

First Year of the Cycle

Autumn Term

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: A NEW BEGINNING

Date:

Summary: Collective worship marks the beginning of a new school year by considering the challenges and opportunities afforded by a new start.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on the chance to make a new start with all its opportunities, despite what may have gone before.

Moral: consider how much more ready we may be to demand a fresh start for others than offer it to ourselves;
think about the need to say sorry.

Social: understand the importance of co-operation and mutual support.

Cultural: extend their understanding of the concept of starting afresh through the Jewish celebration of Yom Kippur.

Theme for Week	A NEW BEGINNING	Day
Theme for Today	A new adventure	1

After a long summer holiday, we are now making a new beginning. For some people, it is a strange new beginning.

For many pupils, this is a new school - and for everyone, it is a new year. There are new things to do, new people to meet and new jobs to do.

Not many people like to say it, but a new beginning can be a scary time. Will we manage all right? Will we get on with everybody? Will we get on with *somebody*?

It is also scary because any new adventure is a challenge. The future stretches out in front of us - and it's up to us to give it our best shot.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be thankful for new beginnings.
 Let us remember those who are scared of new beginnings.
 Let us make the most of this new beginning.

7 How do you feel at this big change in your life? Remember that for everyone it is a new start.

8 Last year went by very quickly. How ready are you to make a good start to this one straight away?

9 Year 9 is the approximate half way point in secondary education. How ready are you for the changes this new start brings?

10 For most people, Year 10 marks an important change in their life. As you begin the year, are you ready for a new seriousness in your work?

11 It hardly seems any time ago when you started in Senior School - and now you are in your final year of compulsory education. You probably have lots to do, and have already been working hard. How ready are you for the final effort?

Theme for Week	A NEW BEGINNING	Day
Theme for Today	A fresh start	2

Life is not always easy. We all make mistakes. We say things and do things which we know are wrong. We may upset other people, at school and at home.

We don't always find it easy to say that we are wrong. And there are some people who remind us about our mistakes all the time!

But a new year is a chance to begin again. Like a new exercise book, we can make a fresh start. We cannot go back to the past - that's history. Our business is with today - and tomorrow.

So, if someone has upset us, is it worth holding it against them?

If we have made a mess of things before, now we can make a new start with this new beginning.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be ready to forgive someone who lets us down.

Let us be ready to say 'sorry' when we should.

Let us be ready to give ourselves, and others, a fresh start.

7 In a new school there is so much to think about and so much to do. Where will you go for help if things go wrong?

8 Last year had its 'ups and downs' for most people. What have you learned from your mistakes?

9 When people let us down, we can get very angry. When we let ourselves down, we can be cross with ourselves. Are we ready to give ourselves, and others, a fresh start?

10 This is a very important new beginning with GCSE work starting in earnest. How will you deal with your past experiences and use them to help you now?

11 The two years of Key Stage 4 are hard work. Being honest with ourselves about it does not only remind us of what we haven't finished, it also challenges us to be positive. What is your biggest challenge for this year?

Theme for Week	A NEW BEGINNING	Day
Theme for Today	Saying sorry	3

The holiest day of the year for Jewish people is Yom Kippur. It is a 'saying - sorry' day. Of course, it's not the only time Jews say they are sorry but it is a very significant day which they call the Day of Atonement. On this day they restore their relationships with other people and with God. It's an at-one-ment day, when they are at one with each other and with God.

This is the day when, Jews believe, the gates of Heaven are open for prayers of repentance. Worshippers fast all day until the ram's horn is blown in the synagogue at dusk to mark the end of the day and the closing of the gates. Then the feast begins and with it, a new start for the year to come.

Reflection/Prayer

How easy is it to say, "I'm sorry"?

7 Why is it hard sometimes to say you're sorry?

8 What would someone have to say sorry to God for?

9 Who are you at-one with?

10 How does it feel to be at odds with someone because of something you've done or said?

11 When is saying you're sorry not enough?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: RULES AND REGULATIONS

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship considers the need for and importance of rules.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: consider a framework for living their own lives.

Moral: reflect on the value of agreement on moral issues and of an accepted framework of morality.

Social: recognise the need for, and value of, laws in society.

Cultural: think about the cultural conditions of some codes of conduct.

Theme for Week	RULES & REGULATIONS	Day
Theme for Today	School Rules	1

(Insert copy of an extract from the School Rules)

Reflection/Prayer

Lord, give us the strength to keep the law; and the wisdom to know what law to keep.

7 Why do you think these rules were made up? What would happen if no-one paid any attention to them?

8 What should we do if we see rules being broken?

9 If we disagree with a rule, does that mean we can ignore it?

10 If we could achieve some very useful objective by breaking the law, does that make it all right to break the law on this occasion?

11 What rules have you worked out to live your own life by? Where did you get them from?

Theme for Week RULES & REGULATIONS	Day
Theme for Today The Garden of Love	2

The GARDEN of LOVE

*I went to the Garden of Love,
And saw what I never had seen:
A Chapel was built in the midst,
Where I used to play on the green.*

*And the gates of this Chapel were shut,
and "Thou shalt not" writ over the door;
So I turn'd to the Garden of Love
That so many sweet flowers bore;*

*And I saw it was filled with graves,
And tomb-stones where flowers should be;
And Priests in black gowns were walking their rounds,
and binding with briars my joys and desires.*

William Blake - *Songs of Experience*

Reflection/Prayer

How can we tell if there is a difference between what we **want** to do and what we **ought** to do?

7 The poet sees religion as something that spoils the things he enjoys. Why do you think he sees religion that way?

8 'Thou shalt not' is a quotation from the traditional form of some of the Ten Commandments. Why does it upset people to be told not to do something? Is there a way to tell them without upsetting them?

9 Look up the Ten Commandments (Exodus Ch 20). How good a set of rules for living are they? How could you make them more positive by rewriting them in different words?

10 The poet seems to be against religion and the laws of religion. How different would the world be if they did not exist? Would it be better or worse?

11 What effect does 'Thou shalt not' have on you?

Theme for Week **RULES & REGULATIONS**

Day

Theme for Today A Story of Injustice

3

This is a story of injustice.

King Ahab of Israel was sulking in his palace. He would not eat; he turned his face to the wall and was thoroughly miserable. His wife Jezebel asked him what was wrong.

Ahab explained he wanted to extend the palace garden to grow vegetables. He wanted to buy a piece of land for this from his next-door neighbour Naboth, but Naboth did not want to sell it.

Jezebel thought Ahab was a wimp. If he was King, he should be able to have his own way. She decided to get the land for him.

So she wrote a letter to the officials in Naboth's city and sealed it with the king's seal. She told the officials to call a big meeting of all the people, and to accuse Naboth of a terrible crime and sentence him to be killed. They did as they were told, and Naboth, to his surprise, found himself accused of a crime he had not done and sentenced to death.

After he had been killed, Jezebel went to her husband and said "You can have your vegetable garden now. Naboth does not need it any more, because he is dead."

Reflection/Prayer

I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you a new obedient heart. I will see to it that you follow my laws.

Ezekiel 36: 26-27

7 What rules were broken in this story? Why were they broken?

8 Who could have stopped the injustice here? Why wasn't it stopped?

9 Think of an example of something unfair or unjust in your experience. What could be done about it?

10 How can rules and regulations stop injustice and unfairness? What else is needed?

11 What would people need to be like, to make rules and regulations redundant?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: BELONGING

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship looks at the importance of belonging to a family, a school and a country and the responsibilities these involve.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

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Artefacts

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Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on where they 'fit' in layers/dimensions of life experience.

