** 11. Turning the wheel**

*There is an accompanying PowerPoint for this assembly*

|  |
| --- |
| **Age range:** Primary |
| **Theme:** This term, we are thinking about leaders, leading and following, and now continue our theme looking at leaders from across the world and across history, to inspire us to be better leaders – and followers! – ourselves. We will look at wise words and wise lives, as well as use some key religious dates on the calendar to connect us with stories about leaders. This week, the focus is on the theme of teachers as leaders, and fits with the worldwide celebration of Dharma Day, this year on 3rd July, a Buddhist festival focused on the life and teachings of the Buddha. The first teaching to the Buddha's disciples is known as ‘The First Turning of the Wheel of the Dharma’ and the celebration of Dharma Day marks the giving of that first teaching, giving Buddhists opportunity to give thanks for and reflect on the teaching of Buddha and other wise teachers of Buddhism. This assembly is designed to mark Dharma Day in the Buddhist calendar, but more, given its general place in the calendar (towards the end of the summer term), helps children to think of things that they are grateful to **their** teachers for. |
| **Diamond How does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?**This week, we are taking some time to value teachers: we hope that this will be interpreted in many ways across the Diocese!  |
| **Resources:** * The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
* **Reflective activity:** this week, make flower shapes (lotus flowers are a Buddhist symbol) out of coloured paper, and write a grateful thought or prayer about your teacher in the centre. There is a template on p. Fold in the petals and then float them onto a tray of water and watch the petals unfold. **In your reflective area, you should also gather some of the quotes that are relevant for your class from the leaders we’ve focused on during this term so far, including the quotes from Buddha**
 |
| Door Open**Gathering:** * **Slide 1:** Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. The greeting comes with BSL signing, you can view the demos using links under the slide.

**Leader:** As we share these stories of leaders…**ALL:** May we follow their example in **thoughts** and **words** and **actions**. |
| Puzzle**Engaging:** * **Slide 2: Dharma Day:** Today / 3rd July is a special celebration in many Buddhist countries – a celebration called Dharma Day. Buddhism is a religion that started far across the world in countries like China and Tibet, but there are Buddhists in countries all over the world. Dharma Day remembers the time when the Buddha – the first wise teacher of Buddhism – taught his first followers.
* **Slide 3:** Here are a few photos from across the world, to help to picture what life might be like for Buddhist people……I wonder how these pictures make you feel?...
* **Slide 4:** One of the symbols of Buddhism is this – a wheel that symbolises the teachings that Buddhists live by. Dharma Day is also called the ‘festival of the first turning of the wheel’ – because it remembers the day that this teaching started – when the wheel started turning, if you like. Buddhists all over the world will think today about the teachings of the Buddha.
* **Slides 5-9:** So, let’s hear a few of Buddha’s wise words now – and then we’ll turn our thinking to our own school community, and our own wise teachers!..... *[use the words and spend a few moments on each, thinking together about what they might mean, if it’s not obvious]*
* **Slide 10:** On Dharma Day, Buddhist people will also be thinking about and being grateful for the wise teachers who have taught them. So, what better day for us to look back across the year, and be grateful for our teachers, and some of the things they’ve taught us?! *[You may like to put your own personal story here, about a teacher who really had an impact on your life]*
* I don’t know how many of you have ever really thought about the many different things that a teacher does, but there’s so much more to being a teacher than just teaching you. Ask your teacher – they’ll soon tell you!
* On our screen, we’ve got some more wheels that are going to help us to think of things that we might be grateful to our teachers for. As we look at what each says, have a quiet think to yourself – and I might even ask a few of you to tell us what you were thinking!
* **Slides 11-14:** *Go through the wheel headings, allowing as many children as you have time for to respond.* After this assembly, you might like to take the chance to show your gratitude to your teachers for some – or all – of the things you thought about. But for now, let’s take the chance to reflect together.
 |
| Thought bubble**Slide 15: Responding (words for worship):** **….so in the stillness of this moment, let’s spend some time wondering together…..**….we have heard today about Dharma Day, and some wise words of the Buddha….**….I wonder which words were helpful to you?....**…on Dharma Day, we’ve thought about the importance of our teachers in our school community….….and the things that we are grateful for about them….**….I wonder why it’s important that we take time to be grateful?.....****….I wonder how we might *show* our teachers that we are grateful to them?....****…as we near the end of another school year, I wonder how they are feeling?.....****…and how we might make their lives just a little bit easier?....**….listen to some more wise words now, written by St. Paul to some very weary people…..**Slide 16: ‘We must not become tired of doing good.** **We will receive our reward at the right time. We must not give up!’**….I wonder how these words might be helpful to us, and to our teachers?....**Slide 17:** I’m going to pray now, and ask God to bless our teachers as we draw near to the end of a busy term – and school year. They all deserve a break! As we pray, you might want to think back to the thoughts you had about your teacher this year when we were talking about the wheels….Join me if you’d like to at the end of each line of the first part, by saying **‘WE THANK YOU, GOD.’****Prayer:**For all that our teachers have done for us – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**For the new things they have taught us – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**For the problems they have helped us to solve – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**For the times of fun and laughter – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**For all the times they have been our friends – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**We are near the end of a busy year, and ready for a break – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**Give our teachers a happy end to the term, with the reward of good holidays filled with rest and relaxation, and time to be with their families. Bless them, we pray.**Slide 18: Amen**  |
| **Sending: Slide 19****Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead…**All:** ….**may today be a special day for all our teachers.** |
| **To listen to / sing:** [While we live, we learn](https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/primary-school-songs-assembly-collective-worship-while-we-live-we-learn/zm2cvwx) (AAOS) |
| **Lotus Flower with solid fill\*\*Reflective activity:** On a flower shape, write or draw something you are grateful to your teacher for. You could make it a prayer.Fold in the petals and float it on the water…..As it unfolds, think about how you could show you are grateful for your teacher. |

**Flower shape for reflection area:**

******

***Dharma Day is a good day to be grateful for teachers who’ve inspired us! We’ve heard lots of wise words from different teachers this term…..***

**Which wise words have made you think?**

**How can we follow these leaders?**

**How might you show your teacher that you are grateful to them?**

**Why is it important to be grateful for the things that people have taught us?**

**On a flower shape, write a ‘thank you’ thought or prayer for your teacher. Fold the petals into the centre, then float it on the tray of water & watch it open. You might want to pray as you watch…**