On many occasions Jesus used touch as part of his healing – as well as physically healing those who were ill, Jesus’ touch would have brought spiritual and mental comfort to people who had suffered, often for many years. Jesus was also touched by others which also brought comfort and healing to them.

**SEAL link - Relationships**

**Values link - Trust**

### GATHER

- Lord, speak to us that we may hear your word. Move among us that we may behold your glory. Receive our prayers that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

- Find images/paintings of Jesus meeting the people in this passages for this week, show

### ENGAGE

**JESUS BLESSES CHILDREN (whole school)**

Mark 10 v 13-16

Paintings of this episode often show Jesus blessing the children by touching them. The people wanted Jesus to bless their children by touching them (you could link this with a blessing given at communion or during a baptism by touch). Although the disciples tried to stop the people, Jesus carried on taking the children in his arms. Why do the children think that this was important for the children and the parents who were there? What do the children think that Jesus’ words about the kingdom of heaven mean? In what ways do children think that they are important and that adults might be able to learn important things from them?

**JESUS HEALS A DEAF MUTE (whole school)**

Mark 7 v 31-37

Think about being deaf and the ways that those who are unable to hear can be helped – through lip-reading and sign language, for example. Demonstrate and share some signing. Think about the difficulties of not being able to speak and how you might have to communicate. Show that these things are possible but that life might be difficult for someone who cannot hear or speak.

In this healing Jesus put his fingers in a man’s ears, and spat and touched the man’s tongue. It was these two parts of the man which were affected and which would have made life almost impossible for him – he had no means of communicating or being communicated with. Jesus communicated to the man which two parts of his body would be healed. The healing amazes everyone and the good news about Jesus is spread.

Why do you think that Jesus would have felt compassion for this person? How different would life have been for the man after he had met Jesus?

### RESPOND

- Christ be with me
- Christ within me
- Christ behind me
- Christ before me
- Christ beside me
- Christ to win me
- Christ to comfort and restore me
- Christ beneath me
- Christ above me
- Christ in quiet and Christ in danger
- Christ in hearts of all that love me
- Christ in mouth of friend and stranger

*St Patrick (389-461)*

Learn a simple signed song (eg Jesus, Jesus, here I am) or simple phrases of The Lord’s Prayer using British Sign Language

### SEND

- Turn and face the doors to leave and say:
  - To a troubled world peace from Christ.
  - To a searching world love from Christ.
  - To a waiting world hope from Christ.

- May the love of the Lord Jesus draw us to himself, the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen us in his service, the joy of the Lord Jesus fill our hearts; now and for evermore. AMEN
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JESUS HEALS A SICK WOMAN (whole school)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark 5 v 25-34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In this story, we meet a woman who has an illness which caused her to bleed a lot. Explain how weak it would have made her feel to have this sickness because there was no blood donation or blood transfusions or medicines which could help people as would be the case for this woman today.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This episode could be presented using drama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>This healing is different from the one for the man who could not hear or speak because this woman has the strong and certain belief that she will be well if she can just get close enough to Jesus to touch his cloak. Imagine her jostling and pushing through the crowd (women were meant to stay out of the way in the time of Jesus) – she is weak and ill but she keeps trying. Then she is close enough and she touches Jesus’ clothes. Jesus knows something has happened and asks who touched him. The woman is nervous because she thinks she might have done something wrong. But Jesus praises the faith of the woman and assures her that she is now well – because she had the faith to touch him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What if she had given up because there were too many people? What did she believe about Jesus? When is it easy and when is it difficult to have faith?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JESUS HELPS PETER (class or key stage)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Matthew 14 v 22-33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Find an image of this episode that conveys the danger of the storm so that pupils can see the risks that Peter was taking. The disciples are frightened by a storm on the lake. Jesus comes towards them on the water and Peter tries to walk towards him but starts to sink. Jesus grabs him by the hand and saves him.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What if he had given up because the storm was so bad and he was afraid? Why did Peter do something that must have seemed impossible to him? What do you do when you are faced with a really difficult situation? How might faith help?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(You might want to explain, especially to young pupils, that it is important to learn to swim before going into the water).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Use pupil worship leaders to write prayers for those who are ill and for those who care for them – doctors, nurses, carers, families etc

Write prayers on boat shapes asking for help and for the strength to stay faithful even when things are difficult