

Prayer Space

What is it?

Prayer Spaces in Schools is a national organisation which encourages churches to work together with schools to provide creative opportunities for prayer. Most of the activities used in the prayer space were based on resources from Prayer Spaces in Schools.

Prayer Spaces in School Website
<https://www.prayerspacesinschools.com>

How did this prayer space come about?

Ali Rice (independent consultant) worked with school leaders to plan and create the prayer space using resources from the prayer spaces in schools website and the Church Wigan Prayer Space Toolkit.

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How did it work?

A host of volunteers, clergy and governors from Bryn St Peter's Church helped to lead sessions in the prayer space. This involved welcoming pupils to the space, explaining activities and talking to pupils about their experience of the space.

Pupils came in small groups of ten from each class across school. After the prayer space they had an opportunity to think about what it meant to them.

How did the prayer space support spiritual development for pupils and adults?



We ensured that there were a balance of activities in this space to help pupils engage with spiritual development using the terms developed from Prayer Spaces in Schools Based on the research of Hay / Nye.

Me & Myself

- Identity and self-image
- Who am I?

Me & The World

- Beauty, awe and wonder in creation
- Justice and the natural world
- What difference can I make in the world?

Me & Others

- Relationships and resolving conflict
- How can I be reconciled with others?

Me & God

- Faith and big questions
- What do I believe about life?
- How can I connect with God?

We planned a range of opportunities to support spiritual development. We included opportunities to:

- Think about the 'wows' and 'ows' of life
- Develop curiosity
- Practise stillness
- Reflect
- Think deeply
- Be creative
- Be challenged into action
- Respond in prayer

TSP

Stir



Alongside opportunities for spiritual development we also planned the space around activities which could support pupils to pray at home. We used this acronym:

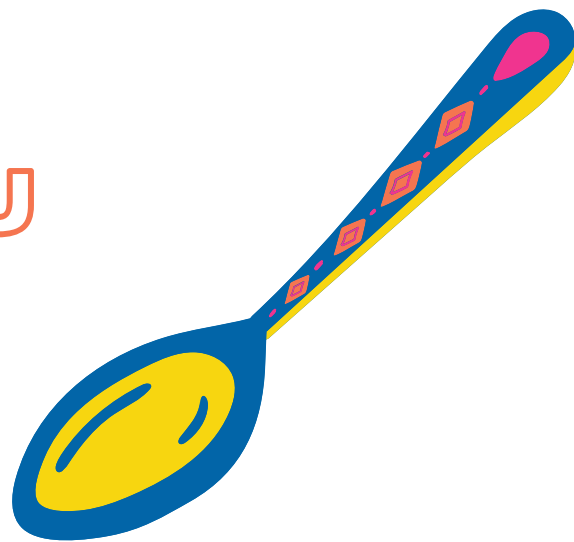
TSP *Stir*

Thank you

Sorry

Please

Stir me into action



Each of the activities helped pupils to explore one of these themes. At the end of the week, pupils were all given a teaspoon with a TSP Stir label, to support them in praying at home.

Take a look at the activities...

Bricks



Our school vision is:
Together with God, Building our Future.

What kind of future do you look forward to? Use the small bricks to create a model of one of your hopes.

If you'd like to, as you build your model, ask God to be with you and fill you with hope for your future.



God says he has...
'plans to give you
hope and a future.'
Jeremiah 29:11

Wise Builder



Our school vision is:

Together with God, Building our Future.

