



Prayer & Reflection Space

Wychwood C of E Primary School

12th-15th June 2023



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Introduction

This report has been created so that you have a record of the Prayer & Reflection Space which took place in your school. For each Prayer & Reflection Space 'activity' we have included a brief explanation and some photos. Where possible we have also included a selection of some of the responses that were made. Hopefully this will give you some indication of the impact that the Prayer & Reflection Space had on the young people within your school.



The BeSpace was organised by Anne Finch, RE coordinator and teacher at Wychwood Primary School, supported by Rosy Taylor from BeSpace.

The activities were supported by the Vicar, Revd Geoffrey Clement and Associate Priest, Revd Karen from Wychwood Benefice as well as many others from the Benefice and local community.

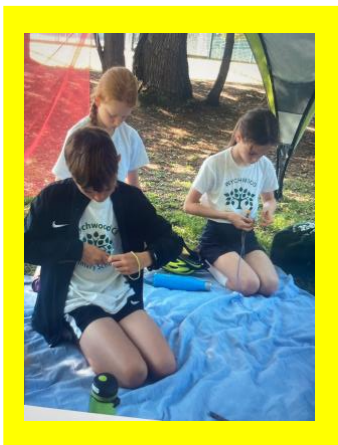
Sorry Sand

The children had the opportunity to think about anything that they were sorry for or regretted doing. We talked about how Christians believe that when they say sorry to God, He forgives them and gives them a fresh start. They then had the opportunity to write the word 'Sorry' (or a big 'S' for Sorry) into the sand as they thought about being sorry. They could then wipe away what they had written as a way of moving on and having a fresh start or accepting forgiveness.



Thankful Sticks

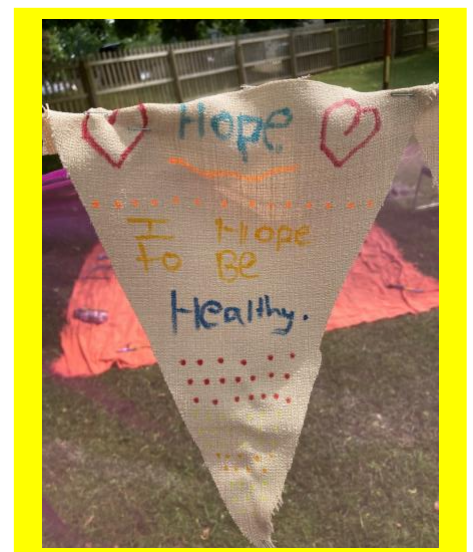
For this activity the children had the opportunity to think about all the people that they were thankful for in their lives. We talked about how Christians like to thank God for these special people in their lives. The children were then able to wrap a piece of coloured yarn around the stick as they thought about each person that they were thankful for, saying a thankful thought or prayer for them as they did.



Hope Bunting

For this activity the children were thinking about their hopes and dreams. They talked about these being small that could happen today, or huge hopes that, sometimes feel impossible. Christians often share their hopes and dreams with God. They might ask him to find a way forward or to keep going when they are finding it hard.

The children had the opportunity to write or draw their hopes and dreams on some bunting. The bunting will then be placed around the school as a reminder of their hopes and dreams and this prayer and reflection week.



Please Leaves

In this activity the children thought about if there was anything on their mind, if they had any worries about the future, if there was anything that they needed help with.

They talked about how Christians believe that God cares about all their worries and needs and hears all our prayers.

They had the opportunity to write or draw on a leaf template anything that was on their minds, or worrying them. They then attached it to some netting that was in the trees.



Please Bubbles

On the same station as the Please Leaves, the children had an additional activity to complete. Once they had put the leaves on the netting, they had the opportunity to blow some bubbles as a prayer or as a reflection as they thought about any worries that they had.



Feedback

Following each group's session within the Prayer Space all of the young people were given the opportunity to give feedback. They were encouraged to think about an answer to one or more of the following questions:

- How did the BeSpace make you feel?
- Which was your favourite activity and why?

I feel like I got to know more about prayers. My favourite was the hope one

I am feeling like I learnt a lot. My favourite activity was the writing on the pieces of fabric

Calm and happy. The sand because we were saying sorry for all our bad things

I am feeling calm. Please leaves because you can show people what to do

I feel calm. The string and stick was fun

I am feeling hot and relaxed. Making the sticks and bubbles because they made me feel the most relaxed

I feel peaceful and happy. All of them because they helped me to get close to God

I feel relaxed and safe. My favourite was the thank you sticks

I feel like I have been forgiven. My favourite was the sticks

Calm and happy. The sorry sand because it reminded me of the beach

Reflection and comments from the volunteers and staff

It was a great week. Thanks. There was a lot of serious thoughts and reflection expressed. The children told me they enjoyed what they were doing and seemed to enjoy each activity. Thoughtful sticks and bubbles seemed to be most popular.

I think for me the great asset of the activities was that they gave us an opportunity to chat with the children about the various themes of prayer and reflection whilst doing the activity itself. I think it gave a "safe space" to chat about stuff in a very non threatening atmosphere - if that makes sense. It is so much easier to open up to the conversation if you have the safety of doing something with you hands and no direct need for eye contact. Not sure if I've expressed this very well, but I certainly found that I had some deep and thoughtful conversations about prayer, reflection, and some personal subjects that might otherwise been difficult for the children to talk about openly.

It was a pleasure. I think it was a great success and was enjoyed by the pupils and facilitators. Even some of the teachers joined in with the activities.

Rosy from BeSpace and all the volunteers from the church community for providing children throughout the school with such a lovely calm, safe environment in which to reflect on their hopes, regrets, gratitude's and worries. Through a range of engaging activities each child's thoughts and ideas were respected and valued, allowing them to express their feelings freely and empowering them with strategies to help in the future.

The setting for these activities was wonderful, set in shaded, quiet spaces among the trees, the children were totally engaged and even when playtime was going on around them on the field it didn't distract their thoughts.

The tasks were well designed and accessible for everyone. The prayer space leaders had a lovely manner with the children.

These activities were entirely appropriate for KS1, the organisation worked well, and the small groups gave everyone time to contribute and reflect on each activity.