



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2021



DIRECTOR'S SPRING MESSAGE

Simon Ellingham

And so we reach the end of the term. Once again, things have not turned out as expected, or maybe even hoped, and we have found ourselves, like so many others, wondering when we'll be able to feel 'normal' again. It's now been a full year since we were able to perform any of our usual functions, bar a few primary schools allowing classroom-based assemblies, and Cheam High amazingly asking us to come in for our very challenging 'Positive Choices' sessions. Sometimes it feels like so much opportunity has been missed, and engagements and friendships we had worked so hard to establish have been lost.

I have been working my way through the book of Job, not an easy read, I'm sure many of you will agree. However, the constant theme is one of confidence that God is in control, He has a plan and a reason for what He is doing, despite the fact that we can't see it. Job continually stands firm in the face of incredible pressure to accept the advice and 'wisdom' of his friends. He does this because he simply has faith in His God, and understands that God is above all things and we are called to simply acknowledge His sovereignty in our lives.

There's probably far more to Job than that, but that's what I'm getting! However, what is reassuring is the certainty that, despite the turmoil of recent months, God is sovereign. We are here to serve and to worship Him, and we will continue to do so, whichever direction the wind is blowing.

This is the 25th year of SSW, and we were hoping to mark it with a special celebration and thanksgiving. This is still in the planning, but very difficult to put anything concrete together that will make it a proper 'event'. Somehow getting some people together on Zoom just wouldn't be right, and it is definitely our hope and prayer that we can mark this amazing milestone with a proper gathering of the faithful. Maybe this could be that first get together that we are all seeking? A chance to properly open our lungs and praise Him amongst His people? Now that would be something special. You don't know how much you miss

something etc.....

As our schools take a well-deserved breather for a couple of weeks, we are asking that people pray for a renewed sense of excitement for next term. Maybe this will be the time we can begin to be welcomed back, maybe we will find our old friends within the teaching community finding the confidence to contact us once again and get us into their buildings once more, maybe even find new ways of communicating the good news of the love of God through Jesus that we hadn't tried before.

Maybe.... It is all in God's hands, and in His timing, and we continue to pray for all these and more. What we have been reminded of so much this past year is to understand and appreciate the true value of we have, and to acknowledge the meaning of 'community'. Many of us have missed that, and the family of God now have the ideal opportunity to offer that sense of belonging to so many more people, as they will have realised the value of this through lockdowns, and it is our prayer that SSW can be part of that drive to let people know of His love, and His family.

As we celebrate over Easter, the day our Lord conquered death and showed us the hope that faith brings, we pray that this message of hope can be shouted out once again. SSW exists to let our children know about Him, and, more than many of us have even known, that message of hope is needed in our schools right now.

Happy Easter to you all, and may you know God's blessing at this special time.

From all at Sutton Schools Work

[If you want to print off a copy of this newsletter click here](#)

PRIMARY WORK

Primary Assemblies

Our primary assemblies during the spring term have continued online. We now have *36 online assemblies* available for primary schools, at any time, on our YouTube channel and website.



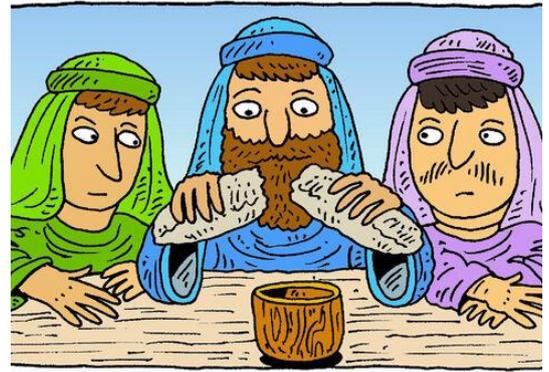
The Easter assembly series took the journey through Holy Week, with six assemblies: the donkey, the meal, the garden, the rooster, the cross and the surprise. Abby filmed the assemblies at home, our willing volunteers contributed stories and film clips, and Sarah worked her magic to produce another excellent assembly series.

Many of our Sutton primary schools have been watching these assemblies, and we continue to hear from schools further afield who are also engaging with our online resources. It has been such an encouragement to hear of God reaching and blessing children, and their families, despite the restrictions that have been placed on us.



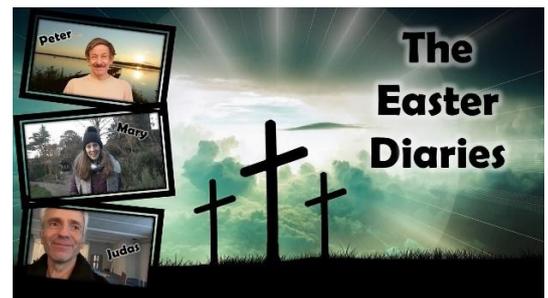
As Sarah Skinner begins her maternity leave next month, the primary work continues. We have seven RE days booked in three schools so far, in the summer term. We are also launching a new 'in class' iwonder space... more details in our summer newsletter.