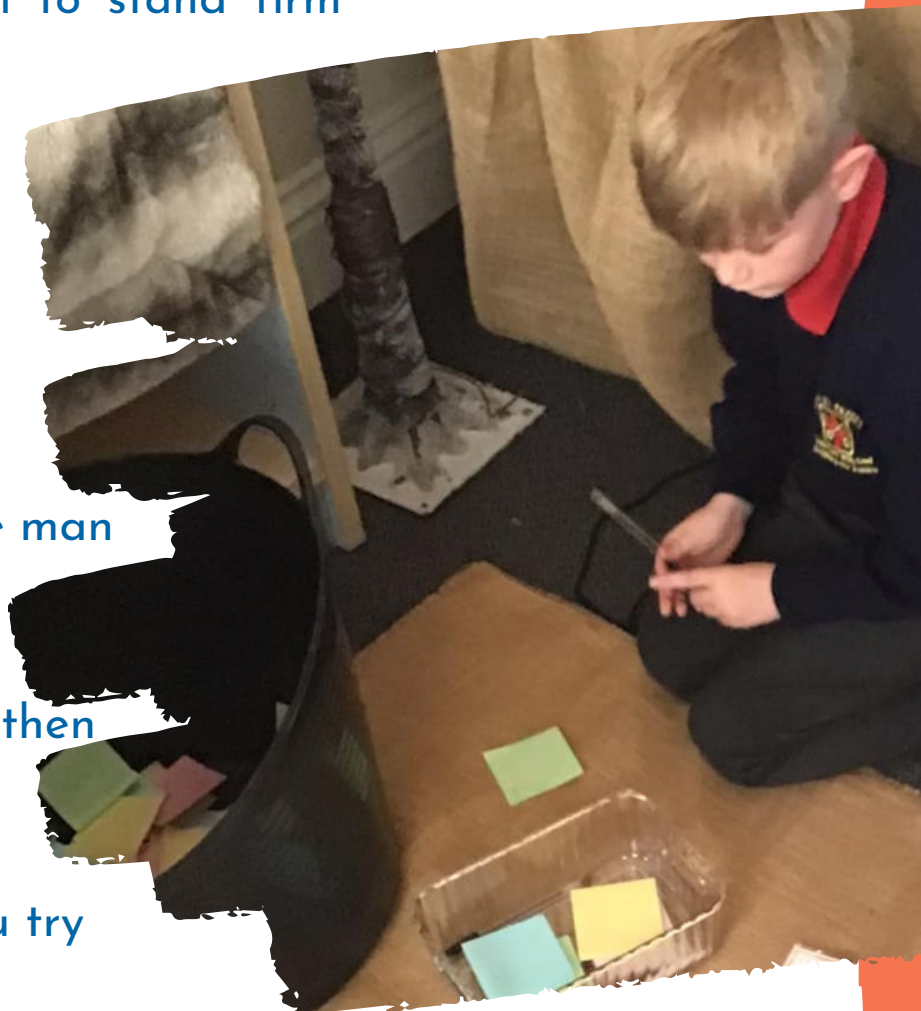


Take a look at the building tools. Builders mix up the right ingredients to make cement which helps a wall to stand firm and strong.

In Matthew 7:24-27, Jesus uses a story of two builders to help us understand how important his words are. In his story the foolish man builds on sand, but the wise man builds on rock. Jesus says that if we hear his words and put them into practice then we are like the wise builder.

What words of Jesus do you try to put into practice?

Write them on a card and pop them into our builder's bucket.



'Everyone who hears these things I say and obeys them is like a wise man.'
Matthew 7:24



Wise Builder



What wise words of Jesus do you try to put into practice...?

- Love
- Kindness
- Respect
- Friendship
- Love yourself
- Trust God
- Say sorry
- Have Courage
- Fairness
- Peace
- Be honest
- Believe in God & Jesus
- Helping others
- Have faith
- Say our prayer
- Be truthful
- Thankfulness
- Forgiveness
- Be brave
- Have hope

Top 3

Love

Kindness

Respect



Living Stones



Our school vision is:
Together with God, Building our Future.

Play a quick game with your friends. Try removing one block at a time. How many can you remove before the tower falls?

In the Bible, Jesus is called the Cornerstone. This is the most important stone in any building. Christians are called living stones. God uses them to build his Kingdom and to help others to see what God is like.

If you'd like to, write your name on the side of a block. As you do this, ask God to use you to build up his Kingdom as a living stone.



'You also are like
living stones.'
1 Peter 2:5

Stars

Everybody worries at times.

Have you ever looked up at the night sky? How did it make you feel?

Lie under our stars and read the Psalm.

How do you think the author felt as he looked up at the night sky? Do you think he realised that he was part of something much bigger than himself?

If you want to, quietly talk to God about how the stars make you feel.

Psalm 8:3-4

I look at the heavens,
which you made with your hands.

I see the moon and stars,
which you created.

But why is man important to you?

Why do you take care of human beings?



