

DBE Schools Bulletin

June 2023

Being deeply Christian and for the common good,
our schools will be communities which are:

LOVING
in relationships

AMBITIOUS
in aspirations

BOLD
in actions



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Spiritual Growth

Our children are growing up in a fast moving world and society that places ever demanding pressures on their time, focus and attention. The opportunity to balance this with time for quiet contemplation and for personal reflection is more important than ever. Time that enables consideration and deeper thinking around some of the big questions that impact on who we are, how we relate to one another, understanding our place in the world and how then we should live are fundamental to our very being.

Spirituality is a thread which runs through our life, bringing hope, compassion, thankfulness, courage, peace and a sense of purpose and meaning to everyday, while reaching beyond the immediate world of the visible and tangible. It drives us to seek and stay true to values not ruled by material success. [1]

The requirement to provide spiritual development in the curriculum dates back to the 1944 Education Act, and for church schools is a core component of the school's ethos and theologically rooted Christian vision. As defined in the SIAMS framework, spiritual development is an intrinsic part of the curriculum and one that enables pupils and adults are to flourish spiritually through collective worship and the wider life of the school.

To support our schools in this important area, we are jointly hosting a primary school spirituality conference in conjunction with the Diocese of Liverpool on Friday 23rd June at the Smile Centre, Warrington. Further details and a link to book a place can be found on page 2. And finally, a mention to our Wirral Anglican Schools that have been working together on a spirituality project across their schools. This is culminating in a collective 'Spiritual Expressions - Big Sing' event later this month. We hope to be able to feature a report from the event in next month's edition.

Primary Schools Spirituality Conference

Join us on **Friday 23rd June** for our Primary Spirituality Conference, a joint collaboration with the Diocese of Liverpool at the Smile Centre, Warrington. The day will include case studies from a school in Liverpool and a group of our Wirral schools on their journeys towards understanding what spirituality can look like in schools, both of which will provide some really practical ideas and suggestions for use in your own school.

We 'll be spending the day with Ali Rice exploring ways to develop a shared understanding of spirituality in a Church school setting. We 'll be thinking about:

- SIAMS & spirituality
- Spiritual development research
- How to develop a shared understanding of spirituality
- Spirituality through reflection spaces, collective worship & the wider curriculum
- Case Studies from schools exploring their practical journeys of developing spirituality

Ali Rice, an independent consultant supporting Church schools to flourish will lead the day. She is passionate about helping Churches and Church schools to work together to transform their communities. Most recently she has been supporting Church schools to explore their understanding of spirituality and how this can lead to spiritual flourishing for pupils and adults.

Book via your school's diocese:

Diocese of Liverpool

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND
Chester Diocesan Board of Education

Primary School Spirituality Conference

Friday 23rd June
Arrive from 8.45am for 9am Start
Smile Centre Warrington, WA2 9AD

£120 per delegate including lunch

Join us for our joint
Liverpool and Chester Diocese Primary Spirituality Conference!
We'll be spending the day with Ali Rice exploring ways to develop a shared understanding of spirituality in a Church school setting. We'll be thinking about:

- SIAMS & spirituality
- Spiritual development research
- How to develop a shared understanding of spirituality
- Spirituality through reflection spaces, collective worship & the wider curriculum

Supporting Church Schools to Flourish

Ali Rice

I'm Ali Rice, an independent consultant supporting Church schools to flourish. I'm passionate about helping Churches and Church schools to work together to transform their communities. Most recently I have been supporting Church schools to explore their understanding of spirituality and how this can lead to spiritual flourishing for pupils and adults.

Tickets cost £120 including lunch and can be booked here: [Spirituality Conference tickets](#)

June & July 2023 CPD Courses.

Courses are listed on our [Ticket Tailor](#) site

Headteachers and Senior Leaders

Date	Month	Course	Location
9 th	Jun	Christian Leadership Course Submission of journals	
15 th	Jun	Admissions and Appeals for VA Schools and Academies for Governors & Headteachers	Zoom
15 th	Jun	New Headteacher Support - Taking distinctive schools forward - session 3	Church House
20 th	Jun	Headteacher wellbeing – group 1	Foxhill
23 rd	Jun	Headteacher wellbeing – group 2	Foxhill
7 th	Jul	Christian Leadership Course Celebration @ Chester Cathedral	

