

# Prayer Spaces in Schools days

## Crayke (VC) Primary School

"On the prayer day my favourite was the thinking zone because it had the plasma ball. When you put your finger on, it follows you everywhere and it is like God is always with you." (Yr 3 pupil)

As part of the school's RE week we held an experiencing prayer day at the sports club. Staff, parents, members of the church community and pupils worked together to create an atmosphere of mystery and wonder in which the children were invited to participate in practical and reflective activities in five themed zones.

In the worry zone children were invited to talk about the kinds of things that worried them. They blew bubbles and as their bubbles disappeared they imagined that they had let go of their worries. "I liked how you draw your worry on the rock," said one pupil. "You washed the rock and I stopped thinking about the worry." They drew chalk pictures on large cobblestones and washed them away to leave their troubles with God to deal with.



In the thinking zone we encouraged everyone to be reflective and to think big thoughts! Pupils could write any thoughts at all that they had and stick them on the 2m tall bubble tube. They were invited to respond to "If you could ask God one question what would it be?" and as they touched the plasma balls, they were encouraged to think how the plasma balls reflected the way God dealt with the world.

In the praying for others zone our vicar, Ian talked the children through a series of photographs of events and situations around the world which required our prayers. The children thought about what they might ask for, wrote their prayers and stuck them to the world map.

In the sorry zone two members of the local church helped the children think about things they may have regretted doing and saying. The children used magna doodles and fizzy tablets to imagine these bad things being wiped away. "I liked putting the tablet in the water to say sorry," said a year 3 pupil. "When the tablet disappeared the sorry had gone forever."

In the Christingle zone the symbolism of the Christingle was explained to the children as they made their own. We had a very short act of worship in church the next day when we held our lit Christingles and remembered that Jesus is the light of the world.

Throughout the day the excitement in the air was almost tangible and our Foundation Governor was among the adults visibly moved by the children's enthusiasm and interest in exploring the spiritual dimension of life. She said, "The awe and wonder on the children's faces, their deep understanding and valuable comments were amazing."



Aniko Shepherd  
Senior Teacher

