

NEWSLETTER

TEAM NEWS

Do not be afraid, for I am with you. Do not be discouraged, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.

Isaiah 41:10

This term started like many before it; our assemblies were booked; lessons were planned and lunch clubs were ready to go. For ten weeks the PACE team were very active and busy as they served the schools in Guernsey (read below to find out what we have been up too). Yet nothing could prepare the team, the Island or the World for the Coronavirus pandemic. The last few weeks have been an unknown and uncertain time as we have struggled to come to terms with all that has unfolded around us. In this unprecedented time it is important to remember that God is with us and He is our ever present help and strength in times of need. We are not sure what the next few months hold for the work of PACE but as a team we are dedicated to helping and serving the schools of Guernsey in whatever way we can. At the moment we are doing this from a distance. Please join with the team as they pray for the students and the teachers as they adjust to this time of working from home.

ASSEMBLIES

Having stepped into the new decade of 2020, we decided to focus our assembly for the first half of the term around starting again. The children seemed to find it very amusing when we would mess up our assembly introduction and ask to start again which then led us to tell them the story of Jonah, and how he was given another chance by God to do what God had asked him and go to Nineveh. With some volunteers to help us tell this story, we held up a huge image of a fish and pretended to have our Jonah actor swallowed by it, and then spat out!

The second half of term's assembly needed a bit of tweaking but we eventually got there, telling the children about Jesus feeding the 5,000. With cardboard bread and fish and a special bag the children found that the bag had many more loaves and fish in it than they had originally put in! These assemblies unfortunately came to a close early due to the ongoing issue of the Coronavirus. Despite not being able to engage with any children at this time due to school closures, the PACE team are using this time to plan and prepare more exciting assemblies to come.



LUNCH CLUBS

This term in senior lunch clubs we have been focussing on 'things in the news'. There have been so many big news stories that we thought it would be great to give students the opportunity to talk about them. We have discussed stories from Brexit to Climate Change to Harry and Megan to the collapse of Flybe. It has been really interesting to hear their views on these issues.

Our BOLT clubs, although too cut short, ran in six schools this term; St Martins, Castel, La Mare, Forest, Notre Dame and Beechwood with 10-15 children attending each week. Our biggest group was 22 at Castel! It was great fun. We hope when the schools are back we can visit the groups one last time!

LESSONS

Despite the shortened term, it has been a very busy one with Primary and Secondary lessons in great demand, including a particular focus on our OT mini courses.

Our Secondary lessons have all been with Y9 students (13-14 year olds), where we have explored 'Christian attitudes to War' (looking particularly at Just War theory and Pacifism) with 150 students at La Mare High School and Ladies College. We also taught lessons on 'Christian understandings of Creation and Science' to 3 classes at Blanchelande College. As we have done for several years, we worked with students at Le Murier school to help them plan, prepare and present an assembly to the rest of the school as part of their ASDAN qualification. This year, we had the 9 x Y9 students exploring the dangers of favouritism through the story of Joseph and his brothers in the book of Genesis. It is always one of our favourite challenges as we watch students read the Bible, explore ideas and develop in confidence through our 6 weeks together.

Primary lessons this term, however, have been dominated by the 5-week Bible courses. With so many (8) new presenters trained in 2019, the Spring term provided the opportunity to help them 'get into' teaching, which has been amazing! We began the term with an OT Mini (OTM) team meeting and then Phil proceeded to teach 4 courses at Beechwood (with Frances Ogier and Sarah-Jane Allen), La Houquette (with Nigel Lewis and Sarah-Jane), Melrose (with Frances) and Forest (Sarah and Sian Street) – each week involving planning, teaching and post-lesson debrief. After half term, life got even busier, with 8 courses at La Mare Primary, St Martins (with Nigel and Amy Foot observing), Castel, Hautes Capelles (with Claire Hill), Le Rondin (first time ever! – with Eleanor White) and St Mary & St Michael's (with Sarah). By the end of term, despite the premature schools' closure, we have taught 12 OT Mini courses, with 43 lessons to almost 400 Y5 pupils.

The Summer term (as, when or even if it takes place) promises to be perhaps even busier as we still have 19 OTM lessons to carry forward, to add to the new OTM courses booked at Blanchelande College Juniors and St Martin's, as well as the long-awaited return of New Testament Mini courses booked by Beechwood, Melrose and La Houquette. As the Y6 Transition lessons (for children moving from primary to secondary school in the autumn) have already been booked by every primary school (15) on the island, we have the remarkable opportunity, again, to teach every 11 year old in Guernsey and, on behalf of our local churches, to present a copy of the Scripture Union booklet 'It's Your Move' to 640 children.

Phil has also spoken at a number of churches to share more of the work of PACE, including Cobo Mission, Wesley Chapel, New Life church, and the Young Life group who meet in St John's church hall. More invitations are always welcome! One comment from a parent-teacher, on the day the schools closed, reminds us what an amazing opportunity we have. She told us that her son was struggling to go to school with all the uncertainties around, but had got up and come because 'he didn't want to miss the OT Mini lesson'!!

FUTURE EVENTS

AGM:

Usually at this time we would send out a save the date for our AGM, but due to the uncertainty of what the next few months will entail we are choosing to wait and see when an appropriate time to hold this event will be. We will keep you updated when we have made a decision but please note it could be as late as the autumn.

Prayer Spaces Training Event:

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the advice given on non-essential travel we took the decision to cancel our Prayer Spaces Training Day which was due to take place on Saturday 21st March. We hope that this event will be rescheduled for later in the year.



PRAYER POINTS

- Pray for teachers and students as they adjust to working at home.
- Pray for our Island as we deal with the Coronavirus pandemic.
- Praise to God for 12 OT Mini courses that started this term
- Praise to God that He is our strength and comfort in times of need.

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Address: c/o Delancey Elim Church, La Rue Des Bas Courtils, St Sampson, Guernsey, GY2 4BL

Contact Number: 07781 122402

Email: hellopace@paceguernsey.com

Website: www.paceguernsey.com