Moral: recognise that they have responsibilities to others and that the decisions they make have implications for others.

Social: consider the multi-faceted nature of society, and that the 'end product' is the result of people working together.

Cultural: ponder the contrast between pride in themselves, their family, school and country and the awareness that we 'belong' to each other, regardless of nationality, education or background.

Theme for Week BELONGING

Day

Theme for Today Proud to belong to a family

1

Everybody here belongs to a family. Some families are very large - perhaps you have several brothers and sisters, or maybe an uncle or a grandparent who lives with you. Others are very small - maybe just you and your mum or dad.

How well does your family get on with each other? In most normal families, there are usually some disagreements and arguments, but often these are quickly forgotten.

Sometimes, however, the arguments are serious, and a family can split up. But even then, people still belong to each other.

There is a saying that 'blood is thicker than water' - it means that, come what may, people who are related to each other, who are in a family, will always stick together.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us give thanks for those who care for us.
Let us remember that care is a two-way street.

7 If you have brothers and sisters, how would you like to be an 'only child'? If you are an only child, how would you like to have a brother or sister?

8 Parents and children can take each other for granted. What have you done recently to show love to your family?

9 Pupils in Year 9 are at an in-between stage. Sometimes your parents expect you to act like an adult; at other times they ask, "Who do you think you are?" How much is that their fault, and how much is it yours?

10 When arguments split families, it is easy to start 'taking sides'. But is it always helpful?

11 In a few years' time, what will you be saying to your children about the importance of family loyalty?

Theme for Week BELONGING	Day
Theme for Today Proud to belong to a School	2

Most people are very proud of their school. They may not always admit it, but it is a good feeling to belong.

When a school basketball or netball team is playing against another school, the team and their supporters feel they belong to each other.

When a pupil of the school goes on to do great things - perhaps become an international sports person, or a famous writer or a Member of Parliament - then the school is proud to say that the person 'belonged' to them.

But even though pupils wear the school badge, they may not always act as if they belong to the school. What about the pupil who messes about in a lesson and spoils it for the rest? What about the person who misses rehearsals for a school play? What about the person who causes trouble on the bus home, or outside the shops?

Belonging to a school like ours has its privileges and its responsibilities. It's not just what you **get** from the **school**. It's what you **give** as well.

Reflection/Prayer

This is our school
 May all who dwell here live happily together
 May our school be full of joy
 May love dwell among us every day
 Love of one another, love of all people everywhere
 Love of life itself and love of God

Let us remember that as many hands build a house
 So every person can make this school a lovely place

I am only one person
 But I am one
 What I can do, I ought to do
 And what I ought to do, by the grace of God, I will do. Amen

7 How do you show you belong?

8 When you feel that someone has let the school down, how do you react to that person?

9 Are you taking full advantage of belonging to this school?

10 Who is most responsible for your academic success at school?

11 Can you only fully appreciate a school after you have left?

Theme for Week BELONGING

Day

Theme for Today Proud to belong to your country

3

At the Olympics and many other athletic events, the winner often does a lap of honour. Everyone cheers and the person collects their national flag from a member of the crowd and waves it high above their head.

In the 1994 Commonwealth Games, one woman athlete from Australia carried two flags. One was the Australian flag, the other was the Aboriginal flag. She was showing that she was proud to belong to her culture and to her country.

People usually treat their national flag with great respect. In a way, it belongs to them. In America, the Stars and Stripes is in every classroom in a school. It reminds the students that they belong to America.

Unfortunately, people sometimes forget that they don't just belong to their country. They belong to the world as well.

Sadly, they think that their country is the only country that really matters. That sort of attitude leads to arguments, fights and war.

That's when pride in belonging to your country can go wrong.

Reflection/Prayer

The focus for the runner is the finishing line.
May our focus be on what is really important.

7 When do you feel proud of your country?

8 Do you think everyone in the world should be able to speak English? Why?

9 America is a land of many different cultures. Why do they not always get on with each other?

10 Hitler said that white people were better than anyone else. Britain and the Allies thought that he was wrong- and fought against him. So why is there racism in Britain today?

11 Sometimes, in a demonstration, the protesters may burn a national flag. What do you think when you see something like that happening?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship focuses on Harvest celebrations, and looks at why we have harvest and why harvest should make us think

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on the cycles in life, and their responsibilities in them.

Moral: consider issues of justice and fairness in the availability of the world's food supply.

Social: be aware of the nature of communities needing to work together, even when what is done is unseen.

Cultural: reflect on the cultural and religious heritage and background to harvest.

Theme for Week WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Day

Theme for Today Country Harvest

1

In the old days, there were two harvest festivals for the Jewish people.

The first was at the beginning of the Harvest, as the first crops started to be brought in. The Jews called this time of year 'Pentecost' and asked God to bless the rest of the harvest.

The second was at the end of Harvest, when everything had been brought in, including the wine. This was called 'Tabernacles' or Succot.

Both were reminders of the cycle of life. Just as Spring is always followed by Summer, Autumn and Winter, so Pentecost was a time to look forward to the rest of the Harvest and Tabernacles the time to look forward to the rest of the year.

When Tabernacles was complete, the Jews knew that there would be enough food until the next Harvest. They could now plan their future. They now knew they had a future and could start thinking about their plans for the next harvest!

For the Jews, Harvest Festival was when all the people were thanking God for the past, and thinking about the future.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be thankful for the past.
Let us be thoughtful for the future.

7 How good are you at planning for the future? When do you pack your bag for school?

8 Who does the food shopping for you? It needs planning as well as carrying! How could you help?

9 What control do you have over the future?

10 Harvest is about looking forward a whole year. How far forward do you look?

11 Pentecost was not the whole story - it was a short term goal, a progress report. Harvest was completed with Tabernacles. We all need short term goals to tell us we are making progress. But do we think about our long term goals often enough?

Theme for Week	WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER	Day
Theme for Today	City Harvest	2

In Britain, the traditional harvest festival is not that old. It began when a clergyman in Victorian times wanted to remind the people what Harvest was about.

This was because during the Victorian years, people left the country and began to live in towns and cities. They were not so close to the world of farming, and some, in the poorest parts of a town, did not have a garden or a park.

Some children did not know where food came from. How many people here have actually seen a cow being milked?

Maybe at Harvest we can think about **all** the people involved in getting the food to our plate. They may work long hours on the mountains looking after sheep, or spend time on dangerous seas. They may be in a factory processing peas or at the checkouts taking the money. Harvest is not just saying thanks for the food!

It is saying thanks to all the people who make it happen as well.

Reflection/Prayer

Harvest is saying thanks for the people as well as the food.

7 Think about how many people were needed to make the last chocolate bar you ate.

8 Should you really complain if you have to queue for a long time for your fish and chips?

9 What would you say to people who complain about the price of fish?

10 Do we still need Harvest Festivals? Why?

11 Do we need the farmers, or do the farmers need us?

Theme for Week WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

Day

Theme for Today Worldwide Harvest

3

When we visit a shop in England, it's not often that you will see empty shelves. Some people remember the war when food was rationed because it was in short supply. However, there are very few shortages of anything nowadays.

Our food is available all through the year as well. In the old days you didn't eat certain foods unless there was an R in the month. Now it's in a tin, or frozen and in a freezer, and available all year round.

At least, it is in Britain and other countries in the Western World.

But in a country like Malawi, which may not have had any rain for many months, perhaps over a year, then things are not so easy.

We see pictures on the television screens and in the newspapers, but we cannot really imagine what it is like not having enough, when all we need is so easily available.

