***Keeping On Going- Thursday 8th June 2017
Class 6 Children’s Assembly***

Narrator 1- Our attitudes today make a difference to our tomorrows

***Aims***

Narrator 2- Our aim today is to consider that our futures depend on the choices that we make each and every day.

Preparation and materials

* You will need a selection of tools that are suitable for DIY, such as a screwdriver, a hammer, a paintbrush and a chisel.

***Assembly***

Narrator 3- Put your hand up if..

- you have parents or carers who enjoy DIY?
- you help with DIY?

Narrator 4-
Can you give us some examples of things that you make or fix?
What has been the biggest project that you have ever undertaken?

Narrator 1-
For each project that we take on, we need to consider the importance of:
Narrator 2- Careful planning
Narrator 3- Good tools
Narrator 4- Show some DIY tools and discuss what each is used for.

Narrator 1- Listen carefully to the following story about a carpenter who was about to retire.

Narrator 1 Narrator 2 Narrator 3 Narrator 4
Bill had been in the carpentry trade for 50 years, ever since he left school as a young lad of 15. He had always been good with his hands and, from as far back as he could remember, he had always wanted to be a carpenter. He had learned his trade in a small joiner’s shop, and had spent his working life in the house-building business. He was now 65 years old and ready to retire. Bill planned to finish his work this month.
‘It’s time to hang up my tools and spend more time in the garden and with my grandchildren,’ he told Mr Towers, his employer for the last 40 years and his very good friend. Bill knew that he would miss his pay cheques, but he and his wife would get by. It was time to call it a day.
Mr Towers was very sorry to see Bill go. He had been a great worker. ‘Please, Bill, will you work on just one more house, as a personal favour?’ he asked.
‘All right,’ Bill said, and began this last job. Mr Towers didn’t tell him who owned the house that he was working on.
As time went by, it was clear that his heart was not in his work. He cut corners, and resorted to shoddy workmanship and inferior materials. He didn’t take the same time or care that he usually took. It was a sad way for such a skilful man to end his career.
When Bill had finished his work, Mr Towers came to inspect the house. Then, to Bill’s surprise, he handed Bill the key to the front door. ‘This house is for you, Bill,’ he said. ‘It’s my gift to you for all your years of service.’
Imagine Bill’s surprise, and shock! What a shame! If only Bill had known that he was working on his own house, he might have done it all so differently! Now he had to live in a home with all the little mistakes, poor materials and short cuts that only he knew about.

Narrator 4- This story is a bit like our lives.
Every day, we are building something very important: our life.

Narrator 3- Sometimes, we put our very best efforts into what we do. This is especially easy at the beginning of a new school year, or if someone is watching or if there is a reward! It is not so easy at the end of a school term when the sun is shining and we would rather be outside.

Narrator 2- Sometimes, we don’t always give our work our best effort.
We become a bit slack and we make do with less than the best, just like Bill.
At the start of a new school year and also at the start of this new term- the final term, let’s decide to build our lives wisely, remembering that it is the only life we will ever build.

**Time for reflection**

Narrator 1- Imagine that you are a carpenter and your life is like a house. However, you won’t be building walls, laying floorboards and hammering nails. Today, you will be working at school, relating to teachers and other children and making choices. Think about how you will build wisely.

*Narrator 4- Please put your hands together and close your eyes.*Dear God,
I would like my life to be built on good, strong foundations.
I would like to have a life that I can be proud of.
Help me today to make wise choices, to have the right attitude and to do my best.
**Amen.**

Narrator 1-What have we covered today?
Narrator 2- What has this assembly made you think about?
Narrator 3- How have we made you think/ reflect on your thoughts?
Narrator 4- Please will you add your thoughts to the Assembly Reflection board.
Make sure your reflections are about the theme of the assembly
Please don’t leave half-hearted comments- for example- ‘That Assembly was good/great/amazing’

***Insider – Outsider Thursday 15th June 2017
Class 6 Children’s Assembly***

**Aims**

Narrator 1- Today, our aim is to explore the theme of ‘insiders’ and ‘outsiders’ in our community.

