

PACE Newsletter

WINTER
2017

Practical Assistance in Christian Education

PACE Supporters,

As Christmas approaches we reflect on a term where lots of things have been new: a new school year, new staff, new clubs, and new lessons. Sometimes new things can be daunting, but throughout this term God has reminded us that He goes before us and is with us every step of the way.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.



TEAM NEWS



There's never a dull moment with PACE! In the summer we were sad to say goodbye to Carys and Chrissie but pleased to welcome Phil Baskerville onto the team.

Now we must announce that Chloe will be leaving PACE at the end of this term but we are pleased for her and Antony as they are expecting their second child!

We will miss Chloe and all that she has brought to the team and we thank her for all of the work that she has done. We wish Chloe, Antony and their family all the best.

We are currently seeking someone to take Chloe's place on the team. Please pray that we find the right person!

A NOTE FROM PHIL...

Having been working in Guernsey for the last 9 years, this last year has been an exciting but equally nerve-racking journey of faith as I have stepped down from the role of being a church leader to focus on work in our schools. It has been great to join the PACE team this autumn with a brief to help develop the links between churches and their local schools, with a specific focus on the provision and support of RE teaching across the island. Hence much of my time this term has been spent meeting with school heads and RE coordinators and teachers, as well as an ever growing number of church leaders, to explore opportunities and possibilities to work in partnership.

The term began with my attending a number of training events both in the UK and on-island. The first was Walk Through the Bible, which equips us to teach Old and New Testament courses to primary schools. Over 5000 children in Guernsey have attended over 120 courses since we started in 2008, with new courses running this term. That was followed by a trip to Reading, to spend several days observing and attending a number of events with RE Inspired following an introduction of the programme to Guernsey in 2015. With subsequent trial RE lessons earlier this year, we are now able to develop and introduce more lessons. Already we have taught over 20 RE lessons this term.

Lee and I also attended a course exploring 'Godly Play' which is helping us deliver some of our RE teaching. As in previous years, we continue to offer Prayer Spaces as another opportunity to explore spirituality with children under the RE umbrella.

All this has been made possible by the hugely generous giving of a large number of individuals and churches, for which we are extremely grateful.

MISSION STATEMENT

One of the outcomes from last term's vision day was the beginning of a mission statement for PACE. We have since worked with some ideas and settled on the following which we think sums up the three main aspects of what we do and why we do it.

"Connecting schools and churches. Communicating Christian beliefs and values. Creating space to explore faith."

There is more information behind the statement on our website.

What are we doing?

ASSEMBLIES

Our primary team started the term by looking at the theme of “making a new start” in our assemblies. We looked at the Parable of the Prodigal Son and how a new school year is a chance to start again. In our second assembly we quizzed the children on their knowledge of animals. We learnt that snails have more teeth than sharks and lions! The quiz was followed by teaching the children a song about creation and focusing on our responsibility to look after the world as it is a gift from God. We will soon be starting our third set of assemblies as we approach Christmas. This will include a visit from the puppets!

During our first secondary school assembly this term, we encouraged the Year 7 students starting at La Mare de Carteret and St Sampson’s to take hold of the new opportunities coming their way, by doing a challenge which involved toothpaste and the ability to get the paste back into the tube... things got a bit messy! We have also looked at the importance of being grateful for what you have and how for a Christian, serving others or doing good deeds should come from first of all realising how much God has done for us. This message was shared at Elizabeth College, St Sampson’s and Blanchelande. At Ladies’ College our themes included the importance of serving others looking at the example of Jesus and exploring the verse, ‘There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens’ (Ecclesiastes 3:1) concluding that all of our emotions are significant at different times in our lives. The term will conclude with a run of assemblies at several schools focussing on Advent as a time of preparation before Christmas.



LUNCH CLUBS

This term we have been doing our BOLT primary lunch clubs at Blanchelande, Castel, La Mare, La Houquette and Vauvert. We have seen around 72 children in total attend these clubs. We now run two sessions at Vauvert as so many children attended during our first week. We have had great discussions and explored interesting themes together. Each week we have focused on a truth from the Bible. The children have enjoyed the games and varied activities.

All senior clubs have continued this year with great groups of students returning or new members joining. We have been looking at the Ten Commandments and discussing how these instructions are still relevant today. This has sparked some great conversations!

We are relying more than ever on volunteers, but fortunately we have been blessed with amazing support from David Wright (Eldad Elim) helping us in all areas of the work, as well as David Girard, Ellis Solway (both Trinity), Matt Gregor (Vazon Elim) and Val Guilbert (Shiloh) who are regular helpers in lunch clubs.

Thank you for your commitment and time.

LESSONS

In primary schools, so far this term we have taken RE Inspired lessons at Blanchelande and St Mary and St Michael. Both of these have been for Year 1 and looking at creation, using techniques from Godly Play to help us tell it in a captivating way. We have also been busy delivering OT Mini to Vale and Hautes Capelles, which will conclude with an assembly where the children will perform the 40 handsigns that they have learnt to the rest of the school and receive their certificates.

This term has been very busy for the secondary team with a variety of lessons taking place in different schools. The lessons covered prejudice and discrimination, the Persecuted Church, the Christian response to evil and suffering and creation. You can see how these lessons went by visiting our blog.

PRAYER SPACES CONFERENCE

Sarah recently went to a Prayer Spaces in Schools day conference in London. This celebrated ten years since the very first prayer spaces event. Since 2007 more than 2800 prayer spaces have been hosted in primary schools across the world. The day consisted of feedback from Professor Julian Stern and Rachael Shillitoe on their research project evaluating the contribution of Prayer Spaces in Schools to the spiritual development of young people as well as meeting with people who host and take part in Prayer Spaces events. It was a great day full of ideas and resources. You can read more on our blog.

PRAYER POINTS

- For continued growth in the relationships between PACE, churches and schools.
- For more volunteers to support our work.
- For more opportunities in lessons across all ages.
- Thank God for all the children who have attended our clubs and their enthusiasm and excitement.



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