

*First Year of the Cycle*

*Summer Term*

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: LIFE IS A JOURNEY**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship invites pupils to think about their lives as a journey in which there are certain rules and other people play a part.

**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:** understand their own development as a person rather like a journey.

**Moral:** acknowledge the importance of rules.

**Social:** recognise the influence they have on others' lives.

**Cultural:** appreciate that life's journey transcends culture.

<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>LIFE IS A JOURNEY</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b>	Setting Out	1

We make journeys every day of our life. When we were young, it was just to crawl across the floor - or the adventure of learning how to climb up the stairs. Now we take these journeys in our stride (we don't even think of them as journeys) and are used to getting about on our own.

Not everybody in this room will have travelled very far on their own, but our journeys are much more adventurous than they were when we were babies. As we grow older, we will travel even further - some people in this room may have travelled round the world before they are, say, twenty - and one day we might even have holidays on the moon!

Life itself is a journey. Each day is different, each occasion is special, on the journey through life.

Who knows where the journey will take us?  
Who knows what we will meet on the way?

For this part of the journey, in our school days, we are travelling together. At other times, the journey will be with other people. Sometimes the journey will be easy and good fun; at other times, the going will be more difficult.

It is all part of the big journey which only we can travel. We will make choices on the way. We will have an effect on those we meet. Quite an awesome adventure, when you think about it.

#### Reflection/Prayer

*Make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.*

From a prayer by St Francis of Assisi

7 What makes travelling difficult for some people?

8 What can you do to help people who might be struggling along the journey of life?

9 You never get a second chance to make a first impression! Some people on your journey through life may only meet you once. What impression will they get of you?

10 What journey do you dream of making?

11 Where would you like life's journey to take you?

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>LIFE IS A JOURNEY</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b> Rules of the Road	2

Everyone using a road ought to know the Highway Code. In it are the rules for making a safe journey on a road.

Sixty years ago, there were many less rules - partly because there was less traffic. Even so, there were more deaths on the roads then than there are now. Gradually, rules started to come in - like painting a white line down the middle of the road or using traffic lights.

If people drive a car or ride a bicycle on the wrong side of the road, they won't last long and they could do damage to others as well. If people ignore the traffic lights and drive across them when they are red, they could cause a terrible accidents. The rules are there to help people and to keep them safe.

The journey through life has rules too. One of the most famous is:

*Treat others as you would have them treat you.*

It is a good rule and a lot of people try to follow it. But what does 'Treat others' really mean? If we like ice cream, should we go round buying ice creams for everyone else? Of course not! But we should be checking whether the things we say and do would be the sort of things that we would like to happen to us.

We know what we would like - the rule for the journey of life says that we should be ready to do the same for others.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Make me an instrument of your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.*

From a prayer by St Francis of Assisi

7 How do you like to be treated?

8 What would life be like without any rules?

9 Who paints the white line down the middle of your life?

10 What is it like if you get onto the wrong side of the road of life?

11 Why is it so hard to treat some people well?

**Theme for Week** LIFE IS A JOURNEY

Day

**Theme for Today** Travelling Together

3

On almost every journey, we will be travelling with others - the lady who drives the bus, the man sitting on the seat across the gangway. Even if your journey is by bicycle, you will meet other people, other road users - even the people who mend the road.

And the journey through life is just the same. Although there will be some parts when we will feel quite lonely, there are always others around. They may be feeling just as lonely as we are but they are travelling too.

Think of the people you have seen today as you came to school - pupils, teachers, bus drivers, car drivers, post office staff, shop keepers, people going to their own work, perhaps coming home from work - you can think of many more.

All of them are on **your** journey through life - and you are on **their** journey. All of us travelling together. We can't be selfish on the journey, because it is not just us!

The words of the prayer of St. Francis of Assisi have been changed. The clue is that we are travelling together!

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is darkness, light. Where there is sadness, joy.*

7 How many people do you meet each day?

8 When have you felt very lonely?

9 How could you surprise people with kindness?

10 How much do the people you meet by chance each day matter to you?

11 Which parts of your journey would you like to travel through again? Which would you not?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: REMEMBERING**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship reflects on the importance of remembering, individually and corporately and looks at what is remembered.

**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 the place of suffering in the identifications of many individuals.

**Moral:** consider the vulnerability of certain people and the effects on them of injustice.

**Social:** think about the influence of history on the present.

**Cultural:** reflect on the importance of past events within a tradition in shaping the beliefs of followers today.

<b>Theme for Week</b> REMEMBERING	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> Pesach	1

Once every year, in a Jewish home, the family will gather round the table for a meal with a difference. They will be eating in the present but their minds will be in the past.

In the middle of the table is a plate with different foods on it - a lamb bone, an egg, parsley, salt water, bitter herbs and a sweet mixture of nuts and apples - all telling the story of Moses and the Israelites' escape from brutal slavery in Egypt. Although it was thousands of years ago, Jewish families have this important meal at Passover every year to help them remember.

Everything on the plate is food which can be eaten in a hurry or has a bitter taste, a reminder of the terrible wish to escape from terrible evil.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Oh Lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill but also those of evil will*

From a prayer found at Ravensbrück Concentration Camp

7 What bad times can you remember from your life? What have you learned from them?

8 What sort of things do you remember about people you don't like?

9 What would you like to flee from? What should you flee from?

10 What point is there in remembering a story that is thousands of years old?

11 How does remembering bad times help you to grow as a person?

<b>Theme for Week</b> REMEMBERING	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> The Cross	2

Men and women often wear a necklace with a cross or a crucifix on it. These are usually made of silver or gold and their wearers take good care of them. After all, they are worth a lot!

