? Read: John 21:1-14 <a href="#">read here</a> Lots of events in Jesus' life happen by the sea of Galilee. Jesus appears but the disciples do not know it is him – they are out from the shore fishing on their boat. On Jesus' advice they cast their net and make a catch then eat with Jesus on the shore. This is another example of the disciples missing Jesus, feeling sad and unsure, and then changing - being glad that he was with them again. He healed them and restored their hope.	<b>Read the story</b> Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	Why do we celebrate Easter? <a href="#">watch this</a>	<b><u>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</u></b> 'If you listen to these commands of the LORD your God that I am giving you today, and if you carefully obey them, the LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you will always be on top and never at the bottom. – Deuteronomy 28:13 (NLT) God tells us in today's Bible verse that He will help you be on top. So when you work at a job, do your best, work hard and then believe God that He's helping you succeed. God is helping you every day. <i>Let's celebrate those children who have nurtured their talents and used their gifts in the service of others.</i>
<b>Respond</b> We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.	Many times in our lives we too can feel that we are alone and maybe even disappointed with how things are (as the two clearly were about Jesus' death). Just as Jesus was with and alongside them on the road even when they were unaware of it, Jesus is with us even when we too are not aware of it. He promises to never leave us or forsake us. (Hebrews 13:5b)	Think about a situation now where you feel alone or disappointed, remind yourself that Jesus is with you, by His Spirit, and will never leave you. Does that change how you think about the situation?	Listen to a piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Following Jesus is a choice. It is a positive choice made by millions of people around the world who look to him as an example and an inspiration.  Would, could you learn from the example of Jesus? Who do you look up to and follow?	<b>Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us.</b> Lord's prayer BSL version: <a href="https://youtu.be/5INr-nOEmyE">https://youtu.be/5INr-nOEmyE</a>
<b>Send</b> We are sent out to love and serve	We are raised to new life with Christ. Let us go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response - Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen us in hope, enrich us with his love, and fill us with joy in the faith, today and for evermore. <b>In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	Leader - He is not here. He is risen. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. <b>Response – Amen</b>	<b>Leader</b> -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts <b>Response – Amen.</b>

Week 3

26.04.21	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Theme</b>	<b>The Risen Jesus meets Peter</b>	<b>The Risen Jesus meets Thomas</b>	<b>Next Bible story from class collection</b>	<b>The Risen Jesus brings peace</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
<b>Gather</b> We prepare to meet with God	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>
<b>Engage</b> We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.	Last week we read the story of Jesus appearing to his disciples at Galilee and eating breakfast together. One of the disciples was Peter.  <a href="#">Watch this</a>  Imagine the whole scene, put yourself in Peter's shoes. What range of emotions might he have gone through when he realised that Jesus was alive?	Has anyone ever told you something and you didn't believe them? Why didn't you believe them? Did it turn out to be true? Thomas was someone who didn't always 'get' it the first time, but was unafraid to ask questions and to challenge. He was a doubter.  <a href="#">Watch this</a> With Jesus we can see his character throughout the Bible, and in particular in this story, his kindness towards Thomas as he struggles to believe. Thomas' doubt changes to faith and belief.	<b>Read the story</b> Depending on the age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	"Peace be with you" – these were the words Jesus said to his disciples.  What is peace? What does this phrase mean to you? Is it ... <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calm?</li> <li>• Stillness?</li> <li>• Comfort?</li> <li>• Friendship?</li> <li>• Security?</li> </ul> Or something else? What makes you feel peaceful? Talk to your neighbour about your ideas. Perhaps draw them.	<b>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</b> He led me to a place of safety; he rescued me because he delights in me. – Psalm 18:19 (NLT) It's not hard to find ways to dislike yourself. Maybe you have a bad habit and feel like it's holding you back. Without trying, most of us can find faults in ourselves. Today begin to focus on God's love for you. Realise that he delights in you. Instead of seeing all your faults and failures, choose instead to see yourself from God's perspective as being someone that God loves and delights in. <i>Let's celebrate those children who have nurtured their talents and used their gifts in the service of others.</i>
<b>Respond</b> We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.	Jesus appeared to Peter after his resurrection to remind Peter that he was called to follow Jesus and that he is loved and forgiven even when he turned his back on Jesus.  This is a really powerful example. Forgiving people who hurt us is not easy, but making mistakes is only human. We cannot be perfect the way Jesus was. We should look to his example and ask his help to forgive those who hurt us so we can be set free from the pain as Peter was.	Thomas found it hard to trust Jesus when he couldn't see him. We can't see Jesus as he is in heaven so how easy is it for any of us to believe that Jesus is there for us? The Bible tells us to trust God over all things, to have faith in him rather than in our own ways and that God will guide and support us as we look to him for help. The Bible says: 'Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you and he will show you which path to take.' Proverbs 3: 5- 6	Listen to a piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Jesus can speak peace to us to in our moments of fear and trouble. As anxieties rise we can always if we want to take a moment to stop and ask God for his peace. You may wish to just sit, close your eyes and hold out your hands as if receiving a gift, wait for his peace to come to your heart. 'Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.' (John 14.27)	<b>Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us.</b> Lord's prayer BSL version: <a href="https://youtu.be/SINr-nOEmyE">https://youtu.be/SINr-nOEmyE</a>
<b>Send</b> We are sent out to love and serve	We are raised to new life with Christ. Let us go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response - Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen us in hope, enrich us with his love, and fill us with joy in the faith, today and for evermore. <b>In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - He is not here. He is risen. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. <b>Response – Amen</b>	<b>Leader</b> -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts <b>Response – Amen.</b>