Recently Qualified or Early Career Teacher Programmes

tbc	Jun	Early Careers Teacher Support - 1 Year Programme 2022-23 - Day 6	Christ Church, Moreton
20 th	Jun	RQT Development Programme 2022-23 - Day 4	Church House
tbc	Jul	RQT After School Social	

Christian Distinctiveness (RE, Worship, Vision & SIAMS)

23 rd	Jun	Primary School Spirituality Conference	Smile Centre
26 th	Jun	Collective Worship in a Church School	Church House
27 th	Jun	Clergy with church schools network	Zoom
6 th	Jul	RE Leads Cluster Meeting	

Governors

13 th	Jun	Chairs clinic and networking group	Zoom
15 th	Jun	Admissions and Appeals for VA Schools and Academies for Governors & Headteachers	Zoom
27 th	Jun	Clergy with church schools network	Zoom
6 th	Jul	Chairs clinic and networking group	

Any enquires about courses, dates or further details please contact [Linda Boys](#).

Admissions guidance for Summer born children.



Department
for Education

The Department for Education has updated its guidance on the admission of summer born children.

The non-statutory guidance for admission authorities is available here:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-advice-for-admission-authorities.

The advice for parents is available here: www.gov.uk/government/publications/summer-born-children-school-admission

Headteacher Cluster Meetings

Summer			
Cluster Name	Chair / Agenda Contact	Date & Time	Venue
Chester		Thu 25 May 1.30pm	Overleigh St Mary's
Congleton/ Nantwich		Wed 14 June 1.30pm	Mossley
Northwich	Caroline Mackenzie	Mon 22 May 1.30pm	Norley
Stockport/ Tameside	Vicki Hewitt-Lee	Mon 19 June 1.30pm	Stalybridge St Paul's
Trafford		Wed 14 June 10am	Bowdon
Warrington/ Halton		Tue 23 May 1.30pm	Church House
Wirral	Amanda Donelan	Fri 28 April	
Secondary Heads		Wed 14th Jun 1:30pm	Church House

Archbishops' Young Leaders – Free Webinars

Looking for a programme that supports pupils to develop courageous advocacy, leadership and character and to serve their communities? Come and find out more about the **Archbishops' Young Leaders Award** Programme through our free online sessions this term for both Primary and Secondary schools.

Introduction to the Young Leaders Award

Developing Leadership & Character Through Social Action

Primary KS1 & KS2

Thurs 8th June, 4:00-4:45pm

Wed 5th July, 4:00-4:45pm

Secondary KS3

Tues 13th June, 4:00-4:40pm

Secondary KS4/+16

Wed 21st June, 4:00-4:40pm

Find out more and sign up at www.abyyt.com/events.

Archbishops' Young Leaders Award
Key Stages 1 – 4/+16
Developing Leadership & Character
Through Social Action
Free Twilight Webinars
Introduction to the Young Leaders Award

RE Cluster Leader Groups

Launched by the Diocese in 2019, our primary RE subject leader cluster groups give RE leaders from church schools opportunity to network, share good ideas and ensure sustained good practice in RE across our Diocese. Meetings are being arranged for the autumn, more details to follow.

Groups and leader details below:

		Summer	
Cluster Name	RE Leads	Date & Time	Venue
Cheshire West & Chester South (Chester & Ellesmere Port) <i>[Chester]</i>	Rachel Inns (Hoole CE)	Wed 21 June 3:45pm	Overleigh St Mary's
	Vicky Sewell (Christchurch Ellesmere Port)		
Cheshire East South <i>[Congleton/ Nantwich]</i>	Fiona Pulle (Brereton)	Wed 21 June	Brereton
	Liz Ward (Wybunbury Delves)		
Cheshire East North, Cheshire West & Chester North (Northwich) <i>[Macclesfield]</i>	Carys Clark (St Johns the Evangelist, Macc.)	Tue 20 June 4:00pm	Whitegate
	Michael Heathcote (Whitegate)		
Cheshire West & Chester (Rural) <i>[Rural Chester]</i>	Finola Jackson (Saughton CE)	Thu 15 June	Saughton CE
Stockport/Tameside	Amelia Wassall (Hyde St Georges)	Thu 22 June	St George's Hyde
Trafford	Natalie McLoughlin (St Annes Sale)	Thu 8 June 3.40pm	St Annes Sale
Wirral	Charlotte Fenwick (Christchurch Birkenhead)	Thu 11 May	St Andrews Bebington
	Rachel Clark (St Andrews Bebington)		

Please contact your RE Cluster Group Leader or linda.boys@chester.anglican.org for further information.

