



Advent Pause Day

Jesus is the Prince of Peace

We are learning to understand what peace is (peace with people, including ourselves, peace with God, peace with the Earth). We are learning to understand how we can live (and enable others to live) in peace with people, God and the Earth. We are learning to reflect on and respond to Biblical stories, themes and concepts.

9:00 Register.

9:10 Assembly to introduce the day, watch dvd/YouTube video of Isaiah's prophecy 'Operation No More Tears' (from Jesus Storybook Bible by Sally Lloyd Jones) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K02qIjPZ13o>

Follow up with wondering questions:

- "I wonder who the Rescuer is?"
- "I wonder if you noticed any of Jesus' other names in the message from God?"
- "I wonder why God said that Jesus would be called 'Prince of Peace'?"

Today, we are going to explore what it means for Jesus to be the Prince of Peace. And we will all be using our value of unity to create a big piece of 3d artwork to go on display at Guildford Cathedral for Christmas!

9:30 Back to classes to begin. The discussion starters below can be used at any point in the day and adapted for your class, they are intended just as starting point, which you can use to get the deep thinking going!

What does 'peace' mean? (E.g. living happily with other people; feeling calm; harmony; feeling safe; having all you need; feeling protected; able to live "Life in all its fullness"; able to flourish).

What is it important for people to have peace with?

People – including yourself.

God – forgiveness, listening to God whisper to us through our conscience, following God's lead and advice.

The Earth – caring for this amazing gift, living in a way that enables nature and all of us to flourish.

How do we live (and enable others to live) in peace with all of these?

People – Peace Corners, forgiving each other, prayers for Ukraine etc, providing care, support and love to others (CAP Christmas hampers and cards, Pilgrim Wood decorations).

God – asking for forgiveness, learning from Jesus' example, living the best way we can.

The Earth – Eco actions, bird feeders, habitat protection and creation, appreciating and caring for and about nature.

How does our school vision help us to live in peace and flourish?

People – behaving with dignity and respect for ourselves and others, understanding right and wrong, having a sense of unity.

God – through a love of learning, behaving with dignity and respect for ourselves and others (including God).

The Earth – behaving with dignity and respect (for nature), through a love of learning, understanding right and wrong, having hope for the future and all that it brings.

Our school community "lives life in all its fullness" John 10:10:

<i>Through a love of learning,</i>	Wisdom
<i>By having a sense of unity,</i>	Unity
<i>Understanding right and wrong,</i>	Fairness
<i>Being able to persevere through life's challenges</i>	Perseverance
<i>With dignity and respect for ourselves and others</i>	Dignity
<i>And with hope for the future and all that it brings</i>	Hope

Activities:

- Each class take one aspect to focus on in depth and to make collage/drawn/painted/sewn artwork to form their part of the peace sign artwork for the Cathedral.
- Also write (or scribe or share-write) prayers asking God to help us and others to live in peace with each other, God and the Earth (on coloured paper) to add to the Cathedral artwork.

See below for more activity ideas.

2:20 Back into the Hall for Collective Worship, with each group bringing something to show what they've learnt, with a few children to explain it.

2:40 Back to class for hometime.

Activity Ideas

Decorations for the school and for Pilgrim Wood (to be delivered by School Council/Choir/adults, depending on Pilgrim Wood's arrangements).



Names of Jesus display (for outside?).



Christmas cards to go with CAP Christmas hampers (we can always photocopy good ones to make more!).

Introduce Advent Acts of Kindness (send home with children). Add children's ideas for acts of kindness.

Dear St Nics' Family,

At St Nics', we are very good at showing our Values in school. We know what a difference it makes to show Dignity (respect and kindness) to others and we know that we can make a real difference in the world by doing kind, generous and thoughtful things for people.

Advent is a time when we prepare for Christmas and we look forward to the food, presents, parties and fun of the holidays. This year, we want to encourage our whole school community to take part in an Advent Acts of Kindness challenge. This means doing random acts of kindness for people throughout Advent. We have thought of lots of ideas for you, but there is no limit to the possibilities!

On our Advent Pause Day, we spent time thinking about how God showed Fairness and Dignity to the shepherds (who were generally poor, and probably felt unloved and left out as they were seen as unimportant in first century society), by sending a spectacular choir of angels to invite them to be the first visitors to see Jesus when he was born. We thought about people in our town who may feel like the shepherds did and how we can help them to feel loved and to have a happier Christmas. We made decorations and decorated boxes to become Christmas hampers for local Christians Against Poverty (CAP) clients. We would like to invite and encourage you to donate items to fill these hampers, bringing them to school on the 10th December. The hampers we donated at Harvest were very gratefully received, so it will be wonderful to continue our support of these people over the coming season. This time, the hampers will be filled with items to help people have a happy Christmas, such as: special Christmas food (mince pies, cake, fancy biscuits, chocolates etc.), toiletries, fairy lights or small decorations, crackers, Christmas socks, etc. If you would like to add a Christmas card from your family, I'm sure it would make the gift even more special.

This is a great opportunity to show love to some of the people who are most in need in our community. Thank you in advance for your generosity. I look forward to compiling lots of hampers and hearing all about your Acts of Kindness!

Miss Staniforth



"Have a healthy Christmas!" 

"Do a kind thing every day." 

Offer to help an adult with a job at home. 

"Play with people who look lonely." 

Visit or phone someone you haven't seen for a while. 

"I will give you respect and love." 

Make a thank you card or letter to send to someone who has helped you this year. 

"Make something for a friend." 

Peace Corner time/recap/relaunch Peace Corners.



Our Peace Corner

✔ If you have a problem with someone, take the Peace Stone to them and then both come to the Peace Table.

✔ Hold the Peace Stone and explain what the problem is:

"I did not like it when _____
It made me feel _____."

✔ Then give the Peace Stone to the other person so they can say how they feel.

✔ Take turns to hold the Peace Stone and explain how you are feeling until you have sorted out the problem, forgiven each other and feel better.



"If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone." Romans 12v18



Eco Activities (bird feeders, clay imprints of natural objects, planting bulbs for spring.

Bird Feeders



Practise Christmas Play songs.





Advent Prayers

In the Bible, God says,

***“Do not be afraid. I am your shield,
your very great reward.”***

Genesis 15:1

You can always tell God how you are
feeling. You can ask God for things you
hope for.