

PACE WINTER 2019

“Connecting schools and churches.
Communicating Christian beliefs and values.
Creating space to explore faith.”

NEWSLETTER

Merry Christmas from the PACE Team



This term has seen some changes to our line-up. In the Summer we announced that Emma would be leaving the team and at the end of October we sadly said goodbye. However, Emma is still actively involved in various areas of PACE's work and we are grateful for her continued support and passion for the work as a volunteer. Emma's departure led to the appointment of a new worker and we are delighted to introduce Victoria Thorburn! She has joined PACE after completing a HND course in art and design where she was able to explore her faith through her art. She enjoys working with young people and finding creative ways to explore faith in the world today. Victoria goes to Eldad Elim Church and is involved with the youth work as well as being on the worship team. She enjoys reading comics, composing music and making one too many puns. Victoria is a great addition to the team and we have loved having her around over the past few months. She says, "I have really enjoyed my first half term working for PACE. It was a bit different from how I imagined it but in a really good way! I have really enjoyed helping the children to learn more about the Christian faith and getting them thinking. I have also enjoyed getting to know my colleagues and learning how each school works. I look forward to next term and serving the Lord in such a fulfilling and encouraging way." Thank you for all your prayers and encouragement during this time of change.

STATISTICS THIS TERM

- 93 Senior and 30 Primary lunch club sessions
- 19 Senior lessons, 7 Primary lessons.
- 34 Primary assemblies, 11 Senior assemblies
- 2 OT Mini courses, 10 sessions, 85 children

PRAYER POINTS

- Praise to God for Victoria joining the team!
- Praise to God for all the students we've engaged with this term.
- Pray for the team as we prepare for 2020.
- Pray for a restful Christmas for teachers.

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.

LESSONS

Knowing that I (Phil) would be missing for the first half of the Autumn term with a hip replacement operation and having been authorised by Walk Through The Bible UK to be able to train new presenters, I used the time just before the operation to train 5 new OT Mini presenters who, together with the 3 new presenters trained in April, now enables us to continue and expand our teaching in all the primary schools in Guernsey. So, welcome to Claire (Salvation Army), Dorcas and Tim (La Villiaze), Eleanor (St Peter's), Emma (Trinity), Frances (Spurgeon), Nigel (Les Camps) and Sarah-Jane (St Saviour's) to the Walk Through team. Claire and I taught 2 courses at Vale Primary this term (81 pupils), but bookings are coming in thick and fast for next term which will keep us very busy. Our other RE lessons have been in very big demand – 15 Secondary lessons on Creation with St Sampsons and La Mare High Y7s and Ladies College Y8s, followed by 4 lessons on Evil and Suffering with La Mare Y8s – working with Adam (Shiloh) and Emma (Trinity). Primary lessons have all been with Year 3 and covered an Introduction to the Bible at Capelles, Baptism at La Houguettes and then Christmas lessons at Castel, Melrose, Notre Dame and St Mary & St Michael's. Helped by a great team of volunteers – thank you Eleanor, Frances, Jean, Karen, Nigel, Sarah-Jane and Tom - we have taught 233 children.

I have also spoken at a number of churches to share more of the work of PACE – La Villiaze, Les Cotils, Trinity 20s group and Wesley Chapel this second half of term, with several bookings already for next year – at Cobo Mission, Monnaie Chapel, New Life, Spurgeon and Wesley. More invitations always welcome!



PRAYER SPACES

We spent three days with Notre Dame this term running Prayer Spaces. 254 children from Reception to Year 6, spent time in their transformed library exploring Advent and the Christmas story using a variety of activities. One of our stations let the children think about what they were waiting for this Christmas, they could write or draw it on a paper clock and place it in a manger as a sign that they trust in God's timing. Another looked at how God guided the Wise Men with a star and how God guides us in our journey through life. Each child got to take a small star as a reminder that God is always with them. We looked at the gifts the Wise Men gave too, and how we can use our gifts, talents and abilities to help others. The children wrote things like "I can help tidy the house", or "I can buy food for the food bank" on gift tags and stuck them onto our pile of presents. It made the children think of others and how they can use what they're good at to bless other people. We also had a large map of the world and encouraged the children to write prayers for those people in the world who are treated unfairly or looked down on, like the Shepherds were. Prayers included "Dear God, our world is being destroyed because of climate change, please help us to serve you", and "Dear God, please look after everyone". The prayers were beautiful and eye opening to see what was on the children's hearts. Our last station looked at how Mary and Joseph couldn't take much "stuff" with them on their journey. We linked this with how we find it hard to forgive people sometimes and that unforgiveness can slow us down on our journey through life. Using Fizzy Forgiveness, we asked God to help us forgive others and let go of "stuff" that will slow us down. It was a lovely few days and we thoroughly enjoyed it. The children interacted very well and we had some great conversations. Thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up their time to come and help us out.

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

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