

# NEWSLETTER

## TEAM NEWS

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5



Often throughout the busy and hectic schedule of a PACE term there is not much time to be still and reflect on our work. Over the last couple of terms we have introduced a new initiative called ‘Space for PACE’. This is an opportunity for the team to be led in a time of prayer and Bible study by a Church leader. Our last one was hosted by Claire Hill, from the

Salvation Army, who took us through the passage in John about God being the vine and how His people are the branches. It was a wonderful reminder about how God is our firm foundation and how we are here to do His work, not by our strength but in His. We are grateful for these times together to be able to receive and grow as a team.



## PRAYER SPACES

In January we spent three days at St Martins school for their Prayer Space. With over 400 children taking part from Years 2-6, it was a busy time but a lot of fun! The stations included opportunities for the children to think of things that they are thankful or sorry for, to reflect on how God made each child special and unique, they added their thumbprint to a big poster which now hangs on display in the school along with their Thankful Net. We also looked at how opening up about our worries, either sharing them with God or other people helps us to feel lighter rather than storing them up inside which can weigh us down. It was a really special time, the children responded really well to each activity and didn't want to leave



at the end of their half hour slot! When asked which station they enjoyed the most, one child who had previously talked about how they didn't

really believe in God spoke of how great it was to have spent some time praying. Another had asked if God could really speak to them, and after having spent just a few minutes in the Quiet Area said **“I think I heard God speaking to me!”** It was a fresh reminder that we should all have childlike faith, to ask honest questions and be expectant! Next term we have two Prayer Spaces booked in. If you would like to volunteer or come along and see what it's about, please get in touch. We'd like to say a big thank you to everyone who volunteered with us at St Martins, we couldn't have done it without you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- OT LIVE - SATURDAY 6TH APRIL, DELANCEY ELIM, 10AM - 4PM
- AGM - MONDAY 24TH JUNE, L'ISLET SALVATION ARMY, 7PM
- BOB HARTMAN WORKSHOP - SATURDAY 29TH JUNE, LES CAMPS METHODIST CHURCH, 9 - 12PM



Don't forget to sign up to our weekly blog! Get details of what we're up to each week so you can support us through prayer. Simply go to our website, click on the Blog and sign up on the right.



## ASSEMBLIES

Our first primary assembly this term looked at the story of Zacchaeus. Using an interactive story and a “snip & tell” recap we encouraged the children that even though Zacchaeus was an unpopular person, Jesus was different. He welcomed him, cared for him and spent time with him! We also looked at Lent, and how perhaps, just like we spring clean our houses, it is a time for Christians to have a “spring clean” of themselves and change any behaviours, or habits and improve themselves. We finished the assembly by asking the children what kind of behaviours we can stop and “throw away”.

We have led senior assemblies on the theme ‘Identity’, where we looked at Spiderman’s identity crisis when his super suit gets taken away from him! We concluded that for Christians, their identity is rooted in God. Another theme was ‘Making Good Choices’ where we looked at Frodo’s struggle with his task of destroying the ring in the ‘Lord of the Rings’.

## LESSONS

This term has been another very busy term delivering 22 secondary lessons, covering topics such as Evil & Suffering, Christian attitudes to War, Christian Marriage and, hosted by Holy Trinity church, Guernsey Welfare and Caring for Ex-Offenders, exploring the many ways that Church serves the local community. That particular lesson had quite an impact on the Y10 students such that one 15 year old spontaneously offered a financial donation to the food bank and has since been in contact about volunteering to help with the work! We also explored the story of Jesus calming the storm over 6 weeks with Y9 pupils from Le Murier school. This culminated in the children presenting an assembly for the whole school!

Primary lessons have included topics such as Jesus and his friends, Denial and Forgiveness - Peter’s story and more lessons exploring Creation all, again, aided and assisted by a number of volunteers from local churches. The major focus this term, however, has been with the 5-week Walk Through the Bible sessions, where we have taught 13 courses totalling 65 lessons to over 450 children. That has been a big challenge, but hugely rewarding to see the response from the children. The closing question for each course is ‘what have you learnt about God during our weeks together?’ and it has been so exciting to hear the children (who, remember, are predominantly non-church attending!) recognising God’s patience, forgiveness, love, power, persistence, treating everyone the same, faithfulness, wisdom and guidance. Recognising the increasing demand for this programme, we are training 3 new presenters, but more will be needed! (could this be you?)



## LUNCH CLUBS

This term we had roughly 73 children attend our Year 4 BOLT clubs across Amherst, Forest, St Martins, Notre Dame and Beechwood primary schools. We changed the format a little to allow more time for discussion with the children about the topic each week. This brought up some really interesting questions and comments from each group.

We also get a great mix of students who attend our senior lunch clubs and you never know what to expect from week to week! The students engage well and ask very interesting questions as they join in the discussions. This term we have been looking at different characters in the Bible and what we can learn from their stories.

## PRAYER POINTS

- Praise to God for how schools are now approaching us to deliver activities with them, particularly lessons.
- Praise to God for a fantastic Prayer Spaces.
- For next term and the exciting opportunities we have coming up.
- For the OT LIVE event that many are able to come along and learn more about the Old Testament!

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