The sad truth is that there is enough food on the planet for everyone to have what they need.

And we are all on the same planet, whether we live in Malawi or in Britain. We're all in this together.

Reflection/Prayer

We are all on the same planet, whether we live in Malawi or in Britain. We're all in this together.

7 Should we complain about rainy days?

8 When is giving someone food not always the best way to help them?

9 What happens to us if we see too many starving people on TV? Do we stop caring?

10 Does a food shortage make people more thoughtful, or more greedy?

11 What stops people from helping others?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: DISABILITIES

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship looks briefly at the lives of two people with a disability - and asks questions about how pupils respond to such people.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on the nature of what it means to be a person; reflect on human failure in relation to the ways in which people with disabilities are treated.

Moral: consider what responsibilities society, and the individual, have towards disability.

Social: think about ways in which pupils react to those around - perhaps especially those in hospital or who have recently been resettled in the local community.

Cultural: challenge the cultural stereotypes of people who are disabled.

Theme for Week	DISABILITIES	Day
Theme for Today:	Physical Disability	1

One of the problems of being in a wheelchair is that you become invisible.

Rosemary is a lively girl. She supports Aston Villa and she does quite well at her school. She also has an electric wheelchair.

That's because Rosemary has cerebral palsy. The old name for cerebral palsy is 'spastic'. It means that her control over her arms and legs does not always work and she cannot keep them still. She also has to take time to speak.

Why is she invisible?

Of course, she is not really. It's just the way some people treat her. They don't look her in the eye when they go past, as if she isn't really there. Or else they stare at what they call 'her problems' but don't think about Rosemary herself.

And sometimes, they use the word 'spastic' without really thinking.

Reflection/Prayer

Rosemary loves life.

7 What words do you ever use without thinking?

8 What do you think when you see someone in a wheelchair?

9 What do you think a wheelchair might do to a person?

10 What makes it difficult for some people to relate to a person in a wheelchair?

11 What makes it difficult for you to relate to some people?

Theme for Week DISABILITIES	Day
Theme for Today Learning Disabilities	2

Robert cannot read very well. It is because he has Downs Syndrome. He reads very slowly because he has a 'learning disability'. This is the new phrase for Mental Handicap. He could not count up to ten until he was nearly that age. Whilst he was growing up, he needed lots of help at a Special School.

People like Robert can be written off as useless.

What sort of picture do you have of Robert?

It is not a complete picture. Although he has a learning disability, he is a real friend to his friends. He stands by them. He does not say unkind things about them. He enjoys being with them and they enjoy being with him. He helps them just as much as they can help him.

One more thing about Robert. After years of really hard work, he has just received his Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award from the Duke of Edinburgh himself.

It was a proud moment.

Reflection/Prayer

Robert loves life.

7 How good a friend are you?

8 What have you ever found very difficult to do?

9 How do you make your 'pictures' of people?

10 How do you think Robert's parents felt when he went to Buckingham Palace?

11 Why is stereotyping dangerous?

Theme for Week	DISABILITIES	Day
Theme for Today:	People with a Disability	3

The stories of Rosemary and Robert are both true, although their names have been changed.

They are real people who both enjoy life to the full.

They meet all kinds of people.

Some are unkind. They say nasty things about them or call them names. They take advantage of them.

Some are very kind, but spend time feeling sorry for them or pitying them.

The best kind of people they meet are the ones who treat them simply as Rosemary and Robert. They know they need special help from time to time. However, they also know that Rosemary and Robert want to be treated just the same as everyone else.

Reflection/Prayer

Treat others as you would like them to treat you.

7 Many pupils at school are good at helping others. What do you think is the best sort of help you can give?

8 How easy is it to get round your school in a wheelchair?

9 What have disabled people got that other people haven't?

10 If you have a disability, what is the worst thing that someone has done, thinking they were being helpful? If you don't have a disability, what is the worst thing you could do in an attempt to be helpful?

11 How far do you think it is right to show people with a disability on programmes like 'Children in Need'?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: SAVING THE PLANET

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship encourages pupils to reflect on the earth - where it came from, and why it needs to be looked after.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on meaning and purpose in terms of creation; consider their own sense of meaning and purpose as part of creation.

Moral: consider personal and community responsibilities towards the planet.

Social: recognise that their actions may have consequences for others.

Cultural: ponder on the ways in which some communities have attempted to explain the presence of the planet - and how those with or without faith can draw conclusions from religious viewpoints.

Theme for Week **SAVING THE PLANET**

Day

Theme for Today Look at it another way!

1

If the
great planet Earth
were only a few feet in diameter
floating a few feet above a field some-
where, people would come from everywhere
to marvel at it. People would walk around it, marvell-
ing at its big pools of water, its little pools and the water
flowing between the pools. The people would marvel at the
bumps on it, and the holes in it, and they would marvel at the
very thin layer of gas surrounding it and at the water suspended
in the gas. And all the people would also marvel at all the creatures
walking all around the surface of the ball, and at the creatures in
the water. The people would declare it precious because it was
the only one, and they would protect it so that it would not be
hurt. The ball would be the greatest wonder known, and
people would come to behold it, to be healed, to gain
all knowledge and know beauty, wondering how it
could be. People would love and defend it
with their lives. If the Earth were
only just a few feet in
diameter....

Reflection/Prayer

The famous jazz singer, Louis Armstrong, once sang:

What a wonderful world

7 What is the most wonderful thing about the earth?

8 Why do you think it might make a difference if the earth were small?

9 Why do we have to look after the world?

10 If the ice caps melted, would we worry if we lived at the top of the mountains?

11 Which is the more amazing: structures like the Pyramids in Egypt and the Great Wall of China - or the planet itself?

Theme for Week	SAVING THE PLANET	Day
Theme for Today	Where did it start?	2

There are lots of stories about how the world began and most religions have what is called a 'Creation Story'.

The beliefs of Jews, Muslims and Christians are all rooted in the same story, which can be found in the book of Genesis. This says that the world was made in six days.

On day 1, light and dark was made and God was pleased.

On day 2, the earth and the sky were separated and God was pleased.

On day 3, land and sea separated; plants grew and God was pleased.

On day 4, the sun and the moon were made and God was pleased.

On day 5, birds and fish of the sea were made and God was pleased.

On day 6, animals - including humans - were made and God was pleased.

and on day 7, the story says, God rested.

Few people believe it was exactly like this and scientists talk about the 'big bang' which brought the Universe into being.

But even if the way the story is told is more like a fairy tale than an exact account, all religions, and many people who would not call themselves religious, agree that the planet is unique, that it is good. In the old English translation of the Bible, the phrase 'and God was pleased' is actually translated 'God saw it, and it was good'.

If something is good, then it is worth looking after, whatever your religious beliefs!

Reflection/Prayer

We do not just inherit the world from our parents, we hold it in trust for our children.

7 Think about pet animals you know. What makes them important?

8 When you look at the stars, what does it make you feel about yourself?

9 Why do you like showing good pieces of work to a teacher?

10 Do humans have the right to spoil the world - if it creates jobs for people?

11 How do you react if someone says the world was a chance happening?

Theme for Week **SAVING THE PLANET**

Day

Theme for Today **Danger! Poison!**

3

These three statements are true:

A cow ate a plastic bag with some sandwiches in it after someone's picnic. The vet could not save its life.

When the oil tanker hit the rock, nearly a quarter of the birds in that area were killed.

When some chemicals leaked from a factory into a river - people living in the town of Worcester had to go to Malvern to get fresh water from the natural springs.