Week 4

03.05.21	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>Jesus meets Saul</b>	<b>Next Bible story from class collection</b>	<b>Reflection</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
<b>Gather</b> We prepare to meet with God		<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... <b>he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>
<b>Engage</b> We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.		When Saul met Jesus on the road to Damascus, he was on his way to arrest Christians, so convinced was he that they had got everything wrong. Three days later, he was now certain that Jesus was the Son of God and he was prepared to stand up and tell his fellow Jews that they had got it all wrong. Watch the conversion story: <a href="#">Watch this</a> Discuss in what ways did Saul change? – he was an enemy, but became a friend – he was cruel, but learned kindness – he didn't consider the views of others, but grew in understanding – he learned respect for God and others.  Sit quietly and try to imagine how Saul must have been feeling when he was challenged to think about the choices he had been making. We all need to think about the choices we make and be ready to change them if we are hurting others – physically and/or emotionally.	<b>Read the story</b> Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	Listen to the poem 'recognising you' which summarises some of the stories of the risen Jesus we have encountered.  <a href="https://youtu.be/j12TJruN7fi">https://youtu.be/j12TJruN7fi</a>  The text is found here: <a href="#">click here</a> Discuss the poem.	<b>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</b> For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline. – 2 Timothy 1:7. Sometimes we do things that feel bigger than we are. They are often out of our comfort zone. Often fear can become a big player in us giving up on our dreams. Maybe you fear that you'll make the wrong decision, so you never make a decision. Maybe you fear rejection and so it keeps you from doing the things you want. Today, whatever your fear looks like, know that it's not from God. Determine today to live fearlessly. Don't let your fears keep you from doing what you want to do. <i>Let's celebrate those children who have nurtured their talents and used their gifts in the service of others.</i>
<b>Respond</b> We respond to what we have heard and seen. We are given the opportunity to worship together.		From the C of E liturgy: Kyrie Confession Open our eyes to your presence in our midst. Lord, have mercy. <b>Lord, have mercy.</b> Turn our hearts from selfish ends. Christ, have mercy. <b>Christ, have mercy.</b> Draw us into your company on the way. Lord, have mercy. <b>Lord, have mercy.</b>	Listen to a piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Allow children time to reflect on the line: 'Jesus on the shoreline, know my best, forgive my worst...'	<b>Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us.</b> Lord's prayer BSL version: <a href="https://youtu.be/5INr-nOEmyE">https://youtu.be/5INr-nOEmyE</a>
<b>Send</b> We are sent out to love and serve		May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen us in hope, enrich us with his love, and fill us with joy in the faith, today and for evermore. <b>In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	Leader - He is not here. He is risen. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader -</b> We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. <b>Response – Amen</b>	<b>Leader -</b> May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts <b>Response – Amen.</b>