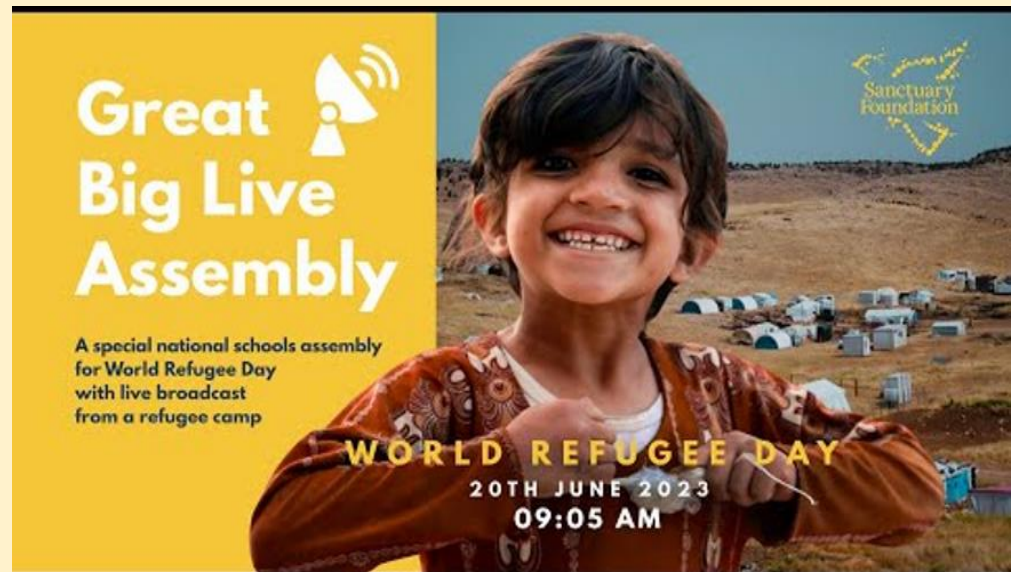
Contact the team.

DBE team contact details to enable schools to contact officers by phone or e-mail.

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simon.geddes@chester.anglican.org	Buildings & Finance Officer	07564 901986
sandra.jones@chester.anglican.org	School Assets Administrator	07549 109589
linda.boys@chester.anglican.org	Governance Officer & Administrator	07549 109590

Great Big Live Assembly for World Refugee Day

Please join Dr Krish Kandiah OBE, Director Sanctuary Foundation, for a special "Great Big Live Assembly" on World Refugee Day, Tuesday 20th of June, at 9.05am.



It is a tragic and gut-wrenching fact that around the world today over 36.5 million children have been forced to flee their homes due to war, famine, and terror to seek safety in another country. In fact, according to the UNHCR, over half of the world's refugees are children. Many will spend their entire childhoods away from home, sometimes separated from their families.

All children everywhere are growing up with the impact of this mass displacement of the world's children. Over the past two years, schools across the UK have done a brilliant job of welcoming tens of thousands of refugees from Ukraine and Afghanistan. Many of our classes are made up of recent refugees, children and grandchildren of former refugees, host families, and their friends.

In celebration of this, and in recognition of the refugee experience, the Great Big Live Assembly is convening a special national school assembly on World Refugee Day, Tuesday 20th of June, at 9.05am. For the first time, thanks to simple-to-use technology, schools are able to gather together via a live online broadcast that is inspirational, informative, and interactive.

The 20-minute Great Big Live Assembly will help children to see for themselves what life is like for many children around the world. It will be hosted by Dr Krish Kandiah OBE Director Sanctuary Foundation, and Daniel Orlova, a 9-year-old refugee from Ukraine now living in the UK. As well as discovering stories and statistics, children in schools around the UK will be able to connect with their counterparts in a refugee camp, thanks to our international partner World Vision. Our aim is for children across the UK to recognize and celebrate the contribution refugees make to life in the UK and demonstrate some of the ways we can all stand with refugees.

You can watch a video about this Assembly [here](#), and sign up to the Great Big Live Assembly [here](#).

RISE Theatre - God's Planet.



RISEtheatre

God's Planet

PRIMARY SCHOOL AUTUMN TOUR 2023

An exciting, interactive day of performance & workshops for the whole school exploring themes around the environment, climate change, God's love for each of us & how we can care for God's AMAZING planet!