Pollution - and there are many kinds of it - is deadly. It can kill animals and birds. It can kill plants. It can kill people. In the last few years, we have heard about acid rain destroying forests, radiation from the Chernobyl nuclear power plant making sheep in Wales dangerous to eat, beaches which are dirty because of sewage in the sea.

So often, it seems that people get rid of their rubbish, hoping it won't cause a problem for them, but not really thinking about what happens to other people.

Even in school, we have problems with rubbish, with the litter caught in the flower beds and the chewing gum which ruins people's clothes. (Did you know that chewing gum is banned in Singapore!)

Young people can change the world. Young people have a newer attitude to their environment. It's cool to be green! It's sensible to think about the effect we have on the world around.

Reflection/Prayer

We give thanks for the goodness of the world.

We know that we have to keep it good.

May we be good and keep it.

7 Why is there litter in school?

8 Whose job is it to change the world?

9 Why does a dying cow matter?

10 Does being 'green' depend upon what others think, or on our beliefs?

11 When we are old, what will the next generation say about us?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: SERVICE STATION

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship gives pupils an opportunity to reflect on the first half term of this school year.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on the need for personal development.

Moral: consider the responsibilities they have for themselves in the near future.

Social: realise the importance of opportunities for quiet space in which to reflect.

Cultural: value the religious idea of refreshment through a day of rest.

Theme for Week	SERVICE STATION	Day
Theme for Today	A time to look back	1

The first half term of a school year seems to be very long, but it's soon over. It's a good opportunity to take a break, and think about what has been achieved over the last few weeks.

Some people will have mastered a new skill. They can now do something which they couldn't before. Others have learnt something new, perhaps something surprising, which has helped them understand their work better.

Of course, it may not have been all that easy. There may well have been some things which did not work out; there may be a few painful memories.

What lessons have we learnt? No - not subject lessons, but lessons about how we handle life, how we handle each other, how we handle our strengths and weaknesses.

Half term is like a motorway service station. A chance to take a break, and see how far, and how well, we have travelled.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be
 glad of the good things
 grateful for each other
 and not forget all the lessons we have learnt.

7 Think of your first day of the term. Can you believe how strange it all seemed then? How different does it feel now?

8 Has this half term lived up to your expectations? What are your expectations?

9 At this stage in your time at school, half term is part of the routine. How pleased are you with your progress so far?

10 Pupils in Year 10 often find the first half term of the year cannot come soon enough. The extra time that exam work takes is a challenge. Now is a good time to think how much you have already done - if you have done it! What were the hardest lessons to learn?

11 For pupils in the final year of an exam course, it may seem as though life is going past too fast. There are many deadlines and many responsibilities. Think about what you have achieved - and be proud of it.

Theme for Week	SERVICE STATION	Day
Theme for Today	A time to rest	2

The winter term is the longest term of the year. Half term is an oasis - a chance to have a break from the rush. It's a time for a rest, even though the work won't go away!

Jewish people value times for rest. They remember the old story about how God made the world in six days, and rested on the seventh day. Even though the story is unlikely to be literally true, Jews believe that a regular rest is an important part of life. Some people even call this day of rest a day for recreation. Jews consider it to be a re-souling opportunity for themselves and for the world.

All work and no play make Jack - or Jill - a dull person. Half term is a break from work and it's probably true that we need to fit in regular times of relaxation and recreation into each day and each week. That means enough hours of sleep as well.

The trick, of course, is to keep the balance between relaxation and work!

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be glad of times of quiet and think of those who seem to have too little rest.

7 How good are you at resting?

8 How do you plan times of relaxation? Do they have start and stop times?

9 What difference is there between when you relax with friends, and when you can relax quietly on your own? Is the difference important?

10 Why is rest important?

11 As they approach public exams, some people struggle to relax, whilst others relax too well. How can you get the balance right between 'work and play'?

Theme for Week	SERVICE STATION	Day
Theme for Today	A time to look ahead	3

Half term is soon over, and it's back to work! Holidays always seem too short - at least they do to many people!

A service station on a motorway gives people a break from a journey. It does not mean that the journey is over. The whole point of a service break is that people are refreshed for the rest of that particular journey. It might be a very long journey - with an overnight stop before they arrive. Even so, they know what their next target is. They'll check the map, so that they know where they are, and where they are heading.

What's your target now? What is your vision for the future? What are you hoping to have done by the end of this week? By the end of this month? By the end of term?

It may be school work, or sport, it may be a hobby or an interest. It could be for your future career, or your own personal sense of challenge.

But whatever it is, it's your target. It's your vision. Go for it!

Reflection/Prayer

An old piece of Jewish holy writing says:

Where there is no vision, the people die.

Proverbs 29:18

7 Some things may not have quite worked out last half term. What could you do to put them right?

8 If your life is like a journey, what is your next service station? What must you do to stay on course?

9 By the end of this year, you are likely to have made key choices about your future. However, could you be thinking about them in the present?

10 During public exams, there are all kinds of targets. How could you improve the way you approach them?

11 In the final year of public exams, the targets all seem very close. But there are other targets on the horizon. You will already be thinking about them - how much thought will they need?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: FIRE

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship uses Guy Fawkes' Day as an opportunity to explore the symbolism of fire.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts
Posters
Video
Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: contemplate the effects of change on themselves and on the world.

Moral: reflect on the implications of decision making.

Social: put others' needs before their own.

Cultural: understand a traditional cultural celebration better.

Theme for Week	FIRE	Day
Theme for Today	Blood and Fire	1

Blood and Fire

'Blood and fire' is the motto of an army, and it sounds quite a good one for a fighting force, trained for killing and destruction.

But in fact it is the motto of quite a different army - the Salvation Army - the Army founded last century by William Booth, who believed that God was calling him to work for the poorest members of society, preaching about the love of God and offering practical care at the same time. The blood in the motto is the Blood of Jesus, from whom the Salvation Army takes its example, and the fire is the Fire of the Holy Spirit, whose inspiration spurs them on in their work.

Here is part of one of William Booth's fiery speeches:

*"While women weep as they do now, I'll fight;
While little children go hungry as they do now, I'll fight;
While men go to prison, in and out, I'll fight; while there
yet remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll
fight - I'll fight to the very end."*

The Salvation Army is still caring for the weak and poor, and still preaching about the love of God.

Reflection/Prayer

*"While women weep as they do now, I'll fight;
While little children go hungry as they do now, I'll fight;
While men go to prison, in and out, I'll fight; while there
yet remains one dark soul without the light of God, I'll
fight - I'll fight to the very end."*

7 What would you care about enough to fight for it to the very end?

8 What do you see in the world which concerns you as much as the needs of the poor concerned William Booth?

9 Will the Salvation Army ever win its fight? How much does it matter?

10 The Salvation Army preaches about God's love, and cares in a very practical way for those in need. What difference would it make if they did one without the other?

11 What would you care enough about now to fight for it to the very end?

Theme for Week	FIRE	Day
Theme for Today	Good Servant, Bad Master	2

Fire warm, burning bright,
bringing life and heat and light;

Fire uncontrolled and red,
house burned, children dead.

Fire cooking good roast meat,
warm and nourishing to eat;

Fire burning unattended,
all destroyed, never mended.

Fire kindled, friendly spark,
cheering presence in the dark;

Fire growing ever faster
Useful servant, cruel master.

Reflection/Prayer

How am I like fire?

7 What is the point the verse is making about fire? What other things are like fire in their way?

8 Some emotions - for instance, anger - are like fire; sometimes it is right to be angry, but not to let it get out of control. When might it be right to be angry?