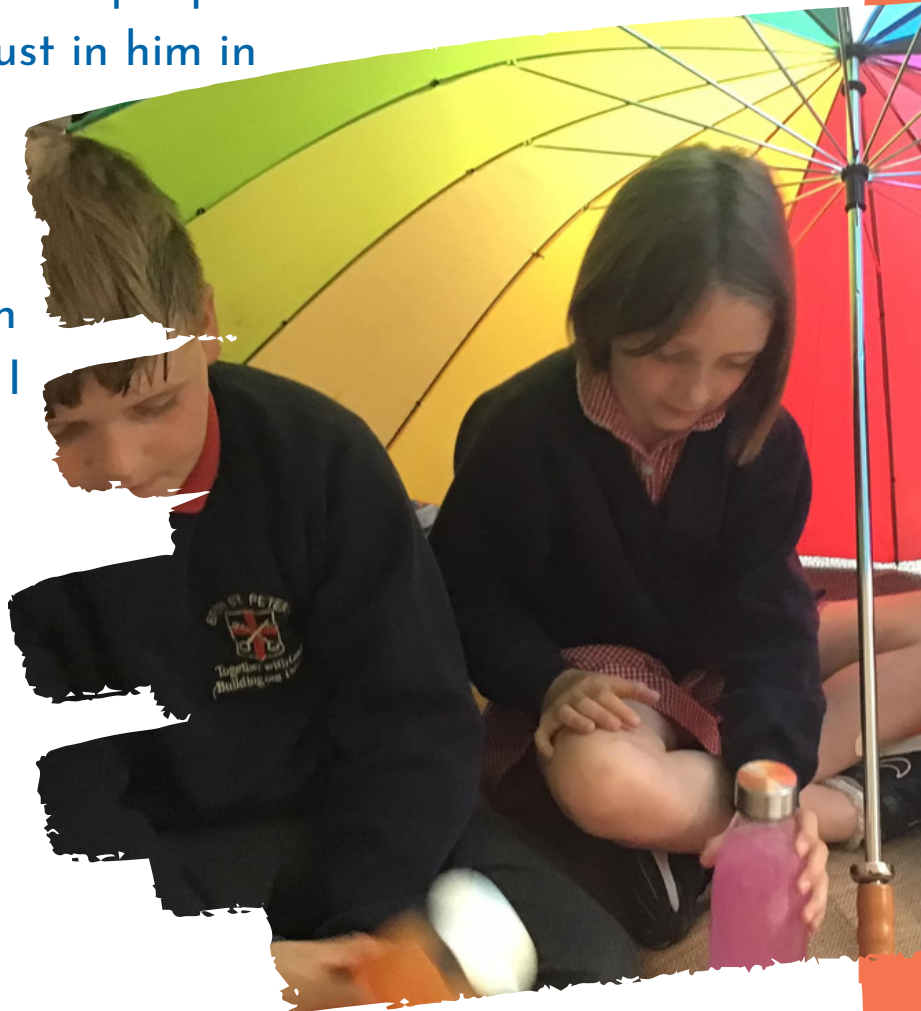
Calm Jars

Everybody worries at times.

Pick up the jar in front of you and shake it. Watch as the glitter swirls around. Now put the jar down. Watch and wait as the glitter settles to the bottom.

In the Bible, God often reminds people to be still, to wait and to trust in him in every situation.

As you watch the glitter settle imagine the worries in your life calming down too. If you want to, quietly ask God to help you know his peace and calm in your life.



God says,
"Be still, and know
that I am God."
Psalm 46:10

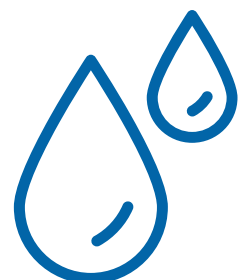
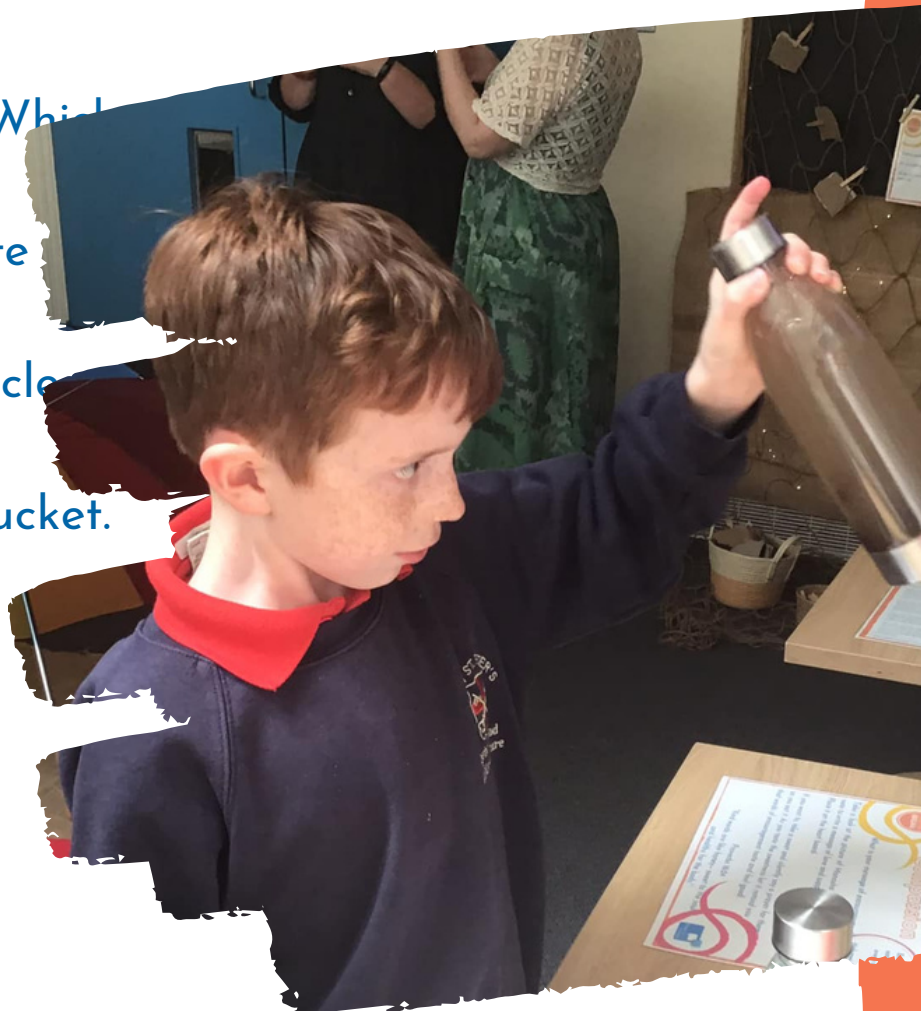
Clean Water

In some parts of the world, people walk miles to collect their water, and often it's filled with dirt or diseases.

