

## Farington Moss St. Paul's C. of E. Primary School

### Worship

Worship at St. Paul's is a special time for all children and staff to share our school Christian values and reflect on how we can live our lives to support one another and grow together.

*'Learning, growing, achieving and caring together within our Christian family' is at the heart of our Mission statement.*

Worship themes are planned for the year and follow a Gospel theme each half term. The themes are explored further in class through RE lessons, Art, Music and Drama. Children's work, thoughts and reflections are displayed in class, on the Worship unit, in Church and are an essential part of our learning environment. Throughout the year the work is added to our 'Ethos Book.'

### *Academic year 2015-2016: Worship themes*

*Autumn 1: Creativity*

*Autumn 2: Respect*

*Spring 1: Justice*

*Spring 2: Lent, Easter and Self-control*

*Summer 1: Truthfulness*

*Summer 2: Joy*

In 2016 we have formed a Worship and Ethos group to help to plan and lead worship at times throughout the year.

Every class has a worship table linked to a special theme, season, topic or event valued by the class and this provides a focus point in class worship.

Each week the pattern of worship follows the following timetable

Monday: Whole school led by the Head Teacher

Tuesday: Whole school led by the vicar of St. Paul's Church

Wednesday: Y.R, 1 & 2 led by KS 1 teacher. Y.3, 4, 5 & 6 led by KS 2 teacher on a rota or Hymn singing

Thursday: Class worship led by the class teacher or in Y.6 by the children who plan, prepare and deliver their own worship

Friday: Celebration assembly at 2.30pm to which Parents, carers and friends are warmly invited.

Once every half term one class will invite parents and family members to a whole school worship led by the children.

Worship begins with music, the lighting of a candle or the introduction of a special focus such as a vase of flowers, an image, a cross, a natural object or significant artefact. The children are told that this is a special time to think and reflect on Christian messages and values. There is time to listen, observe, participate, reflect, be still and sing. Everyone in worship can sing hymns which are accompanied with live music played by the teachers or a CD. Prayers are said. Worship concludes with the children departing to class whilst music is played.

At regular intervals a 'Worship chair' is introduced in worship and placed in school for children to contribute their thoughts and

feelings about the theme following the whole school collective worship. It is intended that the provision of the chair with artefacts, pictures, questions and suggested activities allows the children the opportunity to think about their feelings, relationships and their ability to make a difference to their communities. Children who take part in the activities are given the opportunity to develop a range of skills. These skills include;

- Interpretation
- Reflection
- Empathy
- Application
- Expression
- Self-understanding

The on-going activities from worship are designed to promote positive attitudes such as **curiosity** to explore religious ideas through reflection, empathy and imagination. In addition they encourage **respect** to recognise the needs and concerns of others and to develop a balanced sense of self-worth and value.