**Please pray for the Sutton primary school communities as they allow us back into schools.
Pray for health and protection for all, for peace and wisdom for the staff,
and that God's will would be done in the lives of those we reach.
Thank you.**



Easter Diaries

Unfortunately this year we were unable to do Easter Experience but we still wanted to be able to provide something for the schools at Easter time, so we came up with 'The Easter Diaries'.



'The Easter Diaries' is a set of videos designed for years 4-6 to learn more about the Easter story and how it might have felt for some of the people involved. The story is split into 4 parts and told from the perspectives of some of the disciples - Peter, Judas and Mary. We also created a worksheet that could be used to go alongside the videos.

Although it's not possible to know exactly how many schools have used the resource we've had a good response from many – here is what some teachers have said:

"We have been watching it in Year 4 and they are loving it."

"We just loved the Easter diaries video. It was just right for our social media obsessed year 6s and it really gave them such a good understanding of the Easter story."

If you'd like to watch 'The Easter Diaries' you can find it on our website or YouTube channel:

<https://www.suttonschoolswork.co.uk/theeasterdiaries>

<https://youtu.be/m49kqs1Ua7U>

SECONDARY WORK

Kintsugi Hope

Kintsugi Hope is a brand new and exciting opportunity for us to be back in Secondary Schools. To give you an introduction as to who they are and what they do...Kintsugi Hope is an organisation put together by Patrick Regan, and one of the strands they offer as part of their work is 'Wellbeing Groups' for young people. We as Sutton Schoolswork became a 'partner' of Kintsugi, which enables us to do some training and deliver these sessions to as many Schools as possible!

We recognise that Pastoral Support is so important for young people right now, particularly for those who may be feeling overwhelmed or challenged at this time. It is a 6 week programme based around Emotional Well-being, discussing topics such as Anger, Anxiety and Disappointment.

We would work with the Schools to best suit the needs of both them and the students. It would take place in a facilitated peer mentoring style setting, so our aim would be to deliver these sessions in smaller groups which can allow young people to open up more about the topic being discussed.

We have sent information about Kintsugi Hope to all of our Secondary Schools, explaining what it's all about and how it would work. We have had some of our Schools show some keen interest on this new project, so we are praying we can be back in Schools as soon as possible!



KINTSUGI HOPE

What is Kintsugi Hope?

- For young people who feel or have felt overwhelmed.
- Providing tools for self-management.
- In a facilitated peer mentoring style setting.

Topics covered include:

- Disappointment
- Loss
- Anxiety
- Anger
- Perfectionism
- Shame
- Resilience

The course runs for 6 weeks. We are now booking for summer term 2021

FREE

Contact kate@suttonschoolswork.co.uk for more information or to book a course

Sutton Schoolswork logo

Online Lessons

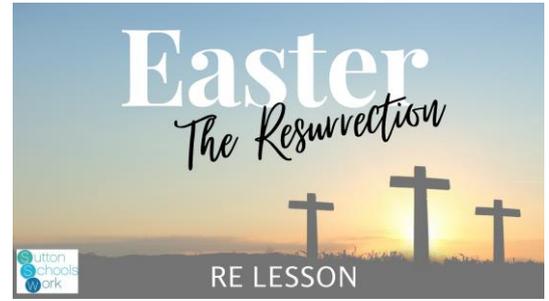
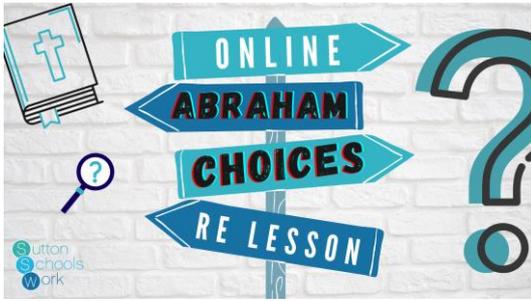
Although we haven't been able to get into Schools in person for our RE Lessons that Schools tend to book in annually, we have been producing and adapting these lessons to online videos for our YouTube Channel. These topics include; Science & Faith, Abraham & Choices, Pilgrimage and Easter. These lessons have been suitable for year groups 7 - 11.

It has been a challenge adapting material, which we have always been used to delivering it in a discussion based style, to a video format.

We have kept space for those discussion questions to be explored both at home and in the classroom, we have added lots of visuals to keep engagement high. We have also benefited from some of our volunteers sending in their own testimonies of the topic we have been exploring.

Feedback from teachers has been really positive. For example, a Head of RE in a local School got in contact with us to say they have been using the materials, this has been particularly encouraging as we have never done an RE Lesson in this School.

Our plan would be to be back in Schools delivering RE Lessons as soon as we can, but these online lessons have been a great opportunity for us as Sutton Schoolworks to reach Schools we have not previously been able to run RE lessons in.



Copyright © All rights reserved.

Sutton Schoolswork

Our mailing address is:

Sutton Schoolswork

Cheam Methodist Church

Church Hill Road

Cheam

SM3 8LJ

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#)