9 What other emotions are good servants but bad masters? In what circumstances do we let them get out of control?

10 How can we learn to control our emotions? What help might we need?

11 Which emotions and feelings in your experience get most out of control? What measures can you take to control them?

Theme for Week	FIRE	Day
Theme for Today	Guy Fawkes	3

Soon we shall be celebrating Bonfire Night, a celebration which was originally begun to celebrate the failure of the 'Gunpowder Plot' of 1605. As you probably know, this was an attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament, with the King inside, to enable the plotters to seize the chief power in England. The plot failed when Guy Fawkes was discovered in a cellar of the Houses of Parliament, keeping watch over a large amount of gunpowder.

The plotters were trying to start a revolution, to get rid of what they believed was a vile form of government, and replace it with a better one, and they chose to use fire and explosions to do it. From their point of view, they were trying to fight evil with fire.

Reflection/Prayer

If it ain't broke, don't mend it!

Give us the wisdom to decide when change is needed and when it is not.

7 If you could fight evil with fire - what would you set the fire to burn up or blow up? What would you want to destroy completely?

8 When you set out to change things, can you be sure they are going to end up better than before? If not, should you leave them alone?

9 Who has the right to decide to fight evil with fire?

10 Fire is a destroyer; once something is destroyed, it is destroyed forever. What should be taken into account when deciding whether or not to destroy something?

11 When thinking about change, how do you decide whether to gamble on changing something, or to play safe and not change it?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: REMEMBRANCE

Date:

Summary: Collective worship is on the theme of Remembrance, and encourages the school community to remember the dead, the living - and the future.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

- Artefacts**
- Posters**
- Video**
- Slides**

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on ideas of sacrifice, respect and hope for the future.

Moral: consider the morality of war and the complexity of the issues raised by war.

Social: think about their own responsibilities in working for peace with others.

Cultural: ponder the ways in which divisions between countries can lead to war.

Theme for Week REMEMBRANCE	Day
Theme for Today Remembering the Dead	1

Nowadays, Remembrance Day is the Sunday nearest the 11th of November.

Not so long ago, it took place on the 11th of November itself. This was the day in 1918 when the Armistice was signed to end the First World War - the Great War, as it was then known.

It was signed at 11 o'clock, on the 11th of November - the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

In the years after the War, Britain - and many other countries - went quiet at 11 o'clock on the 11th November. There were few cars on the roads, but people walking down the street would stop when they heard a clock chime eleven, men would take off their hats and stand in silence for a few moments.

Suburban trains would come to a halt at eleven o'clock, even if they were between stations, and then start up again two minutes later.

Two quiet minutes, to remember those who did not live to see them.

Reflection/Prayer

At Remembrance, the words of the poem by Laurence Binyon are often said:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
 Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun
 And in the morning
 We will remember them
 We will remember them.*

7 What's the point of remembering?

8 What's the point of remembering?

9 What's the point of remembering?

10 What's the point of remembering?

11 What's the point of remembering?

Theme for Week	REMEMBRANCE	Day
Theme for Today	Remembering the Living	2

Remembrance is not simply about the past. For many people it is about the present as well.

The Haig Fund sells poppies to provide money for ex-servicemen and women and their partners. This takes place through many different practical forms of help, from providing funds for help with repairs to Homes for ex-service people to live in.

Ex-servicemen and women are not simply those who fought in the First World War (and who are now a great age and often very frail) nor those who fought in the Second World War either. They also include men and women in many campaigns since 1945. Members of the Army, Navy and Air Force have seen action in places like the Falkland Islands, the Gulf and in Ireland.

And still today, many have the physical injuries and terrible memories.

When we buy poppies at Remembrance, we do not only remember those who were killed. We also remember those who still suffer today.

Reflection/Prayer

At Remembrance, the words of the poem by Laurence Binyon are often said:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
 Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun
 And in the morning
 We will remember them
 We will remember them.*

7 How does remembering help?

8 How does remembering help?

9 How does remembering help?

10 How does remembering help?

11 How does remembering help?

Theme for Week REMEMBRANCE	Day
Theme for Today Remembering the Future	3

One of the old Jewish books says, *They will beat their swords into pruning hooks*. In modern English, we might say, they will melt down their rockets and make them into tractors.

Although war is never a good thing, it is necessary at times because things which are important need to be defended. They need to be looked after. Sadly, some people are never satisfied. They are ready for a fight, often without thinking about the consequences. When this leads to war, people hope for a peace when wrong will be put right. After a war, it is important to **keep** things right.

Peace is not just a time when there is no war. It is a time when everybody is free from the fear of war. It is the time when people have learnt to live with each other - and can solve their problems through words and not fists.

In some ways, the school playground is just as important place to learn about peace as the lessons taught by war itself.

Keeping the peace is a responsibility we all share. Jesus said, "*Blessed are the peace-makers, for they will be children of God*".

Reflection/Prayer

At Remembrance, the words of the poem by Laurence Binyon are often said:

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
 Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
 At the going down of the sun
 And in the morning
 We will remember them
 We will remember them.*

7 What does remembering do for the future?

8 What does remembering do for the future?

9 What does remembering do for the future?

10 What does remembering do for the future?

11 What does remembering do for the future?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: BIRTHDAYS

Date:

Summary: Collective worship gives pupils the opportunity to understand the significance of birthdays, explored in the context of a religious and a national celebration.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on concepts of honour, promise and relationships.

Moral: think about their own relationships, especially with those who have given them guidance over the years.

Social: consider how fair play and honesty affect relationships.

Cultural: understand, through a specific religious story, that the truth it illuminates is universal and transcends cultural differences.

Theme for Week	BIRTHDAYS	Day
Theme for Today	Candles!	1

Many people watch - and enjoy - people's accidents on a home video programme like *You've been framed*. Often, these are at birthday parties... maybe the cake ends up on the floor, or people fall over like dominoes when they are dancing.

On one occasion, at a child's birthday party, a balloon was pushed too close to the cake. A candle flame burst the balloon - and as it burst, it blew out all the other candles as well. The surprise on the child's face was obvious!

We take the candles for granted ... but why are they there? In Christianity, a candle was given to a baby when he or she was baptised. It was a symbol of passing 'from darkness into light'. It was a time when parents and Godparents made promises about the way they would guide the baby's future, until the child was old enough to make promises for him or herself.

On the anniversary of their baptism or on their birthday, the candle was lit again. Nowadays, when the cake candles are blown out, people make a wish.

The candle is a sign of hope, a reminder of promises made in the past, and a light to point into your future.

Reflection/Prayer

Let us be thankful for those who have guided us.

7 Is it your birthday soon? Are you old enough to make decisions for yourself? How do you know?

8 Who has guided you so far through life? What do you think it has cost them - apart from money?

9 Parents and children don't always get on. They do not always agree about what is best for the child. When should a child make decisions about the future?

10 What are the signs of hope that you see in your life?

11 If wishes came true, what wish would you make on your birthday - for the people who brought you up?

Theme for Week	BIRTHDAYS	Day
Theme for Today	Guru Nanak's Birthday	2

Guru Nanak was the man who started the Sikh religion. In November, Sikhs celebrate Guru Nanak's birthday. They do this by re-telling stories about his life.

One of the stories was about when Guru Nanak was on a long journey telling people about God. People who saw him wanted to give him food. A great feast was prepared with some excellent food being made. They were very keen to give the guru the best, and one rich man called Malik Bhago wanted to impress. Another man, Bhai Lalo, was very poor.

