



Downham C of E Primary School

Collective Worship Newsletter: Autumn 2

What We Learned This Half-Term

Courage and Challenge

This half-term we have been exploring Bible stories where people showed courage and challenge, two of our Downham School values. We learnt the stories of Daniel in the Lions' Den, David and Goliath, and Esther. We also discussed how Mary and Joseph would have faced obstacles as they travelled to Bethlehem to prepare for the birth of their baby. Traveling a long distance when you are about to have a baby is very hard and uncomfortable! The roads were likely bumpy and dangerous, and they had to walk or ride a donkey for many days, even though they were tired and Mary was heavily pregnant. When they finally arrived in Bethlehem, so many other people were there for the census that all the inns were full. Mary's time to have the baby arrived, and they had no clean, safe place to go. They stayed in a simple place where the animals were kept and did the best they could. They welcomed Baby Jesus into the world there, using a simple wooden manger as his crib.



Worship Group

Worship Group has continued to go from strength to strength this half-term, and we now have 23 children signed up for Spring Term! At Worship Group we decide on projects that will make a difference to the local community. This half-term, we have collected shoeboxes to go to others less fortunate than ourselves. We also took part in a service of Remembrance at the War Memorial.

In December, we visited the residents of The Belfry to chat to them, pray with them, and brighten their day!





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Chelmsford Diocese

We received the following message from Carrie Prior, the Director of Education for the Diocese of Chelmsford: *"I just wanted to say a big well done to you and the whole team for such a fantastic SIAMS report! It's clear how much hard work has gone into turning things around after a more challenging period. The inspector's comments about restored stability, renewed purpose, and raised expectations really stood out - what an achievement. It's wonderful to see the Christian vision at the heart of everything, shaping leadership, lifting morale, and giving the school its spark back. The caring ethos, rich opportunities for pupils, and the strength of collective worship and RE are all things to be proud of."*



Board of Education
Diocese of Chelmsford

Pupil Voice

This is what our pupils have to say about Collective Worship:

"I like that we light a candle at the start and we say we light the candles in the name of God the Son, God the Father and God the Holy Spirit" (Rubie-Rae)

"I like when we pray at the end and also I like some of the songs. I like the lighting of the candles on the advent wreath so we can count down to Christmas" (Reece)

"I like the awards on a Friday because it's celebrating people's achievements."
(Charlie)

"I like the songs and the prayers that we do. It makes me feel happy." (Will)

"I like how every day we learn a new song from the Bible." (Grace)

"I like when we do singing because it's joyful and happy!" (Alexandra)