Charities like Christian Aid work with partners all over the world to help communities who don't have access to clean water. Read one of the stories in front of you.

Look at the water bottles. Which one would you drink?

If you want to, you can write your thought or prayer for people without clean water onto a droplet, and then drop it into the bucket.



Clean Water



I am
grateful I
can have
clean water.

I hope the
children
who have
dirty water
soon get very
clean water.

Dear God,
Please can you
help people in
other countries
not to get ill.
Amen.

Dear God,
Help our people
find fresh water
from all over.
Amen.

Fizzy Forgiveness

Everybody gets things wrong at times.

When we know we have done something wrong it can stay with us and weigh us down.

If you want to, pick up a tablet and think about those times when you have said or done something you wish you hadn't, or a time when you knew you should act but you didn't.

When you feel ready, drop it into the water. As you watch the tablet dissolve, imagine your wrongdoing disappearing and you being forgiven.



Lord, you are kind
and forgiving.
You have great love for
those who call to you.
Psalm 86:5

Friendship Zips

Friends fall out at times.

When people argue and fight, they get separated from each other. Have you argued with someone recently? Do you know people who don't get on well together?

Zips are clever. Zips bring two sides together. Reconciliation means bringing two sides together. Pick up a zip and think about the people that you want to bring back together. If you want to, you can say a quiet prayer for the people you're thinking of as you do up the zip. This is a reconciliation prayer.



This is my
command:
Love each other.
John 15: 17

Thankful Boards



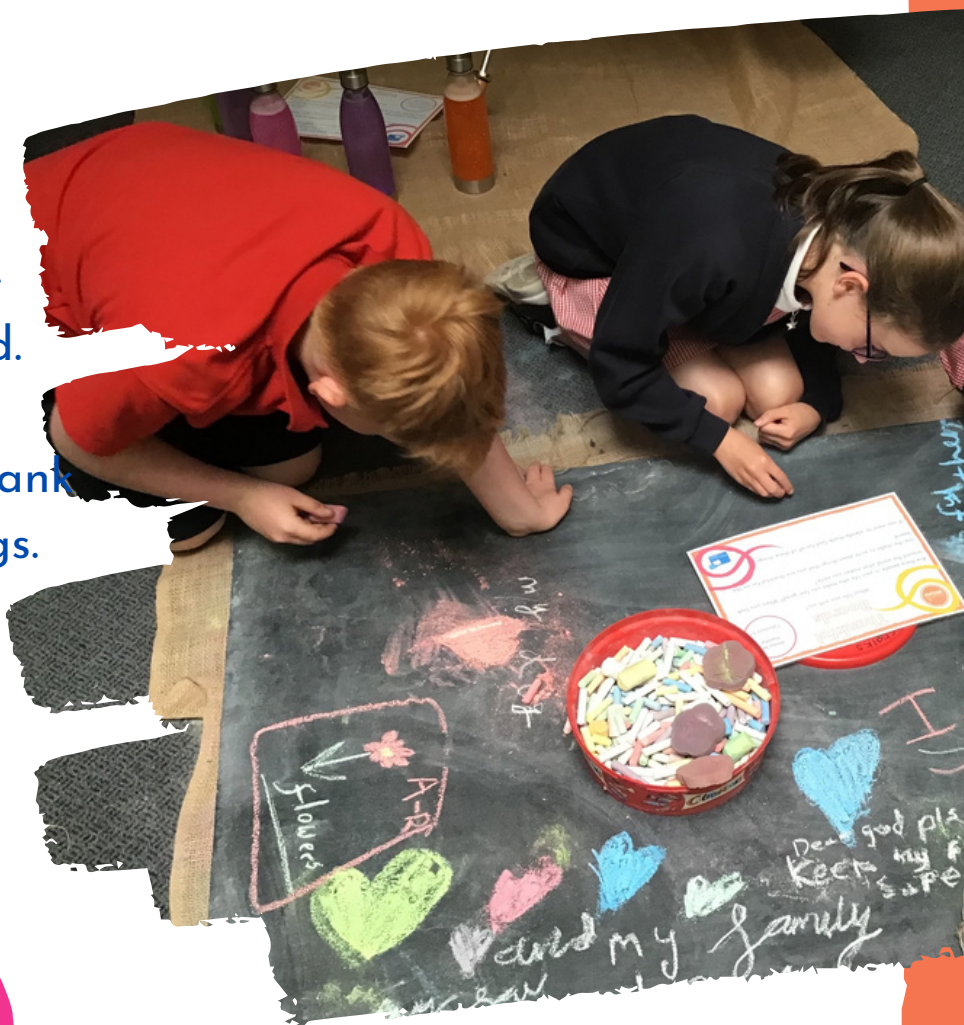
What fills you with joy?

