



# RE Newsletter

Subject Lead: Mrs Gleed-Owen

Here is a quick newsletter to keep you up to date with how RE is delivered at The Bellbird, as well as to showcase all the exciting activities the children have partaken in so far this year.

## What is RE and how is it taught?

RE stands for Religious Education. The main aim of this subject is to equip children with the ability to understand the faith or belief of individuals and communities, and how these may shape their culture and behaviour, an invaluable asset for children in modern day Britain.

The main aims of the RE curriculum is to enable children to understand the beliefs of others, both locally and throughout the world, and to think about and articulate their own beliefs. This is highly important for children in developing attitudes of respect, engage in the complexities of belief, avoid stereotyping and contribute to an informed debate.

RE is taught weekly across the school and, throughout their time at The Bellbird, the children will explore each of the six main religions in the world (Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism) as well as a secular world view (Humanism).

Each unit is based on a big question of faith the children will explore. These will either be focussed solely on one religion e.g. "What do Hindus believe and how do they live?" Or more topical, investigating a variety of religions e.g. "What is prayer? How and why do people pray?"

Each unit is made up of two stands:

- 1) Learning about belief- which is focussed on gaining knowledge on what people believe and how they live in response.
- 2) Learning from belief- where pupils question, explore and engage with each religion, exploring their own beliefs in response.

The RE curriculum has recently been updated by the local authority. In response we've been developing an exciting, practical new curriculum, which is due to be introduced in September 2020, so watch this space!



## How else do children experience RE in school?

Alongside lessons, we enjoy a wide range of whole school RE events throughout the year. Last term, we celebrated a wonderful Harvest Festival at the Free Church, where countless food donations for those in need were brought to the front of the church (thank you!) and the children we taught all about the provision of food and thankfulness.



Christmas time is always a wonderful period in school and of course is one of the most important Christian festivals. We had a lovely time singing carols at St Mary's Church, with organ music played beautifully by year 3 parent, Mr Arthur. Some of the children retold the Nativity story and others performed songs and carols. The atmosphere was magical, the children incredible and it was a fantastic end to a busy term.

However, in November we said a sad farewell to Reverend Bruce, the retiring minister at Sawston Free Church, who has visited school, engaged children and made everyone laugh at The Bellbird for many years. We wish him all the best as he returns to Australia with his family. He will be sadly missed by all.



After leaving a busy term behind, we have another exciting term ahead. Coming up of course is Easter, where we will be engaging in Easter crafts, enjoying Easter breakfast and learning about what this time of year means to Christians across the world.

Thank you for all your support throughout the year. Without the various helpers and walkers the children wouldn't be able to experience such a wide variety of RE themed events.

Emily Gleed-Owen

RE subject lead

*One of the best ways children can learn about different religions is by listening to and asking questions of real people who experience a religion first hand and practise their beliefs. If you have any expertise, or religious artefacts you wouldn't mind lending briefly to the school, please do get in touch with the church office FAO Mrs Gleed-Owen.*