The guru took a piece of chapati from both men and squeezed them. Milk came out of Bhai Lalo's. Out of Malik Bhago's, great drops of blood fell.

The people did not understand, so Guru Nanak explained. "The milk shows that Bhai Lalo's gift is pure. But the blood means that Malik Bhago's gift is a result of his swindling and cheating."

Guru Nanak went on to say, "Giving away food and money means nothing if you have earned it by ill-treating others in the first place".

Reflection/Prayer

The Sikh holy writings say:

*A man may boast to me of his own goodness
But the truth about him will be known in God's presence.*

7 Sometimes we might be disappointed when someone gives us a birthday present. Why would this be a bad reaction?

8 Do you give of your best so that others can see, or simply because you want to?

9 What makes a gift pure?

10 Do you think that Malik Bhago could change his ways? Why is it difficult to change your character?

11 How are some people cheated in life?

Theme for Week	BIRTHDAYS	Day
Theme for Today	Birthday Honours	3

Twice a year in Britain, people are given 'Honours'. One of these is at New Year, the other is on the Queen's Birthday. They are simply called the 'Birthday Honours'.

It is a time when people are given CBEs, MBEs, OBEs or other awards for their hard work. They go to Buckingham Palace and in a special ceremony, are presented with their award.

Although the honours system has been criticised because some Government workers expect them automatically, there are many people who receive honours for their work in their own community.

Whilst sportsmen and women, film stars and TV personalities have received honours, perhaps the most moving are the honours given to people who have devoted a large part of their life to making life better for others. They are not famous, but have stuck at their task, often for many years. They have been busy making a difference.

In recent years, the Birthday Honours have been given to school crossing patrollers, dinner supervisors, community police officers..... all ordinary people who have done an ordinary job - but done it very well indeed.

Quite a birthday present!

Reflection/Prayer

Let us remember those we should honour.

7 An honour is a way of saying thank you. Who helps you most days of your life? How do you say thank you to them?

8 The honours are not just given for ability. They are given for stickability. How much stickability do you have? How well do you see a job through to its end?

9 How fair do you think the honour system is? Does a TV performer who has been 30 years in show business deserve an honour more than an unknown nurse who has spent 30 years looking after people with mental illness?

10 Can you think of four or five people whom you would want to see honoured?

11 Why should some people be singled out and others not?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: HUMILITY

Date:

Summary: Collective worship discusses the humility of a real life hero in the light of 'pride before a fall' and false humility

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: recognise the importance of every individual and to feel valued themselves.

Moral: challenge their own sense of pride.

Social: imagine themselves helping someone in real need.

Cultural: reflect on the nature of the typically British understatement.

Theme for Week	HUMILITY	Day
Theme for Today	Pride before a fall	1

"It's not fair! I wish that I could fly," sighed the frog as he watched the birds soaring high above the garden. "I'm such a clever creature! Surely there must be some way to reach the sky!"

Suddenly he had an idea. "Wait a minute," he shouted to the two young sparrows who had settled down on the lawn to search for worms. "I'm going to fly with you. Just let me get some string from the garden shed."

The frog persuaded the sparrows to hold the string between their beaks. "I can hold on to the middle by my mouth ... and you can fly me to the countryside beyond the garden."

Everything went according to plan and they were soon far beyond the garden walls. The frog was so pleased that his idea had worked that he hardly paid any attention to the beauty of the countryside below. "How clever I am to think of such a great idea," he thought to himself.

The creatures in the fields below were amazed to see the frog 'flying'. "What a brilliant idea," they shouted. "Whoever thought of it?"

The frog was so proud of himself that he had to tell everyone - he was afraid they wouldn't know it was his idea. "It was my idea. didn't I do well?"

But of course, as soon as he opened his mouth, he went tumbling, tumbling down.

Reflection/Prayer

Pride comes before a fall.

7 What was the frog's downfall?

8 What ideas have you ever had that you wanted people to know about?

9 Who owns ideas?

10 What would the frog have lost if he hadn't spoken out?

11 What situations can you think of when it would have been better not to open your mouth?

Theme for Week	HUMILITY	Day
Theme for Today	Painfully Shy	2

Some people are very boastful. Others, however, are painfully shy. They are almost too humble. They are scared to show what they can do because they think people will laugh at them. They say things like, "It doesn't matter", when someone has not quite heard what they said. They look down when volunteers are needed. They stay on the edge of the action, rather than get fully involved. Perhaps you are like that, or you know people like that. Whichever it may be, such people usually have something worth hearing.

Reflection/Prayer

If..... everyone matters
then..... everyone has a right to be heard.

7 How often do you hear people say, "It doesn't matter"?

8 Why do people feel scared of what others think?

9 Do some people 'do themselves down' to make others feel sorry for them?

10 How can we make sure that **all** opinions are heard, not just those of the noisy people?

11 What stops others seeing some of your best qualities?

Theme for Week	HUMILITY	Day
Theme for Today	Humility in Action	3

In our dreams, we like to be the hero, the substitute who scores the winning goal, the passer-by who stops a bank robbery, the romantic moment when the girl rescues the boy - or vice-versa. Maybe we'd like the headlines in the papers to prove it.

In real life, there are heroes. But they would say, "I was just doing my job".

On an air flight from America to Britain, a woman was taken ill. The cabin crew asked, "Is there a doctor on board?" There was, and he discovered how seriously ill the woman was. She needed an operation to get air out of her chest - and they had none of the right equipment in the plane's first aid kit. The cabin crew and the doctor improvised, using sellotape, a coathanger and a bottle of brandy to sterilise the equipment - and the woman's life was saved.

Afterwards, the team shrugged their shoulders. "It simply had to be done," they said.

Reflection/Prayer

Sometimes it simply **has** to be done.

7 How do you think the woman felt afterwards?

8 What would be the best way of thanking these people?

9 Why do people often want the glory?

10 What was the really heroic part of this incident?

11 What would you have said if you had been the hero?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: HOLY BOOKS - WHAT MAKES THEM SACRED?

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship focuses on the sacred writing of three traditions and draws out some of the intrinsic value of the written word.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: recognise that religious people treat holy books with great respect;
acknowledge the significance of memory in their own personal spirituality.

Moral: reflect on the way words are used, especially in relating to others.

Social: consider the power and authority of the written word and contrast this with societies which do not have (or need) a written language.

Cultural: recognise how values are relevant across cultures.

Theme for Week	HOLY BOOKS	Day
Theme for Today	The Bible	1

Someone once described libraries as 'thought in cold storage'. All you have to do is to take a book off the shelf. Even if the person who wrote it lives thousands of miles away, or over a hundred years ago, you can still find out what they thought by reading their words.

Religious people think that God can speak through a book and over the next few days we will think about Holy Books.

One of the first and oldest of these is the Bible. It is a mixture of Jewish and Christian writings. Some of the writing is very old indeed. When it was first written down, it had to be written by hand. It was not until the invention of the printing press that Bibles became cheap enough for people to have one. In fact, the first book ever printed was the Bible.

Now it is available in almost every language in the world. Christians believe that God's message is for everyone, so they try and make sure that everyone can read it in their own language. Still today there are some languages in the world which have not been written down, so specially trained language experts are actually sitting in jungle clearings with a lap top computer turning spoken words into writing.

Reflection/Prayer

Words are precious. Choose them carefully. Use them kindly.

7 How do you care for books?

8 Why is the Bible a best seller?

9 What would it be like to have no words on paper at all? What would you miss?

10 How would it feel to have a book you couldn't understand?

11 What makes books eternal?

Theme for Week	HOLY BOOKS	Day
Theme for Today	The Qur'an	2

Many people know that the Holy Book of Islam is the Qur'an. What they may not know is that the word Qur'an means 'recite'. It is called this because when Muhammad was given the Qur'an, he could not read or write.