The story behind the cross is rather different. The death of Jesus was gruesome: iron nails through skin and lots of blood.

Not at all the kind of thing you'd want to be reminded of - around your neck!

So why do people wear them? What's a gold cross really worth?

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Oh Lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill but also those of evil will*

From a prayer found at Ravensbrück Concentration Camp

7 What do you wear as a reminder of something important to you?

8 What makes a gold cross on a chain precious?

9 Who has the right to wear a cross?

10 Why do Christians concentrate so much on remembering the death of Jesus?

11 How far does a cross on a chain devalue the death of Jesus?



<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>REMEMBERING</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b>	Candles on a Railway Track	3

Imagine a railway track stretching into the distance. The day is nearly over and in the half light you can just about see the weeds growing between the tracks.

There are two odd things about **this** railway line. Trains don't run on it any more and where the tracks used to run, for as far as the eye can see, there are hundreds of lighted candles.

This was the railway line to Auschwitz and the candles proudly represent the Jewish people killed there by the Nazis.

All this happened on the fiftieth anniversary of the liberation of this concentration camp. Those who were there had more to remember than they wanted or needed - or could even cope with.

#### **Reflection/Prayer**

*Oh Lord, remember not only the men and women of goodwill but also those of evil will*

From a prayer found at Ravensbrück Concentration Camp

7 Why is it important to remember sad things?

8 What value is there in remembering the past?

9 Why do some people treat this as a boring episode in history?

10 What images do you have in your mind that you will never, ever forget?

11 Why is a tiny, flickering candle flame such a powerful symbol of vulnerable people?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: HEAVEN IS .....

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship contemplates what heaven might be from a religious and a 'folk' perspective.

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 a world beyond the physical and acknowledge the mystery of the unknown.

**Moral:** recognise their accountability for the way they live their own lives.

**Social:** consider how well they relate to others and how far they are prepared to share.

**Cultural:** appreciate the variety of beliefs about life after death.

**Theme for Week** HEAVEN IS .....?

Day

**Theme for Today** What is Heaven?

1

If there's a heaven, how do you describe it? Is it when your football team scores a ninth goal at Wembley or when you turn up to the party and find you are wearing the right gear? Or is it more about wondering what happens when someone's grandparent dies and the feeling that, after a hard life, he or she is going to a new life beyond pain and suffering?

The picture of God sitting on a cloud is not particularly helpful. However, many people find comfort in the image of a place where friends never say goodbye, where parents and children get on together and where people enjoy the present to the full. Even if there isn't a heaven and no one can be sure either way - we all probably need an ideal place.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Love is heaven and heaven is love*

Sir Walter Scott

7 What's your idea of heaven?

8 No one knows exactly what happens to us when we die. What would you like to happen?

9 If there is a heaven, how big does it have to be?

10 If there is a heaven, why are we sad when someone dies?

11 How does hope for some kind of heaven affect the way people live in the present?

<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>HEAVEN IS .....?</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b>	Paradise	2

Imagine a beautiful garden with lofty trees, grassy banks and a gushing fountain..... endless sunshine and flowers wherever you look. This is how Muslims think of heaven. It is described in the Qur'an where it is called Paradise.

But it is not for everyone. Muslims believe that on the Day of Judgement, God will raise the dead who will be called to account for the way they have lived. Those who are worthy will go to eternal happiness in the garden; those who are not will be tormented with endless fire. Every person's ultimate fate, they believe, is in his or her own hands.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Surely the Godfearing shall be in gardens and bliss, rejoicing ....  
They will eat and drink, with wholesome appetite, in reward for their work.*

The Qur'an Surah 52

7 What pictures does the word 'paradise' bring into your mind?

8 What sort of place would you like to be in forever?

9 How far do you have your fate in your own hands?

10 Why is a garden a good image of heaven?

11 What does it mean to be worthy? What makes an action worthy?

<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>HEAVEN IS .....?</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b>	A place for sharing	3

There is an old Korean legend that heaven and hell are exactly the same. There's room for everyone with a plate at each place at the table and more than enough rice to eat. By each plate is a pair of chopsticks which are two metres long. At the table in hell everyone looks sad and everyone is hungry. However, in heaven it is a party.

The only difference between the two is that in hell the people are struggling to feed themselves... but in heaven they feed each other!

**Reflection/Prayer**

*The mind is its own place and in itself can make a heaven of hell, a hell of heaven.*

John Milton

7 What did you share yesterday?

8 What could you do to make earth more like heaven?

9 From your actions - which table would you be sitting at?

10 Why do people sometimes put themselves in the Korean legend's hell?

11 What does this legend tell you about the people who believe it?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship is linked to Christian Aid Week. It explores issues of inequality and need and considers ways of responding to them.

**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:** think about the nature of poverty and how they respond as humans to it.

**Moral:** reflect upon the responsibility they may have to those whom they never see.

**Social:** reflect upon the attitude of society to people in need.

**Cultural:** explore cultural stereotypes of need.

**Theme for Week** CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Day

**Theme for Today** Do we really need to help?

1

Christian Aid would like to close down tomorrow! Their job is, after all, one that should not be needed. The sad truth, however, is that today it is normal not to have enough to eat. Today, there are people in many different parts of the earth who do not know where their next meal is coming from.

Roughly two out of every three people on the planet will have had less than the basic amount of food to keep healthy. So organisations like Christian Aid try and help.

In an emergency, the best sort of help is to bring in food, or medical supplies. Christian Aid works with other charities in an Emergency Committee to co-ordinate help regardless of whether the people they are helping are Christians.

