

Our school: together and apart

Reflections for 'school' at home: Candle



A note for parents and carers:

At school, your child will be used to taking part in collective worship every day (they might call it 'assembly'). This is not the kind of worship that some of you might have been part of in a religious building. In church schools this collective worship is planned to be:

- **Inclusive:** something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with
- **Inspirational:** a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development, creates an opportunity to gather around and reflect on a common theme and 'feeds' their inner being;
- **Invitational:** in school, children and teachers are invited to pray, think, or reflect, it is the child's or teachers choice how they respond.

At this time, many children will be missing the familiar routines of school. One way in which we can help to keep that sense of normality is by offering these resources to schools to share with their school community at home. Please be clear: these ideas are for you to use, adapt, or not use at all. You choose!

We plan to produce these resources for the weeks that schools are 'at home' and would love to know if there's anything that your school community at home would appreciate. You can find our contact details on the [Diocesan website](#).

Jane Whittington & Rachel Boxer

| |
|---|
| Theme: Candle – a light in the darkness |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Schools will often light a candle as part of collective worship together, so this is designed to give you the chance to make one at home and use it to help you think together, again keeping a sense of the familiar.● There is a picture of a candle included overleaf for you to look at together, or you can access it here● Some of the activities will work better if it's dark, so you may want to change the time of day you use these resources |
| Things to talk about together: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Look at the candle picture together. Talk about how it makes you feel – and if you are used to lighting a candle for collective worship, talk about what makes this a special moment at school.● If you use candles at home, talk about the times when you light them and how each makes you feel when you do. Talk about any candles that you keep for special occasions.● Jesus talked about people being like lights shining in the darkness. What do you think he meant? [The words can be seen in a picture on the next page]● What good deeds could you do that might 'shine' like a light in the darkness for others to see? You could use key words to decorate your candle (see below) |
| Things to do together: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Make a candle out of paper by rolling the paper into a tube, or using recycled materials such as kitchen roll insides (or toilet rolls if you have them!!). You can make them fat or thin, short or tall – and if you want to, decorate the paper with patterns or pictures before you roll it up. Stop it from unrolling with sticky tape or a paperclip. Cut out a flame shape for each person's candle, but don't stick them on yet, as this will happen during the reflective activity.● Create a stained glass window candle, by cutting a candle-shaped hole in a piece of paper (black works best, but any would do), then using tissue paper to create the 'stained glass' in the gap that is left – children may have done this at Christmas time at school. Put them in your windows so they can be seen.● Make candle holders using an empty glass jar and decorate with Sharpies, stickers, paper cut-outs or tissue paper if you have it. With supervision from an adult, this can then be used to hold a tealight. You can view an example here● Create 'filters' for a torch using paper – cut out shapes from the paper and see what happens when you turn the torch on, then experiment with different patterns or shapes. |
| Things to reflect on or pray about together: |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Gather the candles you have made. Talk with others about how you made yours and why you chose the patterns or pictures you used in your decoration. Give each person a paper flame to hold in their hand. In the quietness, think about one thing you could do for another person that would 'shine' in the darkness. Then stick your flame onto your candle and put it somewhere where everyone can see.● A prayer for you to use if you would like to: |

Jesus, you asked us to shine like lights in the darkness. Help the good things that we do for others to light up their lives and shine brightly. Amen.



People don't hide a light under a bowl. They put the light on a lampstand. Then the light shines for all the people in the house. In the same way, you should be a light for other people.

Matthew 5:15-16

