

## DIOCESAN COLLECTIVE WORSHIP FRAMEWORK

### TERM 4/YEAR 2 BEGINNING OF LENT

This week our focus is on Lent. We know how much children enjoy making and eating pancakes, but they need to understand the reason behind the tradition.

SEAL - Relationships

Values link – Forgiveness

*(Material from Margaret Cooling, Assemblies for Primary Schools: Spring term, Pub RMEP, used with kind permission and also material from Assemblies.org.uk, Ash Wednesday by Ronni Lamont, used with kind permission)*

GATHER	ENGAGE	RESPOND	SEND
<p>Picture of room filled with rubbish</p>	<p><b>CLEARING OUT OR SPRING CLEAN (whole school)</b>  <b>Proverbs 20:9</b>            You will need: A duster; a dustpan and brush; rubbish; Paper to record on.            Tell the children you are having a spring clean and you want everything clean and tidy. Ask some of them to dust and others to sweep. Ask them to pick up any litter they can see. (Plant some if your hall is tidy!). In the Spring, people often have a spring clean. It is a chance to tidy everything up and throw away the rubbish that has been collected.            Lent is about spring cleaning on the inside. It is easy to clean up the hall and make it look good but how do you clean up the inside of a person? How do you clean up thoughts and actions?            During Lent Christians ask God to help them clean themselves on the inside, to get rid of wrong thoughts and actions. Lent is the time before Easter (forty days, not counting Sundays) when Christians think carefully about themselves. They think about the things that need changing (cleaning) and they ask God's help for they believe that they cannot clean up on the inside without God's help.            Here is a bin and some paper. What sorts of things would Christians want to 'put in the bin'? (Write on the piece of paper some of the wrong things Christians try to clean up at Lent. Example: telling lies.) Just as we clear up rubbish and put it into a bin, so Christians try to clean out the rubbishy things in their lives during Lent.</p> <p><b>SHROVE TUESDAY (whole school)</b>  <b>Matthew 6:12</b>            You will need: Paper; scissors; pens; a brown wax crayon; Blu-tak.            Cut out a large pancake shape. Rub over the pancake with the side of a brown wax crayon to give it a cooked effect. Ask the children to suggest things people might say 'sorry' for. Write their suggestions in the pancake. Blu-tak the pancake to the wall.</p>	<p><b>Prayer for the week:</b>            Dear Lord Jesus,             As we prepare for Lent, give us a pure heart and a will to follow you.  <b>Amen</b>             Thank you, Father, for the time of Lent when people can think about themselves and ask your help to change.</p>	<p>What do you need to clear out of your life to make room for God?</p>

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<p>Display a picture of a pancake/s</p>	<p>Shrove Tuesday is the day before Lent starts. In this country we eat pancakes the day before Lent. In some other countries, people have a big celebration on this day. The word 'shrove' comes from the word 'shriven' which means 'to be forgiven'. On Shrove Tuesday, people went to church and admitted what they had done wrong, the things they were sorry for, and asked God to forgive them. Shrove Tuesday could be called 'Sorry Tuesday' or 'Forgiveness Tuesday'. Lent is a time when Christians think about Easter and they also think about themselves and the things which need changing. Just before Lent, people used to eat pancakes to use up all their rich food because during Lent rich food and celebrations were not allowed. Today, many Christians still give up something, such as chocolate, for Lent and donate the money they would have spent on it to charity. Saying sorry is not easy. It is hard to admit you were in the wrong. However, saying that you were wrong yesterday shows that you are a wiser person today.</p>	<p>Thank you for the time of Lent, which is serious but also joyful as it looks forward to Easter and the day you rose again.</p>	<p>What do you need to change in your life?</p>
<p>Display an image for Ash Wednesday.</p>	<p><b>ASH WEDNESDAY (whole school)</b> <b>Psalm 51:10</b> You will need: *Ash – any sort of finely powdered ash. Strictly speaking this should be from the Palm crosses from the previous year. A local church may let you have some, or contact a specialist religious supplier. Otherwise, you could make ash in a controlled fire – say a waste bin, outside. Use old paper and then pulverize the ashes. Then make a paste from the ash (using olive oil, <i>not</i> water). It can be very runny, like powder paint. You need only a very small amount. *A palm cross – again, perhaps ask your local church *A bag of sugar and a lemon. Place your resources on a table where the children can see them. Produce the sugar and lemon and ask which favourite food these traditionally go on - pancakes. When do we eat pancakes? Shrove Tuesday. Why is it called Shrove Tuesday? Because people used to go to church on that day to be 'shriven'. This old word means that everyone had to confess all the things that they knew they had done wrong. The priest then blessed them, they went home, and made pancakes to use up the eggs in the house, ready for Ash Wednesday, the day after Shrove Tuesday. Ask if anyone knows why it's called that. Produce the ash, and explain that Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent - six weeks of preparing for Easter. Lent is a fast - a time of eating less well, and praying more. It's also a time of thinking about all the things that human beings get wrong. People still go to church on Ash Wednesday to be 'ashed'. Explain that this is an ancient custom, a way of 'acting out'</p>	<p>In a few moments of silence, ask the children to think about things they do that they know are wrong. Ask all the children to say 'I'm sorry' out loud, together, after an appropriate thought from you:  For all the things that I do that I know I shouldn't, <b>I'm sorry.</b>  <b>Song/Music:</b>  'Go tell it on the mountain' (<i>Come and Praise</i>, 24)</p>	

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<p>Choose and display an image for Lent.</p>	<p>remembrance of the fact that we do wrong things. Ask a child (whose religious tradition is compatible with what is to come - and with no fringe!) to come up to the front. Dip your thumb into the ash solution and make the sign of the cross on his or her forehead. The words to accompany this action, which you can choose whether or not to use, are: <i>Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. Turn away from sin and be faithful to Christ.</i></p> <p>If you do use the words, make sure that you pick the sort of child who isn't going to be fazed by these weird words! Let everyone have a look at the child's ash mark as he or she returns to his or her place.</p> <p><b>LENT (class or key stage)</b> <b>Philippians 4:8</b> You will need: a potato; paper (coloured or white); cocktail sticks; sellotape; scissors; a pen.</p> <p>Draw a rough feather shape on the paper and cut out seven feathers. You can ask the children to help you with this. Give each feather a number from one to seven. Sellotape a cocktail stick to the back of each feather, leaving the point exposed. Push all the feathers into the potato.</p> <p>This is a Kukaras. In Greece children make these to use as calendars during Lent. During Advent some of you might have Advent Calendars. This is a Lenten Calendar. Lent is the time of year when Christians get themselves ready for Easter. They think about the things they have done and ask God to help them to live better lives.</p> <p>There are six Sundays in Lent. The children pull out one feather in the Kukaras on each Sunday of Lent. The last feather stands for Easter Day, when Lent is over.</p> <p>For many people Christmas is an important festival but, for Christians, Easter is the most important celebration. That is why children in many countries count down to Easter using a Lenten calendar.</p>	<p>Thank you, Father, for the time of Lent when people look forward to Easter and try to get themselves ready.</p>	<p>What things are you going to do today to help somebody? Choose something that is achievable.</p> <p>I wonder if you could design and make a Lenten Calendar for our Worship Board?</p>
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