**Preparation and materials**

* You will need the following images and the means to display them during the assembly:

- a snowy scene, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/htkwsba>
- a large tree, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/jyzjun5>
- a ‘Welcome’ banner, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/h5r744j>
* You will also need to familiarise yourself with the story of Zacchaeus, which is found in Luke 19.1-10.

**Assembly**

Narrator 2- We want you to imagine a picture of a friendly school.
What would you see there?
How would it feel to be there?

Narrator 3- Write note around the brainstorm for the ‘friendly school’
Focus on the feelings of being an insider – the feeling of belonging.

Narrator 4- Now, we want you to imagine a picture of an unfriendly school.
What would you see there?
How would it feel to be there?

*Narrator 1- Write notes around the brainstorm for the ‘unfriendly school’*Focus on the feelings of being an outsider – the feeling of isolation.

*Show the image of the snowy scene.*
Narrator 2- Look at this scene. It can feel very lonely when everyone else is playing with their friends, but you have nobody to play with. Some people say that if you don’t have friends, it’s like ‘being out in the cold’.
What do you think they might mean by this?
*Listen to a range of responses.*

Narrator 3- In the Bible, there is a story about someone called Zacchaeus who felt like an outsider. Because of his actions, nobody liked him and he had no friends. Then, one day, his life changed completely.

**Narrator 4- The story of Zacchaeus**

Narrator 1- Zacchaeus was a chief tax collector. His job as a tax collector made him very rich, but it also made him very unpopular, because he would often cheat people and take their money.

Narrator 2- Zacchaeus was a very small man. People were always looking down on him, partly because they disliked him so much, but also because he was so small! He had no friends. Nobody wanted to go near him or have anything to do with him. He was an ‘outsider’.

Narrator 3- One day, Zacchaeus heard that Jesus was coming to his town. He wanted to see him, but Jesus was so popular that Zacchaeus knew that there would be crowds of people filling the streets. Zacchaeus looked at the crowds of people. He knew there was no way that he would be able to see over their heads. He had no chance at all of seeing Jesus.

*Show the image of the large tree.(Class 5 completed this as their hall display in the Spring Term)*

Narrator 4- Suddenly, Zacchaeus had an idea. He ran ahead of the crowds and climbed a tree so that he would be able to get a better view of Jesus. Jesus walked underneath the tree and, to Zacchaeus’ amazement, stopped right beneath him! To Zacchaeus’ surprise, Jesus looked up and spoke to him. Zacchaeus could not believe it - for the first time in his life, someone was looking up to him!

Narrator 1- Jesus had an even bigger surprise for Zacchaeus. He asked Zacchaeus if he could come to stay at his house. Zacchaeus was delighted and quickly climbed down the tree and welcomed Jesus into his home.

Narrator 2- The people around Jesus were shocked and began to grumble, ‘Why is Jesus going to his house and not my house?’ However, meeting Jesus made a big difference to Zacchaeus. He realized that he had done many wrong things, so he gave away his money to people who were poor and he gave back money to all the people from whom he had taken it.

Narrator 3- Zacchaeus realised why he had no friends and now he was free to become part of his community again. Even though Zacchaeus was still a small man, people could now look up to him.

 **Narrator 4- Now, it’s time to reflect.**Put your hand up if you would like to offer an answer.
Narrator 1- Which part of this story do you like best?
Narrator 2- Which part of this story do you think is most important?
Narrator 3- How do you think Zacchaeus felt when people looked down on him?
Narrator 4- How do you think Zacchaeus felt when Jesus looked up to him?
Narrator 1- Why do you think Jesus decided to stay at Zacchaeus’ house rather than with someone more popular?
Narrator 2- What does the story teach us today?

*Show the image of the ‘Welcome’ banner.*
Narrator 3- Think about it; are you people who make everyone feel welcome and wanted?

*Narrator 4- Please put your hands together and close your eyes.
Prayer*Dear God,
Thank you that you are always there to welcome us.
Please help us to make our school a place of welcome.
When we see people feeling isolated and lonely, help us to make them feel part of our groups.
**Amen.**

***Giving Thanks to God: At the Start of the Day- Thursday 22nd June 2017
Class 6 Children’s Assembly***

**Aims**

Narrator 1- Our aim for today’s assembly is to consider how fortunate we are to have food to eat every day.