-Visit www.risetheatre.co.uk for more information -

GOD'S PLANET DAY PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Classroom activity pack
- Whole school assembly
- Rehearsals for each Key Stage to learn songs & dramatic actions
- Performance by RISE Theatre for the whole school!



Cost - £600*

(*when booked before 16th June-usually £650)

Contact:

schools@risetheatre.co.uk

Discounts available
for academies
(from £499*)

Bible Society – A Story Well Told

The new Open the Book programme and membership scheme was launched on 22nd May and after this we are going on the road with our **A Story Well Told tour featuring Bob Hartman and friends** to explore the power of Bible storytelling.



**Open
the
Book**

A Story Well Told Tour

A Bible story well told has the power to spark the imagination, inspire exploration, give hope, create a smile, teach important lessons and connect generations.

We are excited to bring our author Bob Hartman, along with friends, to a venue near you to explore the power of Bible storytelling.

Hear more about Open the Book and get everything you need for a story well told.

Tour dates and locations

- 3 July Cullompton
- 5 July Port Talbot
- 7 July Sheffield
- 8 July Newcastle upon Tyne
- 10 July Basingstoke
- 11 July Wolverhampton
- 17 July Ely

Book Now!

biblesociety.org.uk/openthebook



For more information go to: biblesociety.org.uk/openthebook

School Diversity Week 2023

School Diversity Week takes place between 26-30 June in primary and secondary schools across the UK. School staff can sign up on the Just Like Us website to take part. The event is a UK-wide celebration of LBQT+ equality in education. It is organised by Just Like Us, the LGBT+ young people's charity, which provides free resources to schools. For the first time this year, there are also specific resources for faith schools, so that all schools have access to LGBT+ inclusion.

News from Schools

Bollington St John's



On Friday 12th May, after Year 6 completed their final SAT, we held our Coronation Assembly followed by afternoon tea.

It was a glorious chance for our school community to come together and mark the Coronation of King Charles.

The children had all worked in class on special art work and research to commemorate the event. Among work on display was a replica throne, a completed royal timeline of every king or queen from 1066 to present day and

crowns decorated with precious jewels. Our Reception children became royal artists, specially commissioned for this very regal task.

We had a thoroughly wonderful afternoon and hopefully ensured the children made memories to last a lifetime.



Chester Bishop's Bluecoat CE High

Celebrating Cultural Diversity at Bishops'

Bishops' Blue Coat CE High School recently celebrated the rich cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity of students in our school with our first highly successful Culture Week. The week was organised by our Diversity Group, a group of students who have received training from The Diana Award to become anti-racist ambassadors across the school. Culture Week involved a wide range of enrichment activities during lessons, Form Time, and lunch times to celebrate and broaden our students' understanding of diversity in our school.



The highlight of the week was our Culture Fair which involved students from over 20 different countries and cultures sharing their language and cultural heritage with others in our school. Parents also sent in recipes for dishes, some of which were served in our canteen. We believe that to truly live *'life in all of its fullness'* (John 10: 10), we need to create a school culture where tolerance, respect and understanding of all is the norm. There was such a spirit of openness and joy in our school this week, as our students and staff listened to each other and learnt from each other about the cultures, backgrounds and languages that form the colourful tapestry of our school community.