Christian Aid does not just help in an emergency. It also helps people to help themselves. There is an old saying: *Give a person a fish and you feed him for a day; teach a person to fish and you feed her for life.* That's what Christian Aid tries to do: to set people free from hunger by giving them training and skills; starting off new projects and digging new wells so that people can get by on their own.

And when they have done all that, Christian Aid could close down!

**Reflection/Prayer**

Can we afford to ignore the needs of other people?

7 What pictures of hungry people have you seen on the television recently?

8 How often do you say, "I'm starving!"?

9 What do you think when you see a charity collection in the street?

10 What do you think of people who put buttons instead of money into Christian Aid envelopes?

11 How do you feel about helping people abroad when people need help at home as well?

**Theme for Week** CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Day

**Theme for Today** Getting the message across

2

Not all of Christian Aid's money is spent on helping people in need. A small proportion of it is used for education.

Some people might think that this is a strange use of money. However, Christian Aid believes that people must **understand** the problems caused by poverty, not just throw money at it.

For example, some people who grow coffee or weave textiles are poor because they are not paid a fair wage - whilst we in the richer countries like to make sure our coffee, or our clothes, don't cost too much.

Some people are poor because they don't have the right to own land. They are always paying rent to people, and when they have a good crop from the land, they suddenly discover that the rent has gone up as well.

So education is important. People must ask, "Why are people poor?"

### Reflection/Prayer

Can we afford to ignore the needs of other people?

7 Do you ever think about the people who grew the coffee beans? Do they have children; a school; a sense of security?

8 What do you think is a fair wage?

9 Why is education about charities a waste of time for some people?

10 Why do some people think they've done enough by putting money in an envelope?

11 If there is a God, do you think God is on the side of the rich or the poor? Why?



<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>CHRISTIAN AID WEEK</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b>	<b>Giving the lot</b>	<b>3</b>

Some people are very generous in helping people in need. Others make a show of it. Some people think they have got nothing to give.

Jesus once saw some rich people making a great show of putting coins in the collecting box at the Temple. Then he saw a little old lady quietly come up, and put two small coins in the box.

Jesus said to his friends:

**"I'm telling you straight - this poor woman put in more than the others!  
The others gave their gifts from what they had left over, but she gave all she had."**

In the end, if Christian Aid is right, and we should be responsible for those around, it's not how much we have that is important.

It's how big a sacrifice we are prepared to make. Are we ready to give something up for others?

**Reflection/Prayer**

Can we afford to ignore the needs of other people?

7 Why do some people like to show off when they help people?

8 When would you be prepared to make a sacrifice for someone?

9 Do you think the old woman was foolish? Why?

10 What was the point the old woman was making?

11 Which of your possessions are more important than helping others?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: **THERE'S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship introduces Pentecost themes, indirectly and directly.

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 the 'otherness' of life, beyond that experienced by the five senses.

**Moral:** acknowledge the danger of taking a limited view of life, especially through ignoring the voice of conscience.

**Social:** acknowledge that people are complex, with many different facets of personality and character.

**Cultural:** recognise that these facets are related to background, family and beliefs.

**Theme for Week**    **THERE'S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR**

Day

**Theme for Today**    Now you see it, now you don't

1

An anagram is a word about words. It means taking the letters of a word and putting them in a different order to make another word.

A simple example is the word GOD. Re-arrange the letters and you get DOG. The word LIVE becomes EVIL.

Some anagrams are especially good. These are when you change the letters and get another word which is connected to the first word.

For example:

POSTMAN can become NO STAMP

CONIFER can become FIR CONE

Change round the letters of THIS EAR and you get IT HEARS  
and STALE LAMB is an anagram of MEAT BALLS!

The words are there all the time - but you cannot always see them, unless you know what you are looking for!

**Reflection/Prayer**

Help me to see things not just as they are, but as they might be.  
Help us not just to see each other as we are, but as we might be.

Like an anagram, there are many things which you cannot always see - but which are there. Radio signals cannot be seen, but switch on a radio and there they are! So are things like care, sadness, friendship and love. They are in you and they are in the person next to you. What sometimes hides them?

7

8 What can you think of which is not seen but is always there?

8

9 How are people like anagrams?

9

10 What sometimes makes it difficult to see beneath the surface?

10

11 How often are you blinded by what you think you're looking for?

11

**Theme for Week**    **THERE'S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR**

Day

**Theme for Today**    The picture is clearer now

2

Look carefully at this picture\*. What do you see?

Most people will see a face. You may see an old woman's face first of all, or it may be that the face you see is a young woman. When you see the other face it will be a surprise. It is not what you expected to see. You have made up your mind about it, when suddenly you see it in a new light.

People about us can do unexpected things. Sometimes a good person will do something disappointing. At other times, someone will do something which is unexpectedly noteworthy.

The danger is that we can write somebody off as no good. We sometimes say they are useless. We can give them no chance to show us a different picture of their personality. Then we can make wrong decisions about what they are like.

When we do give someone a chance, they might just surprise us!

**Reflection/Prayer**

Do I pretend to be something I am not?

\*NB:    The picture is to be found at the back of the book in appendix 2 on page 332.

7    When you look at your friends, what do you see?

8    When people look at you, what do you think they see?

9    When do your eyes deceive you?

10    When have you ever seen something that you didn't expect to see?

11    What are the dangers of only seeing the clown?

**Theme for Week**    **THERE'S A SPIRIT IN THE AIR**

Day

**Theme for Today**    Speaking through the Conscience

3

Christians believe in something which cannot be seen, but which they believe is present. They call this the Holy Spirit. The idea is that the Spirit is the power of God living inside people.

They say the Spirit is there all the time, but people may not always see him. They say that the Spirit helps people get a better picture of the world.

