TERM 3/YEAR 1/WEEK 1 - REFLECTING ON ‘LIGHT’

The inspiration for this term comes from the reflective resource, Pause for Reflection (available from the Diocese of Gloucester, Jumping Fish resources). This resource suggests creative and interactive ways to encourage spiritual reflection – this term’s worship is based upon the idea of ‘Shine as Lights in the World’ from the pack. This display could begin with a single light – Jesus as the Light of the World and grow each day/week as the different aspects of light are added. Each candle could be lit from the original or previous candle.

SEAL link - New beginnings
Values link - Reverence

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| **Bidding**: Jesus said, **Response: “I am the Light of the World”** (as a candle or candles are lit) | **I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD (whole school)** John 8 v 12  
A powerful image for sharing with this is the painting by Holman Hunt, ‘Light of the World’. The lantern which Jesus carries is related to the words “I am the Light of the World”. It was painted in the 19th century and became so famous that it went on a world tour. It was so important to Holman Hunt that he painted it at three different points in his life – he said that he became a Christian when working on it the first time. In the painting Jesus stands in the darkness with a lantern, knocking on a door without a handle – the door can only be opened from the inside. It is up to each individual to allow the light of Christ into their lives by ‘opening the door’. Give time for the children to reflect on the picture.  
**Ask**: I wonder why …. the painting is so dark?  
there are so many weeds?  
the door is firmly closed?  etc  
Do not necessarily have replies spoken aloud. Perhaps the pupils can discuss this in class at the end of the day after time for reflection. | **Fill us, we pray, with your light and life**  
that we may show forth your wondrous glory.  
Grant that your love may so fill our lives  
that we may count nothing too small  
to do for you  
nothing too much  
to give and nothing too hard to bear.  
*St Ignatius Loyola (1491-1556)* | **Leader**: God shines in your hearts:  
**Response**: Praise to Christ our Light!  
**Leader**: Christ is the Light of the World:  
**Response**: Praise to Christ our Light!  
**Leader**: Go in the power of the Spirit, to bring light to others:  
**Response**: Praise to Christ our Light! |
| **GOD CREATES LIGHT AND GOD IS LIGHT (whole school)** Genesis 1 v 3  
Jesus (God the Son) taught his followers that he is the light of the world. God the Father gave the command that light should exist as the first stage in creation. Why is light so important? – demonstrate the difference that light makes, eg by turning off lights in the hall or by using a spotlight on a particular object. God knows how to “switch on the lights” as he did when he said “let there be light”. So God is both the creator of light and light itself. Light is important for human life – practically in our everyday lives and also for our health and growth, so this is a relevant and powerful image to use. | | | |
### SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS (whole school)

Malachi 4 v 2

Use some ‘wow’ images of the sun in its different moods and representations. The sun, our nearest star, provides all the light and heat needed for life on earth. Just as the sun is the source of physical energy life on earth, God can be seen as the source of our spiritual life. The reference in Malachi is used as a reference to the coming of Jesus. The sun is a powerful image – it is massive and powerful and beautiful. Charles Wesley uses the image in the hymn

> ‘Christ whose glory fills the skies,
>   Christ the true the only light,
>   Sun of righteousness arise,
>   Triumph o’er the shades of night’

and also in the carol Hark the Herald Angels, there are the lines “Hail the heaven born prince of peace, hail the sun of righteousness, light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings” Is this image helpful? Are there any other light images which help in the understanding of God/Jesus?

### THE BABY IN THE TEMPLE (class or Key Stage worship)

Luke 2 v 25-35

Put a doll and a candle in a box – build up the ‘suspense’ – what is in here? Why are these things together? Tell the story of how Mary and Joseph took Jesus to the Temple when he was eight days old using an appropriate version. An old man who had been waiting for the Messiah took Jesus in his arms and described him as “A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles” Light is important and special – this is how Christians see Jesus and Simeon wanted everyone to know this. Simeon too had waited in ‘suspense’ to see this very special baby who would do amazing things later in his life.

Even though the pupils are still young, how are they going to be a ‘light’ in the world?