Week 5

10.05.21	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Jesus gives the great commission</b>	<b>The Risen Jesus ascends to heaven</b>	<b>Next Bible story from class collection</b>	<b>Prayer activity for Ascension Day</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
<b>Gather</b> We prepare to meet with God	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>
<b>Engage</b> We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.	If your teacher said I need someone to do a job for me... how would you feel? Would you want to be chosen? What type of person would your teacher look for? Jesus gave his followers a very special job called the great commission. It is a special job for those who follow him. Matthew 28:16-20 <a href="#">Read this</a>  Jesus called his disciples to share his love, the good news with others and spread the news throughout the earth. He also promised his Holy Spirit would come with power to fill them.  This was the special job he gave.	How many different ways are there to say goodbye? What is the hardest thing about saying goodbye? Ascension Day (celebrated this Thursday) was Jesus' big 'goodbye' moment - at least to being on earth in one place, at one time and with one group of people at a time. He was returning to God in heaven, but he left a promise and a command which are still true for us today. Watch the clip: <a href="#">Click here</a> I wonder... how is it that Jesus can be in heaven and also with us at the same time? How will we know that Jesus is with us this week? How can I share God's love with someone this week?	<b>Read the story</b> Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	Remind children of the ascension story. The friends of Jesus were 'left behind' and now had to wait for the promise of the Holy Spirit: • Invite everyone to put their left hand behind their backs - <b>let's pray for all those who feel left behind because they have no job and no hope.</b> • <b>And Jesus promises</b> (speak out the following words together on the fingers of the left hand, which they all now bring to the front): <b>"I am always with you".</b> • Invite everyone to reach out their left hand to the side - <b>let's pray for all those who feel left out because they are sick or afraid.</b> <b>And Jesus promises</b> (speak out the following words together on the fingers of the left hand, which they all now bring to the front): <b>"I am always with you".</b> • Invite everyone to put their left hand palm-down flat in front of <b>them - let's pray for all those who feel left alone because they have no friends or are sad.</b> • <b>And Jesus promises</b> (speak out the words together on the fingers of the left hand, which they all now bring to the front): <b>"I am always with you".</b> • <b>To all of us, Jesus promises</b> (now count out the five words on the fingers of each other's hands): <b>'I am always with you'.</b>	<b>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</b> 'For we are God's masterpiece.' – Ephesians 2:10. It is easy to let people and circumstances make you feel bad. Maybe someone said something to you that made you feel like you weren't worth anything. Perhaps school is hard for you and so it's easy to feel like you're not important. When you begin to feel that way, often you allow yourself to be treated poorly. That's not how God sees you. God sees you as a masterpiece. He created you, knows you, and knows the plans he has for you. Your life is important and matters to God.
<b>Respond</b> We respond to what we have heard and seen.	Read the blessing: May God the Father watch over us May God the Son walk with us May God the Spirit work through us Until we meet again Amen	Jesus, we remember all the people who are sad because they haven't had time to say good-bye to someone they love. Help them to know that you are with them all, wherever they are. Thank you that we know you are always with us too. Amen.	Listen to a piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	The collect for Ascension: Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever. Amen	<b>Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us.</b> Lord's prayer BSL version: <a href="https://youtu.be/5INr-nOEMyE">https://youtu.be/5INr-nOEMyE</a>
<b>Send</b> We are sent out to love and serve	We are raised to new life with Christ. Let us go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response - Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen us in hope, enrich us with his love, and fill us with joy in the faith, today and for evermore. <b>In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	Leader - He is not here. He is risen. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	Leader - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. <b>Response – Amen</b>	<b>Leader -</b> May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts <b>Response – Amen.</b>

