Elizabeth Walter Charity: Report on Funds Granted

Grant: The sum of £2,000 for a Faith Reading Area Project

Report: This year, my colleague and I have been working on our Faith Reading Area Project to create an interactive, fun and inspiring reading and writing environment for KS1. We wanted to develop a love of reading in our youngest children, providing them with an engaging place full of resources that will educate them about faith, diversity and culture in an enjoyable way. We want children to be excited about the opportunity to read and, as a Church School, we want to provide books and other resources that are about the Christian faith, making it more relevant to young children.

Originally, we had hoped to purchase a larger structure which children could sit inside to read and write, however, this proved very difficult due to logistics and practicalities in school. Therefore, we decided to purchase two smaller structures which house all of the resources for children to access. As these are shed-like in nature and situated outside, this increases their accessibility during times of play, so, for example, children can access these wonderful new resources in Choice Time and Golden Time (rather than it seem like a lesson/something they have to do).

Below are some photos of the structures and the resources inside. There is a wide range of resources and the children have absolutely loved using them so far. We have tried to include some photos of non-identifiable children so that you can see the project in action. The children love having the freedom to choose which writing resources and/or books to take to use and it is really positive that their ethnic diversity is reflected in the variety of books on offer. We have also bought extra resources to keep adding to the cupboards in the future.

Inside the cupboards are blankets for the children to sit on, whiteboards, notepads, writing equipment, a prayer box and a wide range of books. We have also created two 'mobile library' boxes for the whole school to access at playtimes. These are large plastic boxes on wheels which contain blankets and a variety of books including some beautiful Bible story books. Some children have been assigned librarian responsibilities to take these outside (weather permitting of course!) and to look after them.

Overall, the children have a much-increased access to books and other resources that encourage them to reflect on faith, diversity and a wide range of topics, thanks to this project. Thank you so much for enabling this project to go ahead.

Kori Dorrington (Chaplain, St Matthew's Primary School, Ipswich), June 2024





The Sheds





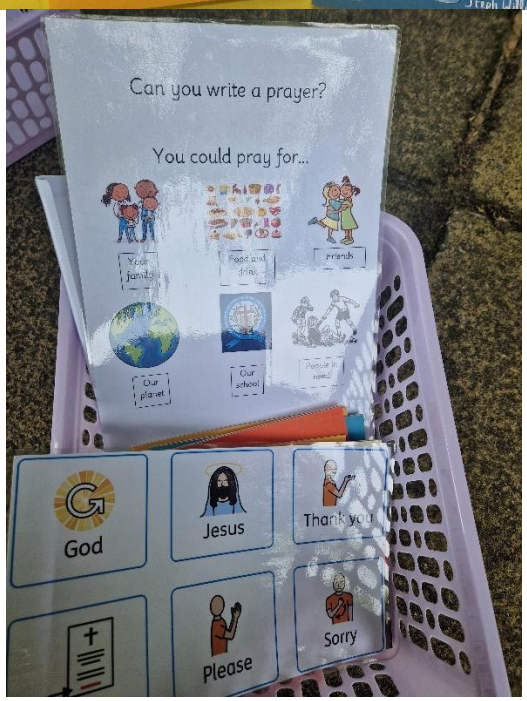
Some of the resources in one of the sheds



One of the Faith Books boxes



Some of the books in the Faith Books box

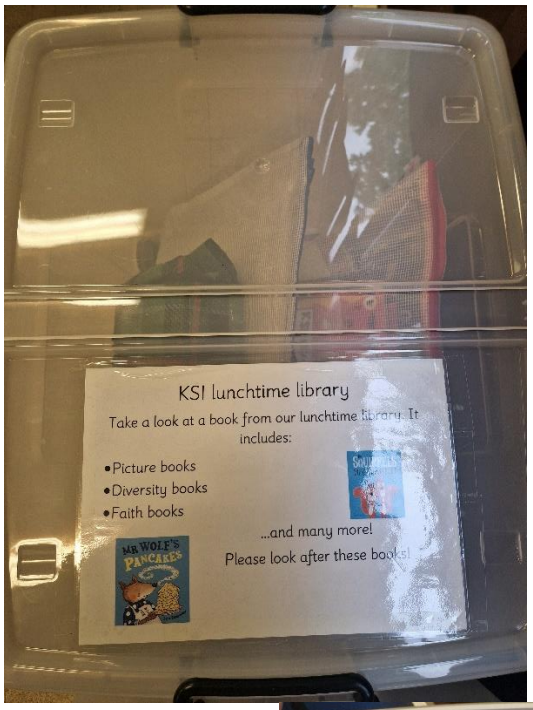


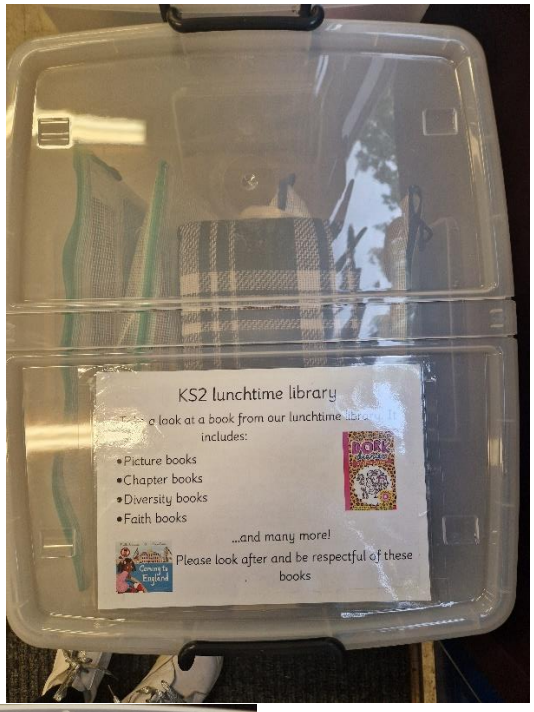
Some of the prayer prompts





Some of the posters on the inside doors





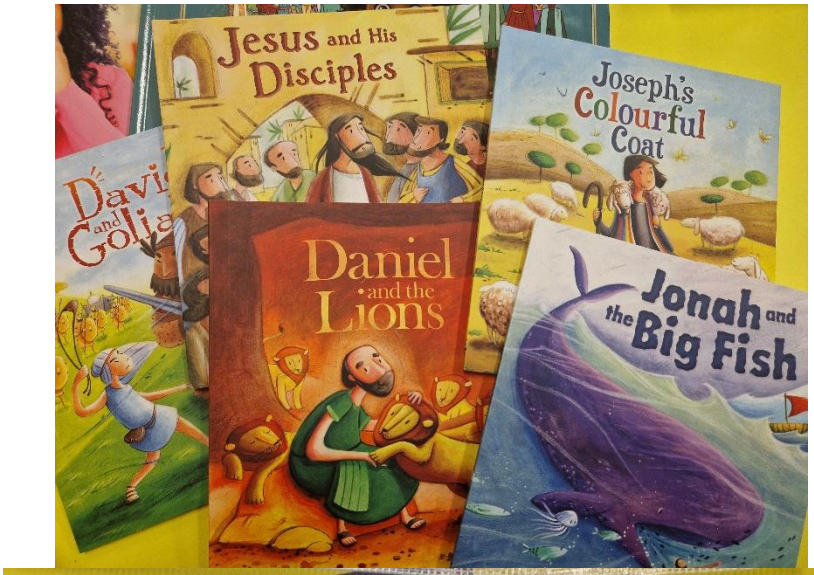




The lunchtime mobile library boxes for KS1 and KS2



Books about diversity and culture





Books about faith