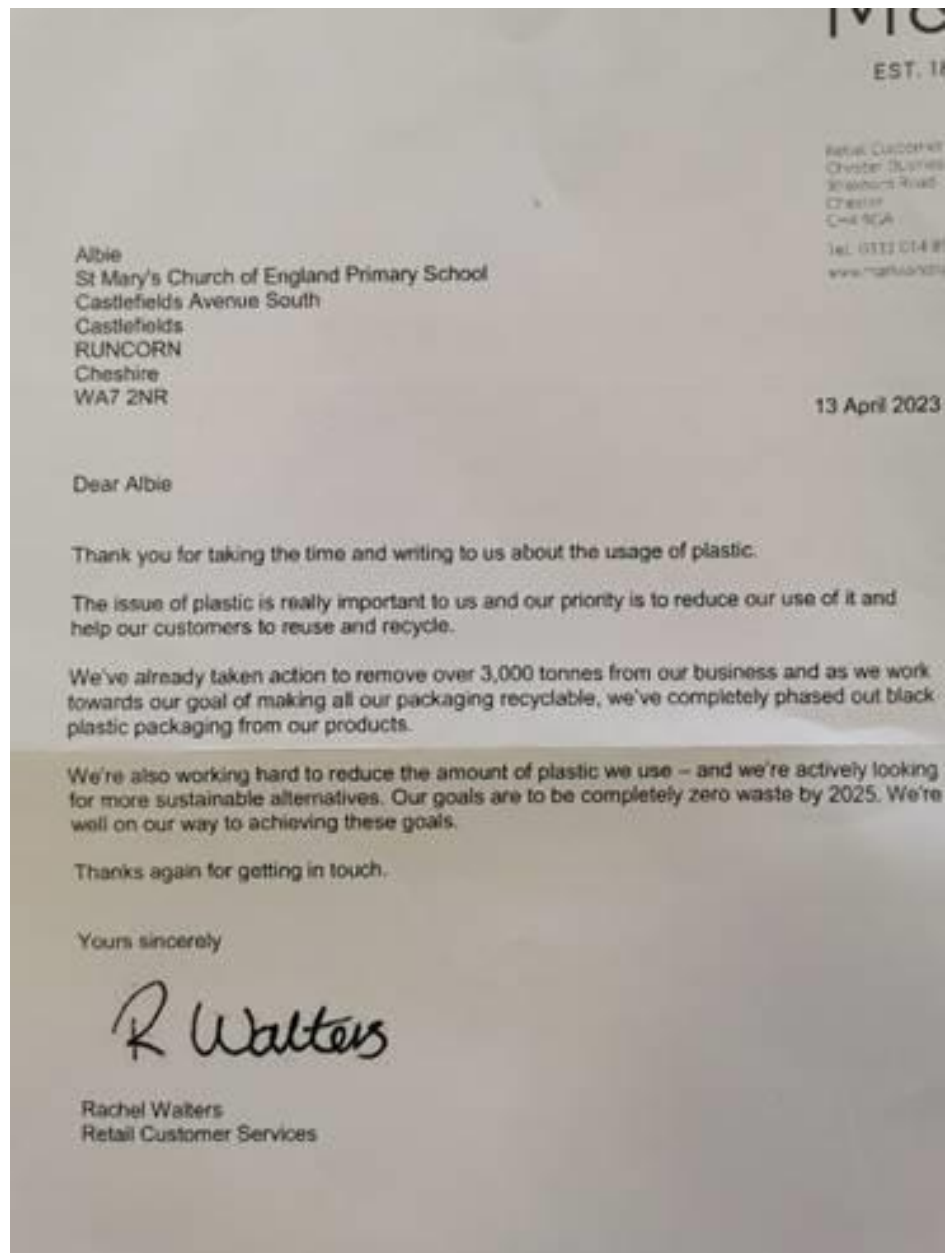
Halton St Mary's

We had been reading the book 'This morning I met a whale' and this highlighted to the children in a powerful way the danger that plastics and packaging can cause our world.

Our starting point of raising awareness was created by pupils reflecting upon creation and the stewardship of it, then we introduced them to the idea of pollution and over use of plastics, moving to what action could they take at home and also our impact of choices in school, for example recycling of paper, card and plastic. All this was considered so we could "Bring on a better world."

The children organised rotas for picking up litter in the school grounds and others wrote to leading supermarkets to ask them to reduce the amount of packaging and plastic that they use. Marks and Spencer have replied and have explained about how they have reduced plastics

Another issue that was raised was the danger of different fishing techniques, we investigated and wrote to the embassies of Japan, China and Spain, asking them to consider limited dangerous fishing, such as large trawler nets.



Hartford High School

Thank you Mr Holland



It's always sad to say 'Goodbye', especially to someone who has had such a long and impacting effect upon our school. Our Head, Mr Holland retired at Easter after 36 years teaching, including 23 years at Hartford Church of England High School, with 18 of those years serving as Head.

Despite the expansion of our school, fantastic new facilities and excellent exam grades, without a doubt Mr Holland would say that his greatest achievement was facilitating Hartford High School to become Hartford Church of England High School in 2005, something almost unheard of in today's society. Mr Holland's life and faith, his dedication and resilience through the pandemic and personal illness have been an inspiration to all who know him.

