

St. John's Church of England Primary School and Nursery

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Headteacher Mr. R. Averis B.Sc. P.G.C.E. N.P.Q.H.



Friday 14th February

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you about the new Spiritual Journals introduced to all classes this week. I would like to explain these to you and share how you can get involved with this new and exciting initiative.



Spiritual Journals are used for the children to express themselves spiritually - to broaden and deepen understanding about spiritual learning. Each chapter of the Journal will encourage children to think about inspirational experiences, challenge them to ask searching questions and prompt them to consider some possible opportunities for response at an age appropriate level.

In the spiritual journals the children can record their experiences which they understand as their 'Wow', 'Ow' and 'Now' moments, their prayers, their thoughts and reflections about the Value for Life we are exploring through Collective Worship for each half term and also their learning from lessons such as RE and PSHE.

This is an opportunity for children to stop, look and appreciate the world around them and their part of something bigger.

Completing this is not an expectation for all children but is more of an invitation for children to contribute if they wish and they are not asked to complete all elements.

EYFS: We invite you to talk with your child and write their ideas/thoughts at home.

KS1: We invite parents or children with parent help to write their ideas/thoughts at home.

KS2: We invite the children to write their own ideas/thoughts during break times or at home.

Here is the link to the value we are exploring each half term:

<https://www.stjohnsbelper.co.uk/collective-worship-3/>



The children will record their thoughts on specific outlines available to them in their classrooms.

The Window - Experience

Spirituality is about Experience.

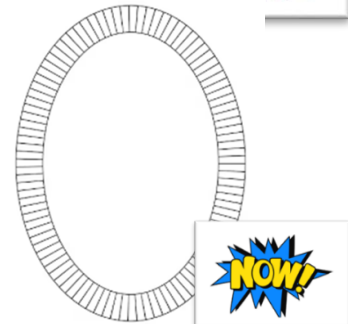
The window is used as the symbol for a 'WOW' or an 'OW' moment - children are encouraged to imagine looking out of a window at the world around them and invited to recall a time when they have had this experience.



The Mirror - Reflection

Spirituality is about Reflection.

The mirror symbol encourages children to reflect upon the 'NOW' - to spend time reflecting on themselves, their thoughts, beliefs, values and feelings.



The Door - Transformation/Change

Spirituality is about Transformation/change.

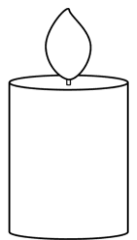
The door prompts children to think about what they might do or change as a response to our Value for Life, British Values, special days or global awareness – the next steps in their journey.



The Candle - Encounter

Spirituality is about Encounters.

The candle represents an awareness of the things we cannot see in life, but we can feel. For many in our community this is expressed as an awareness of God and personal faith so could be a prayer. It is also about developing imagination.



If your child completes any of the above, they are asked to give it to their teacher or place it directly into their journal.

We look forward to seeing what is created.

Kind regards,

Mrs Carvell

Deputy Headteacher