

PACE Newsletter

Practical Assistance in Christian Education

Dear PACE Supporters

As we reach the end of 2016, we are thankful for all that God has done this year. We are also thankful for each person that has helped the PACE team to be able to achieve all that we



have. Whether that is assisting in lessons, lunch clubs or prayer spaces. For those who have helped at our AGM, or cut items for our sessions. For those who have financially supported us, for this year and for so many other years. Finally, we are so grateful for you, our supporters, and for your prayers, which are integral pieces in the PACE jigsaw, vital to our mission to bring Christianity to life in Guernsey schools. Thank you! May you know God's Hope, Love, Joy and



Peace this Christmas.

Assemblies...

We started this term with the parable of the wise and foolish builders reminding us that it is important to make wise choices, especially at the start of the year. Dr Boo used his 'Swellinator 3000' to increase the size of onions to solve world hunger. When this failed, he realised that by doing small acts of kindness he was making a difference to those in need. Teaching was based on Matthew 25: 35-40 and the 'widow's mite'.



Oscar has been

learning through a dream (with the help of his conscience), what the real meaning of advent is – Hope, Love, Joy and peace. His dream strangely sees Amy and Archie take on the role of Mary and Joseph.



In senior schools we began the term with an assembly on transition for year 7s entering into St Sampson's High. Our assembly at Ladies' College on valuing yourself followed on nicely from our BBC Radio Guernsey slot. As 'a great forest is set on fire by a small spark' so can the words we speak have a big impact on our levels of self-esteem. So we encouraged the students to speak words of positivity into their lives. In other schools we did several assemblies on motivation, following on from the Olympics. By remaining focused and determined, we can make the most of the gifts that God has given us. Stress has also been a key theme and we discussed how to cope with it. At Le Murier this term we've looked at Christians celebrating 'light' on October 31st, and advent during December. We took this message of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace into other senior schools this month.

Lessons...

We have seen an increase in lessons this term, as we hoped. We have also been busy approaching schools to book in more lessons for next term. In senior schools we have covered 'How being a Christian affects our lives', 'A Christian view of creation' and 'What the Bible has to say on discrimination'. The latter one provided the opportunity to answer some tough, ethical questions, for which Christians often get a lot of criticism. We also showed that Christians can be discriminated against too.

We used our RE Inspired training in one primary school where we told the 'Parables of the Lost', showing God's love for us, which means he will continue to look for us. The following week, we immersed the children in the story of Jonah, learning how God used him to seek the lost people of Nineveh.

Lunch Clubs...

BOLT Club has had an exciting transformation this term, with new talks, games and some fantastic actions to aid the learning. We have seen over 130 students attend the club at least once, with approximately 65% staying for the whole term! Despite losing potential members due to clashes with other school activities our secondary clubs have gone well. We looked at Christian views on forgiveness, grace, loneliness, hope, love, sport, courage, peer pressure, media and joy. We have finished off the term with Christmas parties, which are always popular.

Prayer Spaces...

With thanks to an amazing team of volunteers, we were able to provide Reflection (Prayer) Spaces at St Martin's Primary for the first time. We spent a day with years 3 and 4, looking at various stations from 'Harvest Thankfulness', to 'Sorries', 'Forgiveness' and 'Worries' and so on. We have heard that parents have been praising teachers for how much their children enjoyed the event.

Bible Explorer...

This term, for the first time, we partnered with Roger Brooks and Bev Oldfield to represent Bible Explorer (BX) by teaching Old Testament lessons at Vale Primary. This meant we were able to teach all of year 5, restoring the relationship between Vale and BX.

From 16th – 18th January, there will be Bible Explorer training on the island. There are currently 5 BX presenters on the island (Phil Baskerville, Roger, Bev, Sue Le Fric and Chrissie) and we are teaching in 12 out of the 14 primary schools. To keep this work going we need more people to join our exciting team. If you would like to see BX in action or to sign up to the training, please contact Chrissie on the PACE email.

Other Work...

We made another visit to the Prison with the Prison Fellowship Group to perform our Christmas puppet sketch. We had one avid fan who waited the whole set up time to catch a glimpse of the puppets.

Lisa and Lee have been working hard to put together plans and policies for mentoring in schools. Watch this space!

WE NEED YOU!

Chrissie will be leaving PACE at the end of this school year to pursue a different ministry. So we are looking for Primary School Workers to join our team. If you think that you or someone else would be suitable for this role, please contact us.

CONTACT DETAILS...

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Your Church Partnering with PACE...

Usually once a month we visit a church to inform them about the work of PACE and the role we are playing in schools across the island. It would be really great to visit your church, to be able to showcase some of our work and excite you with our mission in the schools. If you would like us to visit you, please make contact with us.

At the start of this term, we wanted to bless teachers as they are often becoming more and more stressed with the workloads they carry, so we gave them some yummy treats as they settled back into their schools. This was a great success, but it would be even better if churches could do this in the future! It would mean so much to the schools to know that their local church is supporting them. Please get in touch if you would like to try an initiative like this.

PRAYER POINTS

- Thanks to God for all the amazing work this term & for doors that are still open: Great BOLT Club attendance, new lessons, new students in Les Beaucamps club!
- The top 4 reasons teenagers are stressed are: Schoolwork, family, relationships and friendships. Please pray for the students that they will know peace in difficult times.
- For wisdom as we move forward in all areas of our work.
- For increased funds to meet increasing workloads.
- For patience when students are difficult in the clubs, and wisdom to know how to respond.
- For new staff members to be found for the positions available.
- For wisdom for the States as they make some big decisions in Education.

Volunteer your time for PACE...

Over the past few years we have become increasingly more dependent on volunteers, enabling us to expand our services. This year we have had 20 volunteers from various churches and a range of ages supporting us. The schools are keen to increase our support, especially in lessons. To see this happen we need more volunteers, and more people to help us in preparation. Those who take part in lessons are often asked to work with a small group of students rather than lead from the front. If you have time, PLEASE consider getting involved with our work. We are also looking for some people to cut paper items out in preparation for our events. Can you be this integral piece of our team on this island?



PACE

PACE is funded entirely by donations from churches and private individuals and is a Christian inter-denominational organisation.