Instead when Allah gave him the words through the Angel Gabriel, he had to learn them. Nowadays, Muslims treat with honour someone who learns the Qur'an by heart. They are allowed to add the important name 'Hafiz' to their own, to show that they have memorised the Qur'an.

Learning something by heart makes it your own in a very special way. Some people learn the words of songs, others learn poems, and in exams it helps to remember something off by heart. The words become part of you, and they can be very helpful.

A Muslim prisoner, far from home and without any company, discovered this to be true. He was a Hafiz and he found a lot of comfort in the loneliness of prison because he knew the words of Allah in the Qur'an.

Reflection/Prayer

Memory is precious. Make good memories. Store kind memories.

7 What words do you know by heart?

8 How good is your memory?

9 How do you use your memory?

10 When do you find particular words take on a special meaning in your life?

11 What is your responsibility towards the memories of those who care for you?

Theme for Week	HOLY BOOKS	Day
Theme for Today	The Guru Granth Sahib	3

Every copy of the Guru Granth Sahib, the Sikh holy book, has 1,430 pages. This is so that it is always the same, wherever it is. And wherever a Guru Granth Sahib is, it is always treated with respect.

It may sound strange to some people, but it is always carried above the head whenever it is moved. It has its own room for it to rest in at night. When it is being read out loud, it is on a platform so that everyone is sitting below it.

This is because the holy book is treated as a very important person. The words are alive and important. Sikhs believe that the book is speaking to them about how they should live their life.

Sikh children are given their names using it. The person in charge opens the book at any page. The first letter of the first word on that page is to be the first letter of the child's name.

Like many other religions, Sikhs believe that the holy book should be at the centre of everything they do. It is the source of authority.

Reflection/Prayer

Books are precious. Respect them. Listen to what they say.

7 What things do you have which you treat with respect? Perhaps you look after things better because they are brand new - but what about if they are very old?

8 Is respect in short supply?

9 What makes a holy book more than words on paper?

10 What are the sources of authority in your life? How do you respond to them?

11 What is at the centre of everything you do?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: ADVENT - GETTING READY (but for what?) Date:

Summary: Collective Worship explores the ideas behind advent, looking especially at two key figures remembered by Christians at this time: John the Baptist and Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: consider their own values and attitudes in the 'countdown to Christmas'.

Moral: consider the links between beliefs and actions.

Social: identify crucial links between religion and positive/negative aspects of behaviour in society.

Cultural: challenge a cultural tradition and their own attitudes towards it.

Theme for Week	GETTING READY	Day
Theme for Today	Countdown to Christmas	1

As December starts, many people begin to think seriously about Christmas. Plans are made for presents, food and drink, and adults start to worry, as they hear what their children would like to receive.

Advent is the time of year - the four weeks leading up to Christmas - when Christians think seriously about the **significant meaning** of this time of year. Most Christians worry about food and presents too, but they believe that Christmas is so important a time that they have to prepare themselves as well. They do this by thinking about some of the people in the story of the first Christmas - and asking if they should learn from their example.

Reflection/Prayer

Christmas - getting ready, but for what?

7 What does Christmas mean to you?

8 Who usually does all the hard work in your house for Christmas?

9 How has the 'meaning' of Christmas been changed?

10 What do you think is the real 'meaning' of Christmas?

11 What do you think is a good way of preparing for Christmas?

Theme for Week GETTING READY

Day

Theme for Today He ate locusts

2

During Advent, the four weeks leading up to Christmas, Christians remember some of the people in the story of the first Christmas. One of these was the man who ate locusts. His name was John the Baptist, and he was born a few months before his cousin, Jesus.

John the Baptist is known as the 'forerunner' of Jesus. He went round Galilee in later life telling people to change their ways - ready for God's son. As a mark of their willingness to do this, he baptised them in the River Jordan.

John lived in the wild. The Bible says he ate locusts and wild honey and wore animal skins. He seems to have been a man who stuck to his beliefs, even when it meant he went into prison for it. In the end, he was killed. He accepted that his commitment had to be total.

Reflection/Prayer

Christmas - getting ready, but for what?

7 How good are you at sticking to what you believe is right?

8 John the Baptist's diet was unusual - but there are people who live on less appetising food. What message does this have for us and the food we eat at Christmas?

9 If John the Baptist walked into this room, how would people react to him - and to his message?

10 Is it ever possible for a person to 'change their ways'? If it is, what changes would you - if you are honest - like to see in yourself?

11 John the Baptist did not want to be the centre of attention. Instead he pointed to Jesus. Why do some people like to be the centre of attention?

Theme for Week GETTING READY	Day
Theme for Today She was just a girl	3

During Advent, Christians prepare by thinking about the meaning of Christmas. One of the people they remember is Mary, the Mother of Jesus. As far as we know, she didn't have much money and was probably quite young. The Bible says that an angel came to tell her that she was to have a child and was to call him Jesus. She wasn't married at the time - so the news would have been quite a shock - and the man she was planning to marry wanted to call the whole thing off.

Despite all this, Mary had a positive attitude to whatever the future might bring. Rather than hide away from it, she welcomed it - even if she did so with fear and trembling.

Reflection/Prayer

Christmas - getting ready, but for what?

7 How rich do you have to be to be famous?

8 You will not have the same problems to face as Mary - but what is your attitude to difficult problems?

9 How easy do you think it was for Mary's future husband to believe her story?

10 What parts of the future do people of your age hide from?

11 How prepared are you for what the future could bring?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: HANNUKAH

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship tells the story of determination and hope at the centre of the Jewish Festival of Light.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

This theme contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: consider whether they have future hopes, and how far ahead they should hope!

Moral: reflect on whether 'might is always right' and consider the cost of standing up for one's beliefs.

Social: reflect on the racism in the Hannukah story.

Cultural: be proud of their own culture and understand another culture better.

Theme for Week	HANNUKAH	Day
Theme for Today	Proud to be you!	1

This time of year is when Jewish people celebrate Hannukah.

It is an exciting time, with presents and parties. And for eight days, Jewish families light a row of candles, one on the first day, two on the next, until on the eighth day all the candles are lit. Over the next few days, we will be thinking about the story of Hannukah, and the problems it brought.

The main problem for the Jewish people began with the old Emperor, but it became worse under the new one. Some people thought he was mad, but when the new Emperor, Antiochus, came to power in Persia over two thousand years ago he was very powerful too. In fact, he was so powerful that he was feared by many. All the lands around were made to speak the same language, dress in similar ways ... and change their beliefs.

If they did not change, Antiochus forced them to. To make the Jews do this, he did something which was terrible in their eyes. He set up statues for people to worship in the temple. The Ten Commandments which the Jewish people followed said they must not have statues to worship. Then he decided to keep pigs in the temple even though the strict laws of the Jewish people said they could not eat pork.

For some Jews, this was too much pressure and they changed their ways to fit in better. But some Jews knew it was wrong, and refused to join in.....

Reflection/Prayer

Think of people who are under pressure to change their ways.

7 It is so easy to feel pressure to do the same as others. How can you be strong to do what you know is right?

8 Imagine how people can pick on someone in their class or year. Why is it easier to join in than to stand up for the person?

9 Why should you respect other people's beliefs?

10 There are times when it is good to conform - like driving on the correct side of the road - and there are times when it is right to disagree with the majority. Can you think of examples?