Christians also believe that the Spirit works through something else which cannot be seen - but almost everybody has - the conscience.

The conscience is the small voice inside you, which says "yes" or "no" or "wait". The conscience is always there, but some people prefer to ignore it.

The conscience helps people make decisions by helping them see that there are many ways of looking at something.

You don't have to believe in the Holy Spirit to believe in the conscience. But do you believe in **your** conscience?

**Reflection/Prayer**

May I have enough quiet in my life to hear my conscience.  
May I have enough strength in my life to act on it.

7 When do you listen do your conscience?

8 Why do some people ignore their conscience?

9 Where does the small voice of your conscience come from?

10 How easy is it to act on what your conscience tells you?

11 Does everyone have a conscience?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship looks at relationships within diversity in the context of a Greek legend and a Christian story.

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 individuality and celebrate diversity.

**Moral:** challenge their own perceptions of other people.

**Social:** reflect on the quality of their relationships with others.

**Cultural:** challenge exclusive attitudes including racism.

**Theme for Week** PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT

Day

**Theme for Today** The story of Procrustes

1

This is a horrible story. Prepare to be shocked.

Long ago, in Greece, there was a robber called Procrustes. His name means 'the stretcher'. He was cruel and wicked. Very cruel and very wicked. In fact, so cruel and wicked that ... do you really want to know?!

When weary travellers passed his home, he invited them in and gave them a lot to drink. Then, when they felt tired, he offered them his special bed for the night. Once they were on it, he tied them down. If their feet did not reach the end of the bed, he stretched them until they fitted. If they were too long for the bed, he cut off their legs.

He wanted everyone to be the same!

Fortunately, one day a hero, whose name was Theseus, came along the road. He only pretended to drink the drink. Then he pretended to be tired. When Procrustes tried to tie him down, Theseus overpowered him. He tied Procrustes to his own bed and because he was too long ... well you can guess the rest!

Someone who tries to make everyone fit the same pattern may be called by a particular name. We call them procrustean.

#### Reflection/Prayer

Let us be thankful that there are so many different kinds of people in the world.

Let us respect each other in this class - using our own gifts to help others.

May we never be jealous of someone else's gifts, but be glad to see their talents.

7 How are people different and how are they the same?

8 In what ways would you want people to be more alike?

9 Why are people afraid to be different?

10 What are the most significant differences between people?

11 What makes some people procrustean in their attitudes to others?

<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b>	Do you like them all?	2

Be honest. Do you like everyone in your class?

Hopefully, there is no one you hate, but in every class there will be people you get on with and people you hardly ever talk to. We are all different and we find it easier to get on with some people than we do with others. In some classes, you may find that a few people are very popular and everyone wants to be their friend, whilst there are others who are quite lonely.

Friendships are important - they are more than just fun. They are about loyalty and staying friends in the good times and the bad. Friendships can mean giving up something for someone who matters.

The problem with friendship is that it shuts others out. We can be so happy in our friendships that we forget others. Jesus once said:

*"If you only love people who love you, why should you receive a blessing? Even wicked people love each other!"*

Of course, we won't get on with everybody all the time. But school is a good place to learn a lesson that we will have to learn - of getting on with others, even if we don't like them.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Let us think quietly for a few moments:  
 about those who want friends, but are left out  
 about the people in our own class  
 about our teachers  
 and about how we get on with the people around us

7 How do you cope when others shut you out?

8 How do you cope when you have to work alongside people you do not like?

9 When is it harder to like someone than to love them?

10 What is the hardest lesson you have ever had to learn?

11 Where is the blessing in learning to love someone you dislike?



<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b>	Different Races	3

Jesus told stories when he was on earth. One of the most famous was about the Good Samaritan. The story goes like this:

A man was travelling down a country road when he was mugged and left half dead on the road. Luckily, a priest came down a few moments later. But he didn't stop. In fact, he walked by without looking. Then a holy man came along- he had a look, but walked on by.

Then a Samaritan came - and he was so sad to see the man, he stopped, gave him some first aid and a drink. Then he put the man on the back of his horse and took him to a pub. He gave the landlord money to look after him and promised to come back a few days later to pay any extra that was needed.

We call him the Good Samaritan - and Jesus was saying to those who were listening that they should all be good Samaritans, ready to help someone in need.

However, a lot of people get this story wrong, because it is not just about loving your neighbour! There was more to it than that. At the time of Jesus, the Jewish people hated Samaritans above everyone else. It was, according to the Bible, a form of racism. That means hating someone because they are different. Samaritans were descended from Jews who had married non-Jews; they were no longer pure Jews.

When Jesus said that Jews should be like Samaritans, he was challenging their racism. Perhaps they did not like to think that a Samaritan could be good.

### Reflection/Prayer

Let us guard our tongues; control our actions; and be Good Samaritans whenever we can.

7 What makes people cruel to others?

8 How do you think about people who are different from you in some way?

9 I wonder which person in the story you would be.

10 How does difference enrich our lives?

11 What do you think makes a person 'pure'?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: GURU ARJAN**

Date:

**Summary:** Collective Worship looks at the life and death of Arjan, the fifth guru of Sikhism, remembered in June for his martyrdom.

**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:** acknowledge the significance of a holy book and a holy building,

remember the life of a religious leader.

**Moral:** consider the issues of equality raised by the Golden Temple,

consider appropriate responses on the theme of revenge.

**Social:** recognise the variety and types of human experience which cut across cultures (eg conflict/misunderstanding between neighbours).