Having left permanent footprints on all of our hearts and lives, some of our lovely students decided to do something special to show how much they appreciated him. As such our Ethos Ambassadors, Executive School Council and a few others invited Mr Holland to share with them some of his memoirs as Head Teacher. They provided nibbles and a gift and then surprised him with a video they had made. On the video, around 30 students left messages of thanks and appreciation for the man who had showed them such resilience, faith, dedication and care through their time at Hartford.

I am sure you will join us all in wishing Mr Holland a very long and happy retirement.

We now begin a new era in the life of Hartford Church of England High School under the leadership of our new Head Teacher, Mrs Rachel Pickerill. We look forward to all that God will continue to do under her leadership and ask that you uphold her in your prayers as she moves the school forward. I am sure she will introduce herself to you all before the end of this school year!

Lower Peover

As part of our involvement with Northwich Educational Partnership, Years 2 & 4 produced some artwork to be included in the Northwich Art Festival, which is on display at Baron's Quay in Northwich. This exhibition is open to the public for viewing in the unit opposite Wildwood Restaurant near the Odeon cinema.



Moreton Christ Church

During the season of Lent, our children set themselves a Lenten challenge! The children decided which local charities they wanted to support – these included Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Claire House Hospice, Hooves for Healing and Charles Thompson Mission, Cancer Research and RSPCA. All of these charities benefit our local community with support, therapy and healthcare.



Our children showed such compassion as they used their free time across playtimes and lunchtimes to make items to sell at their Lenten sale; these included necklaces, bookmarks and keyrings. The children's charitable giving raised a total of **£736.83** and we invited representatives from the charities to school to receive our donations.

Part of our school vision states 'love one another warmly as Christians'. Our children have really exemplified this through their kindness; one child said, 'it makes me feel warm inside when we do things to help others and spread hope, just like the Bible tells us to.'

Shocklach Oviatt

The King's Coronation brought around a week of celebrations and festivities, all building up to the very exciting parade on Sunday in Malpas. The children enjoyed making flags, crowns, ate a special lunch and learnt all about King Charles and what the coronation would entail.

We had such a huge turn out for the parade that we could have done with a double decker float! The children sang their special



song 'Sing

for the King' all the way up Malpas high street and we even squeezed a puffed out corgi on for the final part of the parade! We felt so proud of the turn out from Shocklach pupils, it was such a wonderful experience for us all!

Stockport St George's

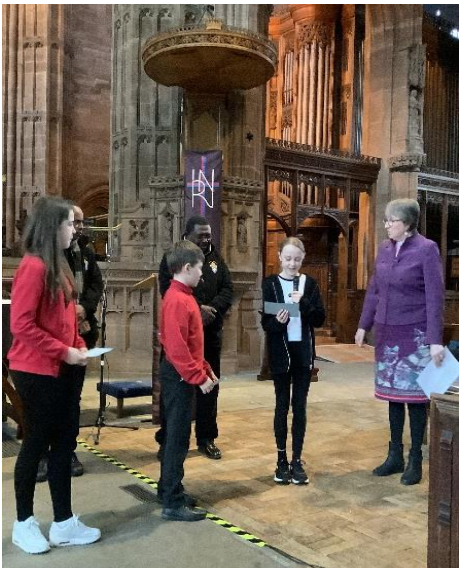
We have been busy this term working hard with the whole school community to develop a deeper understanding of our school vision and how it is expressed through the life of our school. Part of our vision is "Bold in action" but what does this mean in the life of our school?

Last year after several collective worships which had conservation and caring for our planet as their theme, the children requested that we set up an Eco council. The council started to research climate change and realised to their shock the dramatic effects that climate change is

having on Melanesia. Rising sea levels are causing great damage and hardship to these beautiful islands. Armed with their research the children put together a power point and wrote a collective worship to explain to the rest of the school the problems Melanesia is facing.



Imagine our excitement when we were told that we were luckily enough to be hosting a visit from two Brothers from Melanesia, Bishop Sam and Bishop Mark. The Eco council talked to their classes and came up with a list of questions, prayers and songs to present to the Brothers. On 27th February we finally got to meet them, it was a lovely occasion, the brothers were so generous with their answers and time. We learnt first-hand about their life and what it is like to be a Christian in Melanesia. We found out how they and Bishop Sam and Mark had become Christians. What a wonderful morning.



Eco council came away inspired and are busily conducting energy audits and trying to raise awareness of how we can be “Bold in action” and how we can deepen our understanding of our vision and purpose.