11 How can you ever respect another person if you are ignorant about what they believe? Do you think respect for others matters? Why?

Theme for Week	HANNUKAH	Day
Theme for Today	Against the odds!	2

Despite what Antiochus was doing to the Jewish people, an old, brave priest, Matthias, and his son, Judas, decided to fight back.

Between them - and against the odds - they won many battles. After three years, they eventually drove Antiochus's troops out of the Temple and out of Jerusalem. Judas gained a nickname, 'Maccabeus' which means 'The Hammerer'.

The actual victory was unexpected, because Antiochus had such a large army. However, Judas won, not because he got lucky, but because he was inspired by the importance of sticking to his own beliefs. And because he was not prepared to give up the fight.

When they saw the Temple, though, their hearts sank. It was not the proud building they used to know. It was a mess, with weeds growing everywhere....

Reflection/Prayer

Be grateful for those who don't give up. Try to be more like them.

7 How good are you at sticking to a task?

8 Is there such a thing as 'luck'? Are some people 'lucky' or do people who work the hardest get the most luck?

9 When the odds seem stacked against you, what's the best thing to do?

10 Sometimes people work really hard, but don't get the result they hoped for. How do you handle disappointment?

11 Was Judas Maccabeus brave or stupid? When have you ever done something which others would call stupid, but you know is brave?

Theme for Week	HANNUKAH	Day
Theme for Today	Hope never dies	3

When Judas and his soldiers had beaten Antiochus out of Jerusalem and out of the Temple, they found the Temple in a terrible condition.

The stones were damaged, there were weeds growing everywhere.

Perhaps the worst thing they found was that the lamp had gone out. This lamp was very important because it reminded the Jews that God was always with them. When it went out, it was as if they had been left alone.

As they searched round the Temple, they found one bottle of lamp oil. Although it was only enough for one day, they decided to light it.

The next morning it was still alight ... and every day after that until they had made some more oil. Making the oil took eight days, and the lamp stayed alight all that time. The Jews called it a miracle.

That's the reason why Jewish people nowadays still light festival lamps and candles, one on the first day, two on the second, until they all have been lit. It is a sign of a miracle, a sign that hope need never die.

Because it is a special, holy light, no one is allowed to do any work by its light - and it must be allowed to burn for at least half an hour. Jewish people are encouraged to think about the great miracle and to remember their belief that God is always with them, no matter how bad the situation seems to be.

Reflection/Prayer

May we find hope each day - and learn to share it.

7 Hannukah has a message for the future. What are your hopes for your future?

8 Hannukah has a message of hope for the future. How far ahead do you plan your own future?

9 Hannukah has a message of hope for the future. Why is hope important for you?

10 Hannukah has a message of hope for the future. What is the difference between hope for you and hope for others?

11 Hannukah has a message of hope for the future. How can you give hope to people who feel they are hopeless?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: CHRISTMAS

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship takes a down-to-earth look at the amazing events of Christmas.

School Notes:

Checklist: ideas for large group Collective Worship

Music

Speakers

Drama

Visuals

Artefacts

Posters

Video

Slides

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development

Collective Worship contributes to pupils' development by encouraging them to:-

Spiritual: reflect on how special seemingly ordinary things can become.

Moral: challenge their attitudes to and assumptions about what would be described as 'ordinary'.

Social: reflect on their relationships with those they believe are 'below' them.

Cultural: reflect on the alternative culture presented by the Magnificat.

Theme for Week	CHRISTMAS	Day
Theme for Today	Proud to play her part	1

We don't really know how Mary became Jesus' mother. The Bible tells us that God had chosen Mary to be a special person. She was to have a son, who was to be important in the world.

Mary's reactions are also in the Bible. She was amazed, proud and terrified. But she also said that if God wanted her to do something important, she would do it. Mary sang about how she felt, in a song which we now call the Magnificat. You might think it is a religious song. But if you listen carefully to the words, you may be surprised.

My heart praises the Lord; my soul is glad because of God my Saviour, for he has remembered me, his lowly servant! From now on, all people will call me happy, because of the great things the mighty God has done for me. He has stretched out his mighty arm and scattered the proud with all their plans. He has brought down mighty kings from their thrones and lifted up the lowly. He has filled the hungry with good things and sent the rich away with empty hands.

The message of Christmas begins with an ordinary young woman, probably quite poor. Yet she sees a new world, where ordinary people matter.

And she believes that she must willingly play her part to make it true.

Reflection/Prayer

He has scattered the proud with all their plans.

7 When is pride good? When is pride bad?

8 Mary was happy! Christmas should be happy! Whom do we make happy?

9 Some people think that an expensive present is good. Why would Mary disagree?

10 When do we have a duty to make others happy? Why? How willingly do we do this?

11 Do ordinary people matter? Why?

Theme for Week	CHRISTMAS	Day
Theme for Today	Just a lock up garage	2

It's a simple enough story - but with a few complications! Mary - not yet married to Joseph - is pregnant. The story is that the baby is from God. Strange.

Joseph plans to divorce her quietly, but has a dream in which, so he said, God told him to go ahead and marry Mary.

The next thing we know is that Joseph must go to Bethlehem, which is his tax office, to see a civil servant. Mary, heavily pregnant by now, goes with him.

There's nowhere to be found, not even a bed and breakfast place left. Bethlehem is packed - or maybe Joseph cannot afford anywhere very special. The only place they can get for the night is a stable next to an inn, rather like a lock-up garage outside your nearest pub.

And into the damp, dark, smelly stable comes the cry of a baby. A baby destined to change the lives of millions. A baby destined to have a name known around the world. A baby destined to be killed, on a cross, for telling people that love mattered.

A baby, born in a lock up garage, outside a pub.

Reflection/Prayer

May we have the courage to fulfil our destiny.

7 Does it surprise you that Jesus was born in a stable? Why?

8 How would Christmas be different if Jesus had been born in a palace?

9 Does where you come from, or where your home is, matter? Why?

10 An unromantic birth - but a baby with an extra-ordinary destiny. How do you ever limit your destiny?

11 A baby in a lock-up garage! What would people say if it happened this Christmas?

Theme for Week	CHRISTMAS	Day
Theme for Today	Stupid Shepherds?	3

Jokes are often told about people who are stupid. In the time of Jesus, jokes were often told about shepherds. Shepherds were not always highly thought of. They lived a strange sort of life, seemingly preferring animals as company rather than people. From accounts we have, shepherds were smelly and strange.

So it is a curious thing that the first visitors to see the baby Jesus were, according to the Bible, shepherds. Presumably they came stumbling in from the hills, with an odd story. They'd seen some angels (shepherds were odd, remember) who had told them about this new king. They had to come and see. Maybe they brought a spare lamb with them, as a present. The Bible doesn't say they did, but they might have done.

Down the years, these shepherds have been remembered. Ordinary people, doing a job that was not especially popular. Ordinary people whose lives were touched by something quite strange. If it's all true, then the God of Christianity says that it is the ordinary people, the unpopular people, the seemingly 'odd' people, who turn out to be special.

Ordinary people.

Reflection/Prayer

May the ordinary things of life lift us to the extra-ordinary things of life.

7 When and how do you try to pretend you are important?

8 Shepherds were looked down on. But they were destined to be special. Do you feel others look down on you? Watch out for your destiny!

9 When you next sing the carol, *While shepherds watched*, think about those shepherds. Were they stupid, or were they special?

10 Sometimes people make things too complicated. How often do you miss the important things in life because they seem too ordinary?

11 Whatever the shepherds saw, it caused them to react. How much do you see that is special, even godly, and ignore it?