**Cultural:** consider some of the key features of the Sikh faith's Gurburb of Guru Arjan.

**Theme for Week** GURU ARJAN

Day

**Theme for Today** The Golden Temple

1

Guru Arjan was the fifth out of ten gurus who began the religion called Sikhism. He did some important things in his life - but he is also remembered for the way he died. In June, Sikhs commemorate his death at a special festival called a Gurburb.

One thing which Guru Arjan did was build the Golden Temple at Amritsar. It is the most famous Sikh temple and it is a beautiful, holy building.

It is set in an artificial lake with just one bridge across it. It is a way of saying that everyone is the same. However, it has four doors which shows that everyone is welcome, from the four corners of the earth.

To go into the temple, you have to go down steps. This is a way of saying that people should be humble with each other and in front of God.

Inside the Temple is the original copy of the Sikh holy book, the Guru Granth Sahib.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Guru Arjan taught:

Blessed is the humblest dwelling where God's praises are sung.  
Of what use are beautiful palaces if they turn the mind from God?

Guru Arjan AG 745

7

How does the Golden Temple show Sikhs what to believe about people?

What could you learn from it?

8

How far do you think people are really equal?

Where are they not?

9

What features would you put into a building that show what you believe about people?

10

What would you like to be remembered for?

11

What makes a building holy?

<b>Theme for Week</b> GURU ARJAN	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> The Guru Granth Sahib	2

The Guru Granth Sahib is the holy book of Sikhism. Guru Arjan was the person who gathered all the separate sections of writing and made it into a book. It was called the 'Adi Granth', which means 'first book'. It was a huge task in itself and later on it had some more sections added by the tenth guru.

When Guru Arjan put it together, he wrote a lot of poems or hymns to put in it.

He also felt that it should not just have Sikh writing in it. He believed that if a religion was looking for answers to the mysteries of life, it should find out what other religions said too.

So the Guru Granth Sahib has work by Muslims and Hindus as well as Sikhs. For this reason, it is unique amongst holy books.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Guru Arjan taught:

Some study Vedas; some read the Bible or Qur'an; some dress in blue; some wear white; some call themselves Muslims; some are called Hindus; some desire to go to heaven; some long for paradise, but whoever does the will of God, to him all things are revealed.

Guru Arjan AG 885

7 What makes a book holy?

8 How prepared are you to commit yourself to a really big task?

9 Where do **you** find answers to the mysteries of life?

10 Guru Arjan produced a book which every Sikh values. How valuable are the things that we do? Will people remember them?

11 What recognition do you give to the wisdom of other traditions in looking for answers to the mysteries of life?

**Theme for Week** GURU ARJAN

Day

**Theme for Today** Guru Arjan's Death

3

When Guru Arjan became the leader of the Sikhs there was peace. The Emperor of India was Akbar and he got on well with the Sikhs. However, when he died, bitterness built up between Akbar's son, Jehangir, and his grandson. Although the Sikhs did not join in the arguments, they were caught up in the fighting.

Jehangir thought that Guru Arjan was on his son's side so he ordered the arrest of Guru Arjan along with all his property. Before his arrest, Guru Arjan said his son Hargobind should be the next guru if anything happened to him.

Sadly, although Guru Arjan was a very holy and greatly respected man, he was put to death by Jehangir's men. The man who had built the Golden Temple with doors opening to the whole world was put to death by his next door neighbour.

In June, Sikhs remember all the things which Guru Arjan had done - and try and keep his ideas alive.

### Reflection/Prayer

Guru Arjan taught:

Do not put off doing a good thing.  
Think before doing a bad thing.

7 How do you feel about what happened to Guru Arjan?

8 Whose ideas would you like to keep alive?

9 When do misunderstandings become dangerous?

10 What would the impact be of the death of a leader on his followers?

11 Where in the world today are people caught up in conflicts which are not of their making?

KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: **VALUES**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship considers the issue of values in the context of sport, relationships and ultimately, life itself.

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 value of human life.

**Moral:** consider the importance of fairness.

**Social:** evaluate their personal responses to other people.

**Cultural:** challenge populist and sensational views about the value of human life.

Theme for Week	VALUES	Day
Theme for Today	A true sportsman/woman	1

"The true sportsman does not boast, nor quit; nor make excuses when he fails. He is a cheerful loser and a quiet winner. He plays fair and as well as he can. He enjoys the pleasure of risk. He gives his opponent the benefit of the doubt. And he values the game more highly than the result."

Arthur Ellis, Football Referee

This is a statement made by a football referee some years ago. It really describes how **anyone**, sportsman or woman, should compete.

Some people might think this also describes a way to live our lives as well as how to participate in sport.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Taking part well is more important than winning.

7 What do you think of people who cheat in sport?

8 In schools, what is the best way of picking a team?

9 When is taking part more important than winning?

10 What capabilities do you feel it is important to have - and why?

11 How far should these ideals apply to supporters as well?

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>VALUES</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> Conflicting interests	2

It is often said that in order to succeed in today's world you need to be confident and have a good image of yourself. Yet, if we are over-confident we may appear to be arrogant or boastful.

Different people have different ideas about what is important in life and what qualities we should consider to be desirable. Here are some conflicting ideas:-

Competing to be the best, or co-operating with a group.

Serving others, or taking care of yourself.

Making sure you are being heard, or listening to others.

Being yourself, or being what people expect of you.

Just think for a moment about yourself .....

### Reflection/Prayer

Valuing is a process in which we know and understand what is really important to us.

7 Which is more important - competing with other people or co-operating with them? Which comes naturally to you?

8 What do you think is important in life?

9 Who are **you** really?

10 How are people put under pressure to conform in our consumer society?

11 What influences your decisions about other people?



**Theme for Week** VALUES

Day

**Theme for Today** Hitting the headlines

3

A newspaper reporting an earthquake once put as its headline: *Not many killed*. Another newspaper, owned by the same man, simply had as its headline: *Gotcha!*, when an enemy ship, the Argentinean vessel, the General Belgrano, was sunk during the Falklands War.