Are there people in your life
who make you feel good?

When you look around the
world what makes you
smile?

Use the chalks to write
down things that you are
thankful for on the board.

If you want to, silently thank
God for all of these things.



Always be
thankful.

Colossians 2:7

Compassion



What is your message of encouragement?

Take a look at the pictures of Manouha who we sponsor through Compassion.

Use a post-it note to write a message of love and support to Manouha. Place it on the heart board.

Take a sweet and, if you want to, silently say a prayer for them as you eat it.



Encourage
each other
every day.

Hebrews 3:13

Compassion



Some of the children's messages have been compiled into cards to send to Manouha.

Encourage each other every day.
Hebrews 3:13

Dear Manouha,

We have been praying for you and thinking of you at Bryn St Peter's CE Primary School.

Here are a few of the children's messages to encourage you.

With lots of love,

are you okay?

how are you doing

you are amazing

what do you like to do at school

If you could go anywhere where would you go?

Are you happy?

God Loves you

Keep going you can do this Elijah

Hope you will be ok

what's your favourite game?

what is your favourite color

what is school like?

what is your favourite food

what is it like in Haiti

you are beautiful and always love you.

nothing

We have been learning to pray using these words.

You can try this too if you'd like to.

You get a teaspoon and use it to help you to talk to God. You can say:

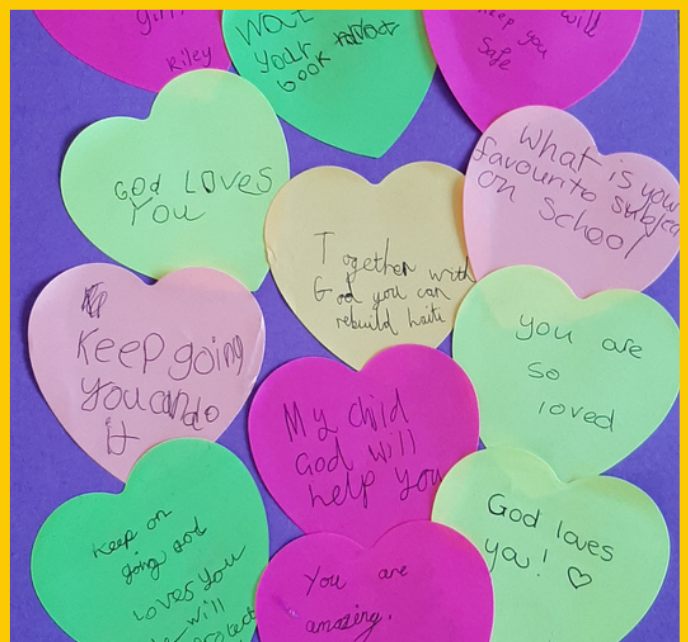
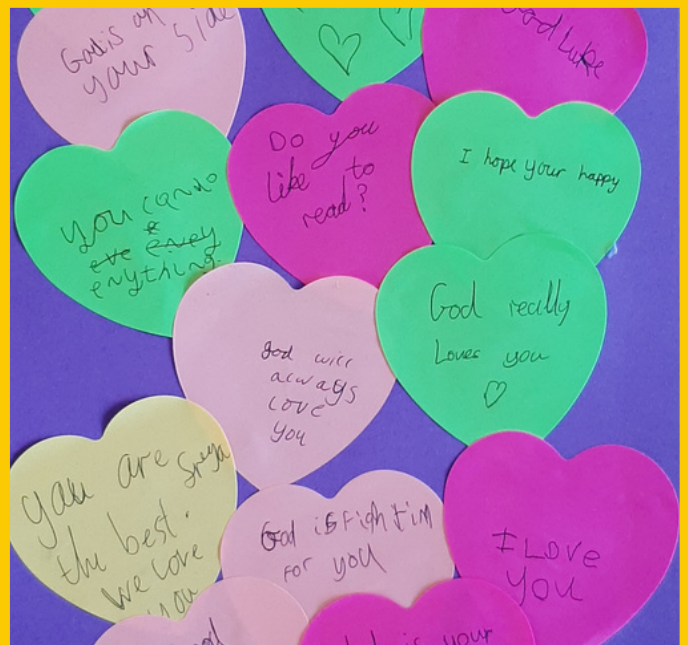
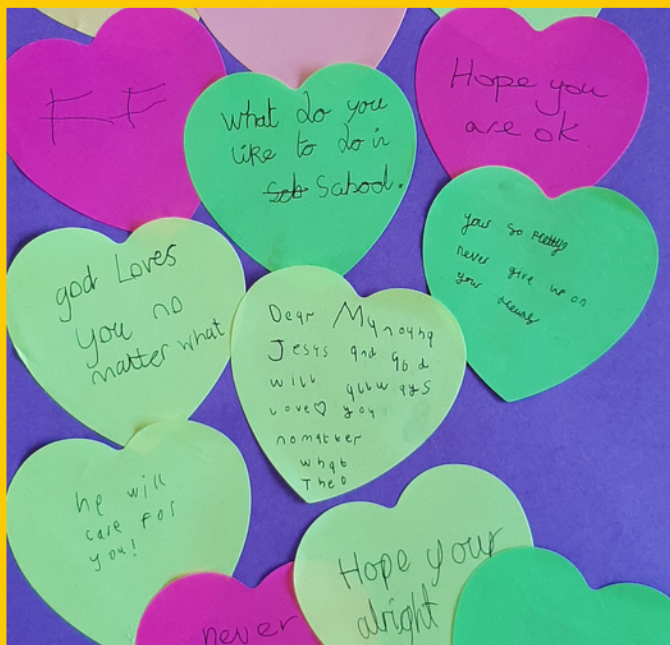
TSP Stir
Thank you
Sorry
Please
Stir me into action

