



Ackworth Howard Church of England (VC) Junior and Infant School

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Chair of Governors: Mrs L. O'Brien

Educating 'for life in all its fullness.'

Growth in MIND, BODY, SPIRIT

12th April 2021

Eucharist Engagement

Dear Parent/Carers,

The relationship between St Cuthbert's church, the local community and Howard School is strong and highly valued. St Cuthbert's Church is regularly used for celebrations by our school. As part of this strong relationship with the church, we are looking forward to sharing our first service of Holy Communion (Eucharist) together at Howard School in June. This is an important time for the school and parents to reflect on this important aspect of our school life.

What is the Eucharist about?

Many schools that have enjoyed the Eucharist as part of the pattern of their school worship have found the experience to be enriching and positive, adding an extra dimension to their worship. In a school Eucharist, the children are being introduced and invited to participate in the central act of Christian worship.

The word Eucharist means thanksgiving. When people celebrate the Eucharist they are saying thank-you to God. On the night before Jesus died, he shared a meal with his friends. The Eucharist recalls and brings to mind this event, which lies at the heart of Christian worship.

The Eucharist will hold different meanings for children and adults at different stages of their faith journey. What happens in the Eucharist remains essentially an amazing mystery treasured by the Church.

Children and the Eucharist

Jesus accepted and welcomed children throughout his ministry. In the communities to which they belong, children need to feel accepted and valued for who they are in the present, rather than with an eye to the future. In worship, as, in all their learning, they should be active participants.

As our school makes preparations to hold its first Eucharist, every child should feel a sense of inclusion. We need to consider very carefully how this could best be achieved. It may not mean that each child receives bread and wine, but that inclusion is achieved in other ways, so that the children are made to feel welcome and part of the proceedings. The only stipulation to participate in the Eucharist, is that your child has been baptised/christened. If you want to discuss this further please contact Revd. Charlene.

Preparation

If the children are to receive communion in our school, then parental permission will need to be sought. As in all acts of school worship, parents have the right to withdraw children if they so wish. If you have any questions or would like clarification of anything, please do let us know.

Compassion
Forgiveness
Friendship
Trust

A letter will be sent home in due course asking for your permission for your child to receive communion.

The children will have full preparation by Revd. Charlene, and then admitted to the Eucharist at a special service conducted by Bishop Tony Robinson in May, the children will then receive their first communion at the Eucharist in June.

Our Eucharist will be open to all members of the school community (should Covid restrictions allow by then) and we are always delighted when parents, carers and governors join us. As with the children, adults are welcome to take communion or receive a blessing.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Walker - Headteacher

Rev C Smith - Incumbent (Benefice of Ackworth and Badsworth)