All headline writers want to get a point across quickly but these headlines do more than simply summarise the story. They tell us what the writers believe about the value of human life. Contrast that with the idea that every hair on your head is counted and numbered. That's what the Bible says.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And not one of them shall fall to the ground without your father's consent. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid then, for you are of more value than many sparrows.*

Matthew 10: 29-31

7 What is the value of a human life?

8 What is the value of a human life?

9 What is the value of a human life?

10 What is the value of a human life?

11 What is the value of a human life?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: WHERE'S THE END?**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship explores questions of infinity and eternity.

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 the relationship between time and timelessness and think about their own identity.

**Moral:** recognise the importance and enduring quality of love.

**Social:** think about themselves in relation to the universe.

**Cultural:** explore the symbolic nature of a religious object.

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>WHERE'S THE END?</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> I wonder	1

Have you ever looked at the stars and wondered? For centuries people believed the earth was the centre of all creation. Now we know that it is a small planet revolving around an average-sized star which is itself revolving with thousands of millions of other stars in a galaxy. But the Milky Way, our home galaxy, is one among millions of galaxies in a universe which is considered to be boundless, infinite, without end to it.

Distances in space are measured in light years. One light year is the distance travelled by light at 186,300 miles a second, which is about six million million miles in a year. The light that we see from some stars has taken thousands of light years to reach us. The vast, incomprehensible scale of the Universe is mind-blowing; the idea of no-endedness itself defies comprehension.

Where's the end?

**Reflection/Prayer**

Where is the end?

7 When did you last look at the stars?

8 What do you wonder when you look at the stars?

9 How important are **you** anyway?

10 If there is no end to space, where are we in it?

11 Is the no-endedness a threat or a promise?

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>WHERE'S THE END?</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> The Kara	2

The Kara is a steel bangle worn by Sikhs as a sign of their identity. It is a symbol of the strong relationship in faith between Sikhs and the bond between them and God.

Traditionally a Kara has no join. Its shape is a constant reminder to the wearer of the Oneness of God; God has no beginning and no end; God is timeless, eternal and infinite.

The object itself offers a concrete way of expressing what is really beyond anyone's understanding.

### Reflection/Prayer

Where is the end?

7 If there is a God, what do you think God might be like?

8 What do you wear that reminds you who you are?

9 How do you know who you are?

10 Why do objects often become important to people?

11 What is eternal?

<b>Theme for Week</b> WHERE'S THE END?	Day
--	-----

<b>Theme for Today</b> All good things come to an end	3
---	---

All good things come to an end, so it is said.

Everybody leaves the party, the suitcases are re-packed after the holiday and you have your last lesson with your favourite teacher. In fact, a lot of life is about things coming to an end. But are there any things which must never end?

St Paul sent some advice to one of the churches he visited. He told them that all the things they thought were important would come to an end but he also said that three things would never end. Faith in God, hope for the future and love for each other would go on for ever. They were all important but the last was the greatest and most important of all.

### Reflection/Prayer

*These three remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.*

I Corinthians 13.13

7 When have you not wanted something to end and what was it?

8 When were you glad that something ended?

9 When have you tried to end something which should have carried on, and what are you still doing which should have ended?

10 St Paul said you need faith, hope and love; all three are essential. How far do you agree?

11 If the greatest thing is love, how do you make sure it never ends?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: MODERN SAINTS**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship looks at three modern 'saints': Mother Teresa, Bob Geldof and Desmond Tutu and thinks about what they achieved.

**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 upon the nature of self-sacrifice in order to achieve good and consider the different types of sacrifice possible.

**Moral:** consider appropriate behaviour towards other people and the motivations behind this behaviour.

**Social:** think about how they relate to their neighbours - whether they are next door and visible - or at a distance.

**Cultural:** ponder on how some human qualities must transcend different cultures.

**Theme for Week** MODERN SAINTS

Day

**Theme for Today** Mother Teresa

1

For the next few days we are thinking about significant people - people who have 'made a difference'. Many religions call people like these 'saints'. Really, they are ordinary people. The first of these is Mother Teresa.

She lives in Calcutta, in one of the poorest areas of the world. You could not imagine what it is like where she works; it is so bad ... and so sad. Her work is among the children of Calcutta. Those who are left alone - sometimes only a few hours old - are brought to her for her to care for them.

She knows that some will die within a few minutes of being brought to the home which she runs. "That does not matter," she says, "as long as they die in someone's loving arms".

Many stories have much happier endings. She has brought hope to thousands of children who now live happy and worthwhile lives, because she gave them love at the crucial time. She has now opened several hundred shelters and clinics. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

She says that the secret of life is to 'love until it hurts'.

**Reflection/Prayer**

*Make us worthy, O Lord, to serve people throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger. Give them, through our hands, this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, give peace and joy. Amen.*

Mother Teresa

7 Many people say "I'm starving" when they wait for a meal. Do you think they really mean it?

8 How do you feel about young children who are left to die? Does it make any difference if you were told that the mother was near death as well?

9 When does love hurt?

10 Is it a waste of time looking after a child so near to death? Could the time be better spent?

11 What would you say is the secret of life?

<b>Theme for Week</b> <b>MODERN SAINTS</b>	Day
<b>Theme for Today</b> Bob Geldof	2

Bob Geldof is an unusual saint. He does not always talk in a very saintly way. He speaks his mind and does not worry about who hears him. He is a singer and became popular through the Boomtown Rats and their song, *I Don't Like Mondays*. But he became more famous for his charity work. He has raised millions of pounds for people in Africa, especially in Ethiopia. It all started after seeing pictures of children in Ethiopia.