**Preparation and materials**

* You will need a large map of the world, a large globe or an image of a world map and the means to display it. An example is available at: <http://geology.com/world/world-map.gif>
* You will also need a small packet of rice, a small banana and an image of a packet of peanuts, available at: <http://tinyurl.com/z7bt2lr>
*Note:* Peanuts are referred to in the assembly as part of the staple diet of some children in Africa. Due to the allergy advice in most schools, it is considered good practice to use an image of some peanuts rather than an actual packet.
**Assembly**

Narrator 1 hand rice to Narrator 2
Narrator 2- ‘Rice? What’s that for? I don’t like rice very much!’
Narrator 3 hands a banana to Narrator 4
Narrator 4- ‘No, thanks, I’ve already got a banana for my lunch, why would I need another one?’
Narrator 5 hands some peanuts to Narrator 6
Narrator 6- ‘What are these for? Has someone lost them? I’m not even sure they should have these in school!’

Narrator 1- Well, that was interesting to say the least.
What did you all think about the replies that the children gave?

Narrator 2- In many parts of the world, where there is little food, any gift is welcome.
People eat whatever they can get; they have no choice.

*Narrator 3- Show the large map of the world, the large globe or the image of the world map.*
Who can come and show me where Africa is?
Africa is a continent and, in many parts of Africa, there are children who do not have enough to eat.

Narrator 4-Liste to the following story, which is about how each day starts for Congo and Ben, two boys who live in Uganda.

Narrator 5- Congo and Ben climbed out of their bunks and went for a shower. It was very hot; perhaps it would rain today. They really hoped so.
It was still dark and it wouldn’t get light for another hour. However, they were used to being without light and they knew the way to the shower from their room, which they shared with 50 others.

Narrator 6-
There wasn’t much water today, but they did their best to wash and then dried themselves before dressing.
Congo and Ben were proud of their school uniform of white shirt and grey shorts. They had socks and shoes, too, but they only wore those for going to school and on Sundays.

Narrator 1- Other children were getting up early, too – after all, there was a lot to do! The dormitory had to be cleaned, the paths swept and the pigs and goats fed. They also had to wash their clothes and lay them in the sun to dry. It might have been only 5.30 in the morning, but they had to do their jobs before Morning Worship at 6.30.

Narrator 2- Congo hadn’t been at the orphanage for long; his mother had died some years ago and his father had died just before Christmas. His grandmother couldn’t look after him and his sisters, so the local minister had found him a home at the orphanage. Congo was lucky because someone in England was paying for his education.

Narrator 3- Congo loved going to school. There were 80 other boys in his class. He and his friend Ben were nine years old. Some of the boys were much older because they had only just started school - one boy was 14 years old.

Narrator 4- Congo and Ben ran to the school room, where there was music. A drum made of goatskin stretched across a wooden frame was beaten with a stick and the boys sang, ‘We are marching in the light of God’.

Narrator 5- Their teacher, Matthew, told them a story about Jesus. The story was about a lost sheep. Matthew had to explain to the children that sheep were like goats, because no one in the class had ever seen a sheep. To lose a sheep was very bad, so when it was found, everyone would be very happy, especially the shepherd. In Jesus’ country, they needed sheep for the same reasons that Congo and Ben needed goats - for their milk, meat and skin.

Narrator 6- The children said a prayer and went to breakfast. It was seven o’clock in the morning.
Before they started breakfast, the cook asked Congo to say a prayer.
Congo was hungry. He thought of the rice and banana he would have for breakfast - and the five peanuts in his pocket for break time.
He said,
Narrator 1,2,3,4,5- ‘Thank you, God, for rice and bananas, for tea to drink and for peanuts. Amen.’
Then, all the children waited until everyone had their breakfast in front of them and they ate together hungrily.

**Time for reflection**

Narrator 1- Now, it’s time for reflection.
How often are we thankful for what we have?
Congo and Ben have the same food to eat every day. They are often hungry. However, they are grateful for what they have.

Narrator 2- Please put your hands together and close your eyes.
Dear God,
Please help us to be grateful for everything that we have.
Please help us not to complain about our food.
Please help children around the world who are hungry today.
**Amen.**