



Autumn Newsletter 2018

Welcome to our autumn term newsletter. I often heard the evangelist Don Double say, "Constant change is here to stay!" God often leads us into new situations to face new challenges. It has certainly been a season of change for us at Watford Schools Trust.



Perhaps the biggest change has been the departure of John Way, our esteemed Chair of Trustees, who had been at the helm for 8 years, and a trustee for a couple of years before that. John decided that it was time for him to move away from Watford to sunnier climes by the sea. He was a wonderful ambassador for WST, he is passionate about our work, and went into schools as a volunteer as often as he could. Many people in Watford will miss him, especially folk at St. Mary's. We wish him God's blessing as he settles into the next season of his life.

Due to John's move, I have become the acting Chair of the Trustees. I have served as a trustee for over ten years, ever since the wonderful Wendy Dodson recruited me, and I have seen the Trust grow in many ways during that time, due to God's blessings and the prayers and generosity of you, our supporters. In addition, Eileen Roby has stepped up to become Line Manager to our staff, for which we are very grateful.

It was John's hope that at least one person would join us as a trustee before he left. Well God answered our prayers in that, not one, but three people have come forward. Duncan Campbell and Cath De Costa joined the board in the Summer term, and more recently, Ntonbizifikile Mkoyana (known as Fikile) became a trustee. Duncan is the Vicar of Christ Church and St. Mark's, and he used to be involved with a similar Trust in Stevenage. Cath is the Children and Family Worker at St. Mary's. With Jo Woolcock as our treasurer and Angela Steed as our secretary, I am confident that we now have a good team that can with God's help take the work of the Trust forward. Please pray for us.

One thing that never seems to change is the dedication and passion for the work of our schools workers Tricia and Johanna, together with support from Alison, our administrator. They are really busy at present, taking lessons about Christmas with Year 2 and 6 students, enabling them to understand the true meaning of this season: Jesus, God's gift to us, coming into the world. Please pray that the children will understand this, and pray for Tricia and Johanna's health and strength during this time.

Christmas is a time for giving and receiving, because we remember God's wonderful gift to us. I heard this quote the other day, "You can give without loving, but you can't love without giving." I hope that you will be blessed this Christmas, as you also seek to bless others.

God bless you, and thank you for being our supporters.

Kelvin Hirst.

Welcome to Fikile...

I was interested to join the Watford Schools Trust Trustees because of my Christian upbringing and foundation that has influenced my life; to understand the principles of caring, loving and being considerate of others. Having heard about the work which is always carried out by the entire Trust Team has made me want to give back some of my time-sharing the same Christian values.

My upbringing in South Africa had moulded me to understand why hate and or hatred must never be in any agenda, hatred does not reward. Jesus loved all, as Christians we live to promote love, peace and caring for that in need or bringing in light the love of our Father.

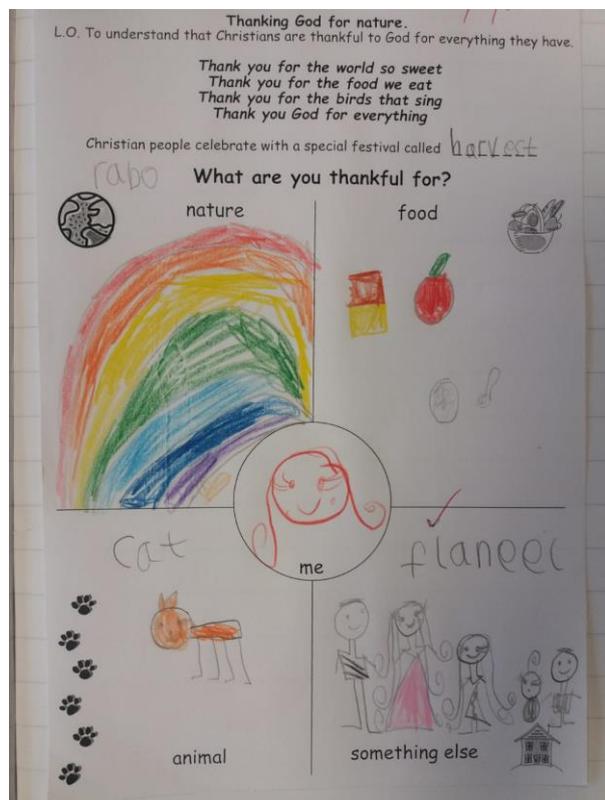
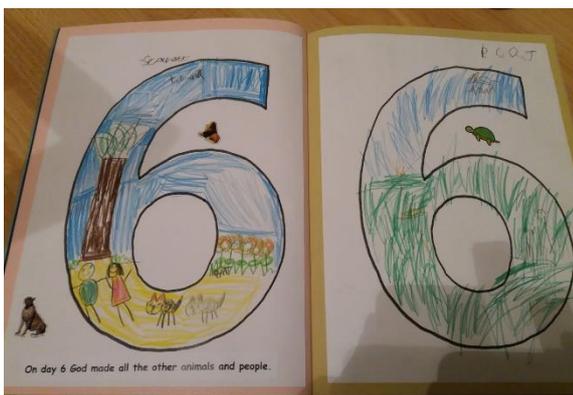
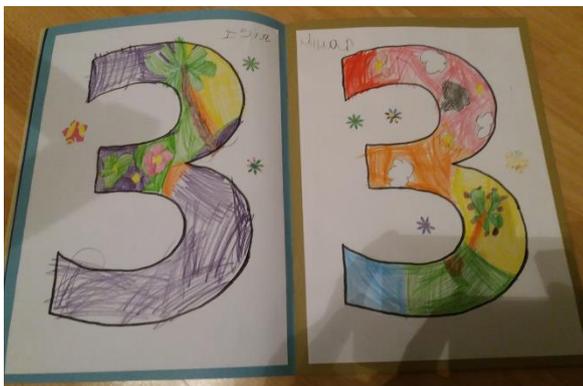
To my belief, Christianity gives children a sense of identity and belonging. I believe that Watford Schools Trust serves my interest of influencing children to love each other and those around them. I have learnt that any information shared with children is more likely to remain in their memories. I am prepared to learn within the Trust as I will be sincerely serving the organisation and the Watford community.