He said, "The pictures were of people who were so shrunken by starvation that they looked like aliens from another planet." He could not believe that people could have so little when in Britain we throw away food every day.

The first thing he did was set up Band Aid. This was a group who gave their time for nothing and released a record called *Do They Know It's Christmas?* at Christmas 1994. He followed this up with two Live Aid concerts. One was at Wembley, the other in Philadelphia in the United States. They were watched by about one third of the world's population and raised over £50,000,000.

Not only did he raise money, he probably did something just as important. He made people think about the poor - and what they could do to help. Some people might like to call him St Bob.

Many people in Ethiopia probably do.

#### Reflection/Prayer

Bob Geldof said, "I simply represented a moral point of view. I wasn't seeking anybody's vote, so no one had a hold over me and I could say and do as I liked, provided it was responsible".

7 If Band Aid were to make another record, do you think you would buy it?

8 How do you feel about food being thrown away? Should people in this country throw so much away?

9 Why do you think it needs a pop star to make people think about the poor?

10 What stops people caring about others?

11 What do you think about the poor?



<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>MODERN SAINTS</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b>	Desmond Tutu	3

Our final modern saint is a man who is small in size, but very large in stature. He was a man who stood up for people who were victims of apartheid in South Africa. His name is Desmond Tutu.

He grew up without much money, but was quick to learn, even in a classroom with sixty children in it. He could not help but notice that white children of his age were much better off and that the system of apartheid made black people into second class citizens.

He spoke out against the system of apartheid, which made him unpopular among some of the white people. They thought he was causing trouble. They did not think that a church leader should get involved.

But Desmond Tutu did not agree either with black people who wanted to use violence against whites. That was just as bad as apartheid itself, he believed. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984.

As a Christian, he believes that everyone is made 'in the image' of God - and everyone should be treated equally. Now that apartheid has gone from South Africa, he is a happy man.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Archbishop Tutu once said, "I have just got to believe God is around. If he is not, we in South Africa have had it".

7 What would it be like to be taught in a class of sixty?

8 In South Africa, the children thought education was important even though there were sixty children in the class. Do you think you would work harder if you were in their shoes?

9 People say that "two wrongs don't make a right". Archbishop Tutu said that violence was wrong and helps no one. Do you think that he is right?

10 Whom do you turn into second class citizens by your attitude to them?

11 What right do religious leaders have to speak out about political or social issues?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: ANCIENT SAINTS**

Date:

Summary: Collective Worship this week looks back at ancient Saints:  
St Francis of Assisi, Julian of Norwich and (watch out on the 15th) St Swithin

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:** explore personal spirituality - and the alternative lifestyle which it spawns.

**Moral:** reflect on questions of equality (eg gender/distribution of wealth) and the possibility of personal sacrifices.

**Social:** consider the nature of friendship - and how it may or may not endure during difficult times.

**Cultural:** consider how these three saints had an influence on Christian culture.

**Theme for Week** ANCIENT SAINTS

Day

**Theme for Today** Julian of Norwich

1

Julian of Norwich was a woman who lived about six hundred years ago. Her feast day is 8 May. At a time when women were not treated equally with men, Julian of Norwich made her mark as a woman of note whose writings are still respected today. It is said that she was very close to God, and she had some dreams or visions of God which she wrote down. Hers was probably the first book ever written in English by a woman.

She gave up all her possessions to live on her own, probably in a small cell. She spent time thinking about God and praying for the world. In some ways, her lonely life helped her to see the world better, because she was free from the pressures of the world.

She believed that although bad things happened in life, God's love meant that in the end, everything would work out. She said, "All will be well".

#### **Reflection/Prayer**

There is always hope - even if hope seems gone.

7 How important are the things you own? What could you manage to do without? What five things could you **not** do without?

8 We need people to have dreams about the future. To see what could be, rather than what is. What is your hope, your dream for the world?

9 What would you like to have been the first to do?

10 Julian of Norwich 'left the world' by choosing to live in a small cell. It gave her time to think about the future. When do you have enough time just to think about the future?

11 What would help you to see the word better?

**Theme for Week** ANCIENT SAINTS

Day

**Theme for Today** St Swithin

2

St Swithin is an important person from the old days of Christianity. He died over a thousand years ago. There is a saying that if it rains on his day, 15 July, it will rain for the next forty days as well. In the past, people who lived in the country watched the weather carefully that day - and some do today as well.

No one really knows where this story came from, although one tale says he asked to be buried outside his Cathedral so that the rain could drip on his grave. When it was decided to move his coffin into the Cathedral many years after his death, it rained so heavily that they had to put the move off until 40 days later when it stopped raining.

St Swithin should perhaps be remembered as a teacher and an adviser. He was a friend who was both wise and kind. He was the sort of person you want to meet when you are under the weather - whatever the weather is doing.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Dark clouds may always seem above  
but a friend beside will be enough.

7 In Britain people often complain about the weather. How do you find agreement when a farmer wants rain and you want a sun tan?

8 Some people might be called 'fair-weather friends'. That means that when things get rough, their friendship goes. Have you ever been let down by fair-weather friends? Have you been a fair-weather friend to others?

9 As a teacher, St Swithin taught people. As an adviser, he gave them help - probably in rough times. Do you have someone you can trust, to whom you could talk about anything?

