



Barrow Hills
SCHOOL

Mr Oldroyd's Assembly

Monday 1st March 2021

The pupil profile this week is *compassionate*.

Please accept my apologies - I couldn't get my video to upload so it's all text from me this week!

Good morning everyone. I am hoping that this is the last time that I speak to you from an empty chapel as we look forward to welcoming you all back to school next week and restarting our 'bubble assemblies' soon.

I hope that you can remember all the messages that came through from our theme week – Be Amazing! – in the final week of the last half term. I am sure that you learnt a lot about the Olympics and how they relate to all your lessons and found the activities and knowledge interesting and worthwhile. Also, Sir Chris had some incredibly useful tips for all of us on how we can approach our lives and all the ups and downs that will come our way.

However, now that that is behind us, I wonder if any of you have formed any ideas about you would like to do when they are older? You may wish to discuss this in your form time and share who you might want to be or what you might want to do.

At the moment, Christians are observing the period of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days which comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. This began on Ash Wednesday, during half term – the day after pancake day or Shrove Tuesday as it is referred to.

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities or in a more moderate way by giving up something 'nice' such as eating chocolate.

Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome. This is believed to have taken place in Roman occupied Jerusalem.

Why is it called Lent?

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

In terms of our pupil profile, compassionate, there is no better example of this than somebody devoting their time on earth for improving the lives of others and then ultimately laying down their life in order to promote a more compassionate world.

After this introduction, I would like you to watch the clip on the next slide and to listen to a story about three trees who, once upon a time, were thinking about what they would like to be when they were fully grown.

This links together our pupil profile and our messages to persevere in achieving your dreams as they may not come to fruition in the manner in which you expect.

When it has finished I want you to go onto the Time for Reflection slides and think about the points for discussion that are raised.

I hope you have a good week and see you next Monday!

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Time for Reflection

What did the first tree want to become?

(Answer: a treasure chest covered with gold and filled with precious stones.)

What happened to the first tree?

(Answer: a woodcutter chopped it down and made it into a feed box for animals – a manger.)

How did the first tree end up holding precious treasure?

(Answer: Mary placed baby Jesus in the manger after he was born. Christians think of baby Jesus as the greatest treasure because he is God's son.)

What did the second tree want to become?

(Answer: it wanted to be made into a strong sailing ship and sail across vast oceans carrying important kings.)

What happened to the second tree?

(Answer: a woodcutter chopped it down and made it into a simple fishing boat.)

Who was in the fishing boat when the storm struck?

(Answer: Jesus was the tired traveller and his friends were the disciples.)

What did Jesus do when he woke up?

(Answer: he spoke to the storm and it calmed down. This is one of Jesus' miracles. The second tree knew that it was carrying the greatest king.)

What did the third tree want to become?

(Answer: the third tree didn't want to leave its home. Instead, it wanted to be as tall as possible so that when people looked at it, they would think of heaven.)

What happened to the third tree?

(Answer: a woodcutter chopped it down and made it into planks of wood. Years later, the tree was made into Jesus' cross.)

It doesn't say it in the story, but do you know why Jesus died on the cross?

(Answer: Christians believe that Jesus died on the cross because God wanted to renew his relationship with all people and forgive us for the things that we do wrong. However, somebody had to take our punishment and that somebody was Jesus.)

All three trees had a dream, but over time, they forgot their dreams because they were made into things that they didn't want to be. If we have an ultimate dream, it is important that we don't forget about it when things aren't going our way.

In the story, the third tree's dream was to be as tall as possible so that when people saw it, they would think of heaven. Do you know how the third tree achieved its dream?

The third tree was made into Jesus' cross. At Easter, the symbol of a cross is particularly important to Christians. It reminds them that Jesus died on the cross for the things that we did wrong, but he came back to life (resurrected) and eventually returned to heaven.



Prayer.



Dear God,

Thank you that we all have dreams and ambitions for our lives.

Thank you for the people who will help us to achieve what we would like to do.

We pray that we will never give up on our dreams.

Amen.

Today's Music...

Please click [here](#) for today's hymn.



One more slide...

Here are the credit totals for last week...

Kean - 84

McCormack - 72

Murtough - 62

The running total is...

Kean - 3 points

McCormack -2 points

Murtough - 1 point



Have a good week everyone!