

Governor participation at KS1 Collective Worship (Virtual) Tuesday 5th October 2021

I was warmly welcomed to join Key Stage 1 for their Collective Worship this week, led by Deputy Headteacher Alana Fordham.

It was held virtually via Teams so each class were in their own classrooms taking part with their teachers, watching the slides and listening to Miss Fordham on their big screens and I joined them from my home!

This way of doing CW is new and was introduced during the Pandemic as a way to connect classes when teaching was done in class bubbles and they couldn't meet in the hall. I expect it's had its technical challenges but this session was executed very well and went very smoothly!! Seeing each other on screen won't be the same as being gathered in person, but although I wasn't even in the building I felt totally included and I could see children from every class on my screen and felt very much that we were doing this together. It was interactive as Miss Fordham gave the children many opportunities to reflect on questions and then share their thoughts back with everyone and every class had a chance to contribute so it had the quality of a conversation.

I wondered about the effects of this for both pupils and teachers, and it would be interesting to hear their thoughts which I may try to follow up. The children sat quietly and seemed relaxed and focused and responded confidently with their answers during the discussion, which may not have been so evident had it been in a hall setting with many more pupils together to manage in one space. It felt intimate in the class setting in a way that I think may have enhanced the outcome of CW whilst also being connected to the wider year group giving a sense of school fellowship. So although we may think it's not an ideal format and would all love to be back in the hall again, I'm pretty certain we can say it works well and even has its own benefits.

I must also comment on the wonderful way the topic was presented in this setting for everyone to reflect on and consider. "Caring for God's Creation" was connected to this month's theme of Generosity, which also connects appropriately to the school values of harmony and respect.

We were presented with the story of creation of the world, reminded that everything else was there before humans came, including plant life that feeds and sustains us, and that it is our responsibility to care for and look after it, not just for ourselves but for future generations as well. The pupils were asked to think of how WE can help to keep our planet healthy and when shown examples of neglect to think of how we can do better. The children had lots of great ideas and thoughts about how to do this, and were reminded that every one of them can make an important difference!

CW was ended with the very apt song "He's got the whole world in His hands".

It was a privilege to take part and I look forward to attending a KS2 CW soon, and a Year 5 session next week!

Helene Bishop, Foundation Governor