10 Why do superstitious beliefs survive?

11 How far do you think people would trust you with their problems? Would they know that you would not tell others?

**Theme for Week** ANCIENT SAINTS

Day

**Theme for Today** St Francis of Assisi

3

*Make me a channel of your peace* is a well-known song. It was written hundreds of years ago by a man called St Francis of Assisi. His parents were very rich and he lived a rich person's life. However, after a time of war when he had been in prison, he realised that money was not everything. When he saw a poor man begging, he swapped clothes with him, and spent time begging himself to see what it was like.

It was such a terrible experience that it changed his life. He wore simple clothes and devoted his life to looking after poor people. He cared for people suffering with leprosy. This upset his father and he disowned Francis.

Others, however, agreed with him and began to copy his ideas of a simple life. Eventually they became the monks called Franciscans. He is remembered as a man with a deep love of God, who loved the world of nature and never turned away anyone who needed his help.

#### **Reflection/Prayer**

O Master, help me to try to love others more than wanting love for myself.

From a prayer by St Francis

7 Imagine you swapped clothes with the beggar. Would you want to tell people who you really were - or would you say nothing? How might it feel?

8 What do you think about the attitude shown to Francis by his father? Do parents always understand how their children feel?

9 How important is money?

10 We do not know if Francis really understood what the birds were actually saying - but his respect for nature meant he understood it and loved it. How often do you notice the world of nature? Do you respect it? What can we learn from Francis' attitude to the natural world?

11 Is the simple life an impossible dream? Who, or what, creates the complications in your life?

**KEY THEME FOR THE WEEK: THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER ... IT IS NOW!**

Date:

Summary: Our final acts of Collective Worship think about successful endings and hopefully new beginnings.

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 fact that change is part of the human condition and consider the emotions and awareness which change evokes.

**Moral:** consider the responsibilities which change brings into focus.

**Social:** reflect upon the nature of change, beginnings and endings upon themselves and others.

**Cultural:** reflect on ultimate questions raised by change and the way in which different cultures may respond (eg attitudes to death/new babies).

**Theme for Week**    **THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER**

Day

**Theme for Today**    ... It is Now?

1

As we approach the end of a school year, we look forward to the holiday. What a change! Hot sunshine and no school!

But we must not forget that it is an 'end' - and that endings are a normal part of life. This school year is an end of a year's hard work. It should be a good ending for everybody.

For the England World Cup Team back in 1966 (for those who have long memories), it was a wonderful ending to the World Cup competition! The English team was in the final.

Some fans were so excited that England was winning 3-2 in the last minute of extra time that when they heard a whistle blown, they ran on to the pitch. In a very famous piece of television commentary, Kenneth Wolstenholme said, "They think it's all over", then England got the ball and Geoff Hurst scored England's 4th goal - so he went on to say, "it is now".

They think it's all over ... it is now!

The 'end' was a great achievement. Years of planning and preparation led to a famous victory. It was all worthwhile in the end.

**Reflection/Prayer**

We give thanks for those who have helped us achieve.  
We ask for strength to achieve in the future.

7 As you come to the end of your first year, think about how much you have done since it began. You are different! Are the changes good? Are they as good as they could have been?

8 Think about what you have achieved this year - especially when you had to struggle. Was your struggle worthwhile?

9 What's good about endings? What is not so good?

10 Normally we hope the effort we put in brings success. But what about the losing side? How do we feel about people who put in a great effort, but do not achieve their goal in life?

11 Where does this ending take you?

**Theme for Week**    **THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER**

Day

**Theme for Today**    The end of a stage of life

2

The end of a school year does not just mean that the year is over.

It could also mean that this part of a person's life has come to an end.

Members of staff may change their job and move on to a new school. Others may have decided that the time has come to retire and hang up their chalk and mark book.

Pupils may move house over the summer and go to a different school in September, whilst others are moving to college, university or work.

Change is a normal part of life - though some changes are more dramatic than others. We will always change, always grow older - and each day will bring us nearer to the end of this stage of our lives.

### **Reflection/Prayer**

We give thanks for those who have helped us in the past.  
We ask for strength to cope with change in the future.

7 For most people in Year 7 the end of your school career seems a long way off - but think about how fast this year went by! How well are you keeping up with the pace of change?

8 Do you know what you want to be when you leave school? What will you miss most when you leave?

9 Think about the different people who have been part of your life, but who now are elsewhere. What impact did they have on you?

10 What good things are you taking from this year into next?

11 What changes are you hoping for as you look forward?



<b>Theme for Week</b>	<b>THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER</b>	<b>Day</b>
<b>Theme for Today</b>	But it's a new beginning too	3

An end is never just an end. It is also a new beginning.

People often feel sad about 'endings'. They are all about 'goodbyes' and 'never agains', People may feel regret, because they cannot go back and put things right, say the things they should have said, do the things which needed doing.

Some endings are very painful - saying goodbye after so many years together at school; saying goodbye at a graveside; saying goodbye to childhood.

But a new beginning is a fresh start - a new day, a new week, a new exercise book, a new school year, a new set of friends, a new set of opportunities. Childhood is replaced by becoming an adult; and for many religious people, death is replaced by new life.

Whatever your beliefs, a fresh start brings hope. We cannot go back and put the past right. That is too late. But we can take hope into the future.

Hope is what everyone needs for the future.

**Reflection/Prayer**

We give thanks for those who have helped us achieve.  
 We ask for hope for ourselves and the chance to share it with all we meet in the future.

7 Think about all next year's new pupils. Do you remember how you felt, saying goodbye to your past, but looking forward to the new beginning?

8 Why does a new exercise book give people a good feeling?

9 We all like a fresh start. How good are you at giving other people a fresh start?

10 Why are new beginnings so scary sometimes?

11 What do you cling to, when the future calls you to let go?