Week 6

17.05.21	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Heaven is all around us</b>	<b>Making sense of the ascension</b>	<b>Next Bible story from class collection</b>	<b>Reflection</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
<b>Gather</b> We prepare to meet with God	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response: ... he is risen indeed Alleluia</b>
<b>Engage</b> We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.	When the time came for Jesus to return to heaven, to go back to the place he came from, you may have expected this to be a very sad moment for the disciples. Their wonderful leader, teacher, guide, the friend and master they loved so very much was going to be leaving them. I wonder... where did he go? Where is heaven? The disciples stood staring upwards so is heaven above the sky? The people at the time of Jesus certainly thought so. But if I got into a spaceship now and went straight up would I reach heaven? A lot of our space explorations have shown that heaven is not a place above the clouds. So if heaven isn't up, where is it? Think about the men in white robes who appeared and spoke to the disciples. They said, "Why are you looking up into the sky?" What do you think?	Compare a range of artistic representations of the Ascension of Jesus <a href="#">click here</a>  I wonder which image you think shows the ascension in the best way? I wonder how Jesus can be in heaven and also with us?	<b>Read the story</b> Depending on age of your class you could ask: I wonder... What did you like about the story? What do you think the story meant? What can we learn from the story? What will you remember about it? What does this story tell us about being human? What does it reveal about God? What if this happened today?	The first followers of Jesus weren't called Christians. That came later. They were called followers of 'the way'. The Christian faith is a way of life. In fact, Jesus himself says to his friends on the night before he dies, "I am the way". Jesus shows us what we can be like when we live God's way. His kindness, generosity, goodness, and forgiveness are from God. This is what God is like. God welcomes everyone. Life is hard. The way ahead isn't always obvious and we can be faced with difficulty and uncertainty, God doesn't send us a rule book or a map. He sends a friend to walk with us: Jesus, the way. And he is not just the way for us – but for each and every person. Thomas said to him, ""Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. (John 14. 5-6)	<b>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</b> For God made human beings in his own image. – Genesis 9:6 We are made in the image of God. What does that mean? It means that we have value. It's easy to look in the mirror and find lots of imperfections. It's easy to compare yourself to your friends and feel that you're not as smart or not as funny as they are. As a result, you can often begin to feel bad about yourself. To God, you matter. He has a plan for you, a purpose for your life. So don't let yourself feel that you don't matter. You do. You've been made in the image of God!.
<b>Respond</b> We respond to what we have heard and seen. .	Heaven is all around us, above us, below us, beside us and within us. Children make up actions to show this. We can all be part of God's family, his heavenly kingdom. What could we do to help make this world a more heavenly place? Listen to Gloria by Taize <a href="#">listen</a>	God the Father watch over us - <i>hands reaching up high above the body</i> God the Son walk with us - <i>hands reaching out wide either side of the body</i> God the Spirit work through us - <i>hands crossed over the body</i> Until we meet again - <i>shake hands or high-five each other (or elbow bump!)</i> Amen.	Listen to a piece of classical music or music for reflection thinking about the theme, message or story.	Loving God, when I'm feeling lost or lonely or afraid or uncertain of the way ahead, be my guide, a lamp to my feet and a light for my path. And today help me to be a good companion to those I meet. In Jesus' name, Amen	<b>Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us.</b> Lord's prayer BSL version: <a href="https://youtu.be/5INr-nOEmyE">https://youtu.be/5INr-nOEmyE</a>
<b>Send</b> We are sent out to love and serve	We are raised to new life with Christ. Let us go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response - Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen us in hope, enrich us with his love, and fill us with joy in the faith, today and for evermore. <b>In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - He is not here. He is risen. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. <b>Response – Amen</b>	<b>Leader</b> -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts <b>Response – Amen.</b>