A blue illustration of a spoon with a red and white patterned handle.

Compassion



Some of the children's messages have been compiled into cards to send to Manouha.



Comfort Blanket



We feel afraid when things in our lives seem out of control. People in Ukraine will be feeling afraid about what is going to happen to them, to their families, to their homes and to their jobs.

Take the blanket and wrap it around yourself. Pull it as tight as you can. As you do this, think about those in Ukraine who need support and comfort right now - those who need to feel safe. If you want to, you can whisper your hope or prayer for them.



God comforts us every time we have trouble.
2 Corinthians 1:4

Seat of Power

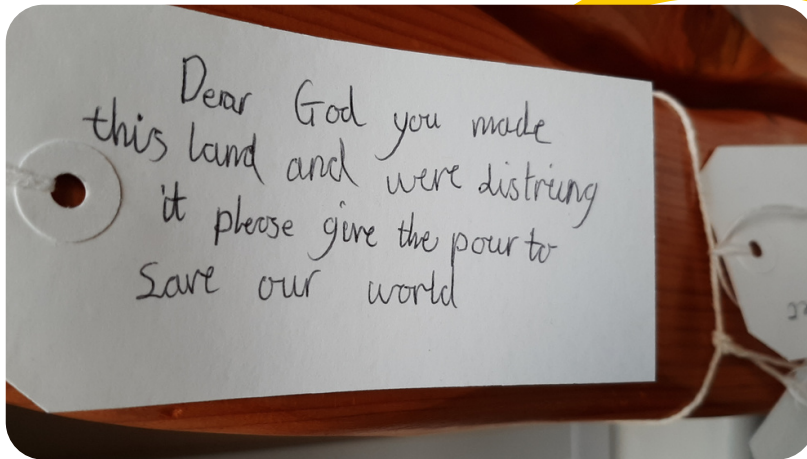
Leaders often have a chair that symbolises their power. In America, the President has one in the Oval Office in the White House. In the UK, the King has a throne. Let's imagine that our chair represents the people who have power to influence the war in Ukraine... the politicians, the military leaders and the other leaders too.

If you want to, you can write or draw a thought or a prayer onto one of the luggage tags for the leaders who have the power to influence and end the war. Those in Ukraine, in Russia and in other nations too. When you're ready, tie it to the chair.



Pray for the
leaders so that we
can have quiet and
peaceful lives.
1 Timothy 2:2

Seat of Power



Dear God,
Please change how some
leaders are treating humans.
Amen.

Dear God,
Help the people in Ukraine
and Russia for what they're
going through. Amen

Dear God,
Can you help bad people to
change their ways. Amen

Dear God,
You made this world and it
is slowly falling apart,
please do something about
it. Amen

Seat of Power



Dear God,
I hope that Ukraine will win
the war between Russia.
Amen

Dear Lord,
Help Ukraine during
tough times.
Amen

Dear God,
Please help homeless
people.
Amen

Dear God,
I hope that all bad things
will end like Raciman's
cancer bully.
Amen

Lord, Please stop wars to
make it a safe world.
Amen

Pray for The World



Look at the world map.

Do you have family or friends who live in another country?

Have you heard about any of these countries on the news?

Take a sticker and place it on the country you have been thinking of.

If you want to, put your hand on the sticker and say a quiet prayer for that place.



Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need.
Philippians 4:6

Mirrors

A crown is a symbol of power worn by a King or Queen. The Bible teaches us that God is the King of Kings. This means that God has more power and authority than any King on this earth. The Bible also teaches us that we can be children of God. This means that we can be sons and daughters of the King of Kings. Kneel on the cushions and take the crown in your hands. Have a good look at it. Think about what it symbolizes. If you'd like to, put the crown on your head and look in the mirror. How does it make you feel to wear the crown? What do you think God might want to say to you as you wear the crown? What do you think it means to be a child of the King of Kings? When you are ready, take the crown off and place it on a cushion.



I am...
made in the
image of God.
Genesis 1:27

Prayers @ The Cross



The Bible tells us that we don't need to worry and that we can ask God for anything we need.

If you want to ask God for help with anything or for anyone, write it on a post-it note and put it inside the cross.

Know that God hears your prayer.

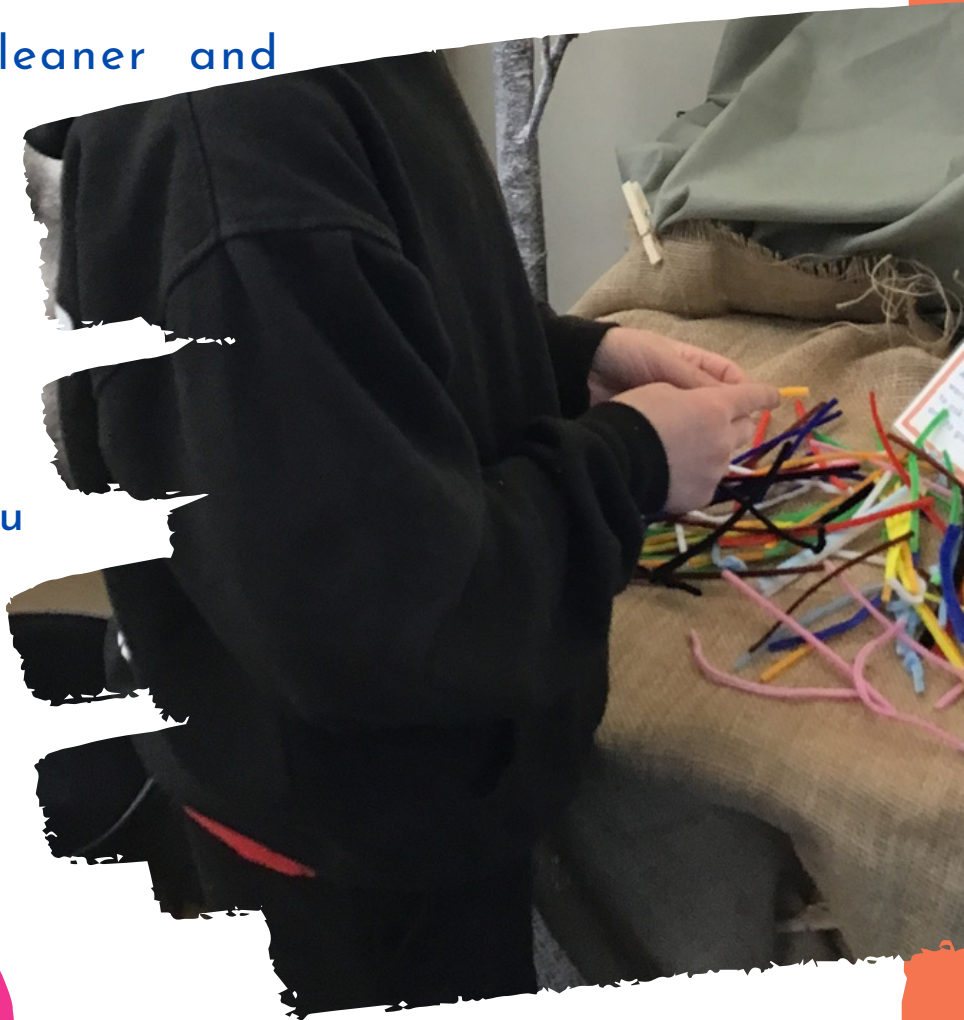


Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need.
Philippians 4:6

Hope Rope

Sometimes people say that they feel 'knotted up' inside with worries and anxieties. What are you worried about right now? Create a knot in the pipe cleaner to represent each worry.

Pick up the pipe cleaner and slowly pull it tight. As you untangle the knots, imagine your worries becoming untangled too. You might like to ask God to help you untangle your worries and to give you hope instead.



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him,
Romans 15:3

Big Questions



Everybody has questions.

Asking questions is a great way of being honest with God.

If you could ask God one question right now, what would you ask?

Write your question on a piece of cardboard and peg it up.



Big Questions



Pupils asked a range of Big Questions. Here is a sample of what they were asking God..

Creation

How did you make the world?
how did you make men and women?
Why does God want bad animals?
Why did you create bad things if you don't want us to do it?
Why did you create feelings and humans?
How did God make us beautiful people?
How did you make the world so big?
Can people stop littering because it is killing the earth and God's creations.
How did you make chickens?
Why did you make space?
Why did you make the world?
What is above the stars above?
Why did you make star constelations?