Recent lessons in Schools

This term we have had the privilege of taking lessons based on the Ten Commandments with Year 5 children

We have taken lessons on this subject before, but using the new curriculum guidelines we have reviewed and changed them. The lesson is also extended to include Jesus' response to being asked what he thought was the greatest commandment. The children were challenged by asking them if they thought their classrooms would look and feel different if they kept the commandments and followed Jesus' advice.

In September/October, we visited Year 1 classes with the Bible story of Creation and a lesson on how Christians celebrate Harvest. Children learned that the Bible teaches that God made everything, including people - That God made us! Together the children made a book about the Creation story, which will be kept in their classrooms for everyone to read. In the Harvest lessons children were given the opportunity to think of things they are thankful for like our wonderful world, our food, animals, our family and friends.



Training opportunity

During half -term Johanna and Tricia spent two days at the European Creative Ministries Conference. It was a great opportunity to mix with like-minded people sharing vision and practical ideas for reaching people with the Good News. We both came away with new ideas that could impact our work here in Watford. Please pray for us: that these ideas will grow and inspire us to share the Good News in our local schools.

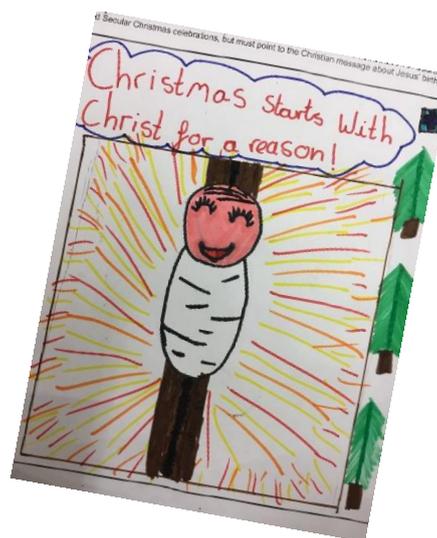


Christmas lessons

Christmas has been a very busy time for us! We have little time to breathe in between lessons!

We taught the Nativity story in year 2 with our knitted nativity characters and children were very involved with the story doing lots of actions and making animal noises. We find it is so important to tell them the story as there is often confusion about whether the shepherds followed the star or the wise men. And whether the wise men brought Frankenstein or frankincense! Most importantly, we help the children understand that Christians believe that Jesus was a very special baby – God coming to us in human form, to be one of us.

In year 6 we did a 90-minute workshop around the belief of ‘Incarnation’ and why Christians believe that Jesus is the Messiah. We look at the Christmas story, match prophecies with facts about Jesus and look at the extraordinary events in Jesus life. Children can then make their own interpretation of the meaning of the Christian Christmas story by designing a poster about the ‘real meaning’ of Christmas.



As we celebrate Jesus' birth, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our supporters a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

We look forward to your continuing support in 2019.



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Watford Schools Trust



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