Week 7

24.05.21	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Theme</b>	<b>Celebrating Pentecost</b>	<b>Holy Spirit – the dove</b>	<b>Holy Spirit – the flame</b>	<b>Holy Spirit – the wind</b>	<b>Celebration</b>
<b>Gather</b> We prepare to meet with God	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... he is risen indeed Alleluia	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... he is risen indeed Alleluia	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... he is risen indeed Alleluia	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... he is risen indeed Alleluia	<b>Leader:</b> Alleluia. Christ is risen. <b>Response:</b> ... he is risen indeed Alleluia
<b>Engage</b> We encounter Jesus and the stories of the Bible. We listen for God's message to us.	I wonder if you've ever had to wait for something? What was it like to wait? Yesterday was Pentecost Sunday – a celebration of the following story: Read: Acts 2:1-4 <a href="#">Read here</a> Or <a href="#">watch</a> From that moment the disciples were changed people, they had the power of the Holy Spirit within them and they were filled with courage. They went outside and started telling people all about Jesus and the good news that he had come to set people free from all the wrong things they had done. I wonder how the disciples felt when they were gathered together? I wonder how they felt when they noticed the wind...flames? I wonder what it would be like to suddenly be able to speak in a different language? I wonder what you would have liked to ask the disciples if you had been there?	Come holy Spirit -Taize <a href="#">listen here</a>  "Peace be with you" – these were the words of Jesus when he gave his Spirit to his disciples. One of the symbols used for the Holy Spirit is a dove. For many this is a very powerful symbol. I wonder where have we seen the symbol of the dove before? The children might be able to tell you about the dove in the Old Testament story of Noah as well as the dove that descends at the baptism of Jesus.  Look at a range of images using a dove: <a href="#">The annunciation by Rubens</a> <a href="#">modern polish glass window baptism of Jesus</a> <a href="#">from the 6th century</a>	I wonder why the colour for the season of Pentecost is red? Talk about the significance of the colour red in the church calendar (used to either mark saints' days where it represents their death as a martyr, or to represent the flames of the Holy Spirit). I wonder what red reminds you of? Talk about the flames of Pentecost. <b>Fire burns rubbish.</b> The Holy Spirit helps God's people to sort out what matters in life, to get rid of the rubbish (unimportant things) and focus on what is good and right. <b>Fire can get really hot</b> – used to heat precious metals to a very high temperature where the impurities are driven off and the pure metal can be tapped. The Holy Spirit transforms God's people for good. <b>Fire gives off light</b> – fire brings light so we can see the hazards and obstacles in our way. The Holy Spirit shows God's people what is right and wrong. <b>Fire gives off warmth</b> – fire brings warmth and comfort. The Holy Spirit brings comfort and assurance to God's people.	If you can hold worship outside to feel the wind and look at the movement of the trees. The wind is a bit like the Holy Spirit – we can't see it but we can feel it and see the effects. The Holy Spirit is like a <b>breath</b> – it keeps us going at all times – the Holy Spirit is like the spiritual breath that keeps God's people going even when they face difficult times and challenges. The Holy Spirit is like a <b>wind</b> – it blows wherever it wants, is unpredictable – God's people don't always understand the way in which God works but learn to trust that he knows what is best. (God moves in a mysterious way). The Holy Spirit is like a <b>power</b> – The wind is used to provide power– for God's people the Holy Spirit provides courage and inspiration to do God's work, caring and sharing with others.	<b>We gather together to celebrate our gifts and talents which are given to us from God and which are precious to him.</b> For it is God who is working in you, enabling you both to desire and to work out His good purpose. – Philippians 2:13 Have you noticed that a lot of the time we want things 'now'. We want our teachers to give us less homework, 'now'. We want our parents to get off our case, 'now'. We live in a world where things often happen fast and we are so used to instant results but it's in the times of waiting that God helps us develop character in our lives. Waiting isn't always comfortable, but it's good for us. In those times of waiting we can develop good character. Today if you've been waiting for change for a while, don't give up. God is working in your life. Through this situation, he's going to build character into your life.
<b>Respond</b>	The Collect for Pentecost: Holy Spirit, sent by the Father, ignite in us your holy fire; strengthen your children with the gift of faith, revive your Church with the breath of love, and renew the face of the earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord.	Place a map or globe in a central position at the front (or <a href="#">global connections</a> ) Ask the children to sit in silence for a minute or so and think about peace – perhaps asking God to bring an end to war and fear in our world. Or use <a href="#">thykingdomcome</a>	<a href="#">click here</a> watch a fire video.  Holy Spirit – Fire of God – bring light and truth to the world. Teach your people what is good and right. Amen	<a href="#">click here</a> watch a wind video We thank You, God, for sending Your Holy Spirit. We thank You for breathing life into the church and we thank You for giving Your Holy Spirit to all who believe in Jesus. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.	<b>Give children the opportunity to be still and thank God for all he has provided for us.</b>
<b>Send</b>	We are raised to new life with Christ. Let us go in his peace. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response - Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	May the loving power of God, which raised Jesus to new life, strengthen us in hope, enrich us with his love, and fill us with joy in the faith, today and for evermore. <b>In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - He is not here. He is risen. Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia. <b>Response: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia, alleluia.</b>	<b>Leader</b> - We go into the world to walk in God's light, to rejoice in God's love and to reflect God's glory. <b>Response – Amen</b>	<b>Leader</b> -May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts <b>Response – Amen.</b>