Heaven & Life After Death

Can you bring my dog back alive again?
Can you revive my Grandads?
What is it like in heaven?
Why do people have to die?
How are my Grandma and Grandad in heaven?
How did I get to heaven?
Can you keep my family alive?
Can you change your age in heaven?
Will I go to heaven?
Is heaven real?

God's Character

Why are you amazing?
Why are you so big God?

Mystery

If God made the universe, who made God?
how did you cure the blind man?
What is the meaning of life?
What is it like to be the miracle of the whole world?



Big Questions



Pupils asked a range of Big Questions. Here is a sample of what they were asking God...

Personal

Do you love me?
Please can you help my Mummy?
Please can I have a cat?
Can you heal my Grandma?
Please can I go to Granny's house?
Will I get a horse when I'm older or not? I really want one.
Please help me to love and be happy at all times.
What is my future?
Should I play rugby?
Can you help my friend with spelling and reading?
Why are things not that cheap?
Please help my Mum to get better.
I need help with maths.
Can you help my brother?
Can I be with my Grandad?
Can I be with you God?
Please God can I watch grown up youtube?
Please help me to reach my goals.

War & Poverty

Can you help the people in Ukraine?
When will you help Ukraine?
Why can't we all live in peace with one another?
Why are people still starving?
Why do some people have no home?

Character Development

Help us to be kind.
please help me to be more thoughtful.
How can I be calmer?
Please help me to love more.

Analysis of Questions



The majority of questions were on the themes of:

- Creation
- Heaven and life after death
- Personal suffering
- Personal hopes for the future
- Personal requests

Fewer questions were posed on the themes of:

- God's character
- General themes of suffering eg, war, poverty, sickness

Impact Overview

At the end of each session each class were given an evaluation form to reflect on their experience. Here are some of the findings...



How do you feel now you have been to the prayer space?

Calm because I felt closer to God.

The room felt very different. I felt full of energy.

Fresh!

Relaxed!

The quiet gave me chance to relax.

Happy!

Peaceful and calm

I felt in control whilst I was doing the activities.

Happy because I enjoyed the activities.

Sad because I didn't want it to be over!

Pupil Responses



How do you feel now you have been to the prayer space?

Suprised! I wasn't looking forward to it and I really enjoyed it!

I thought about other people around the world.

wound down

I thought about Jesus.

content

It made me feel calm.

Excited because of all the fun things we had done.



Pupil Responses



Which activities did you find the most helpful?

	Thankful Board	Stars	Calm Jars	Mirrors & Crowns	Bricks	Fizzy Forgiveness	Hope Rope	Friendship Zips	Pray for the World	Living Stones
Rec	Helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful
Y1	Not helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful
Y2	Helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Helpful	Helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful
Y3	Helpful	Helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Not helpful
Y4	Helpful	Helpful	Helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Not helpful
Y5	Helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful
Y6	Helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Not helpful	Helpful	Not helpful	Helpful

How did the activities help you?



Thankful Boards
It made me feel grateful for my family.

Thankful Boards
It was super satisfying. It made me thankful.

Thankful Boards
I liked drawing someone special.

Calm Jars
It really helped me to relax.

Calm Jars
The glitter jars helped me to focus on praying.

Calm Jars
The bottles made me feel calm.

Stars
It was very calming.

Stars
It made me feel cosy.

Zips
It helped me to forgive my brother when we fall out.

Stars
It helped me to think about God and it was peaceful.

How did the activities help you?



Crowns

I remembered how special God is and I also thought about how important I am.

Crowns

It made me feel special.

Bricks

Lego helped me to focus on my future - it made me happy.

Bricks

The lego helped me to think about building my future.

Fizzy Forgiveness

It helped me to forgive.

Fizzy Forgiveness

It helped me to get rid of my anger.

Hope Rope

It made me feel sad, thinking about people who have died.

Pray for the World

It helped me to remember my Grandad in another country.

Pray for the World

It was interesting to think about other countries and to say a prayer for others.

Summary of Impact

The vast majority of pupils who came to the prayer space said they would like to do something similar again.

Many pupils found the prayer space helped them to feel calm, relaxed and peaceful. For some pupil, they left the space feeling excited by what they'd experienced.

The most popular prayer activities were calm jars and thankful boards. Pupils found calm jars particularly helpful because it enabled them to be still, relax and focus on praying. Pupils especially enjoyed the opportunity to be creative using the thankful board and spending time thinking about what makes them feel grateful.



Next Steps

- Consider using some of these activities in the prayer shed for pupils to engage with at break and lunch times.
- Look at pupils' questions response analysis and plan opportunities for pupils to explore these ideas further in collective worship or RE.
- Develop a shared language to talk about spirituality to support pupils and adults to express their spiritual development and plan further opportunities across the curriculum.





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