YEAR 3/TERM 4/EASTER - EASTER: THROUGH THE EYES OF ST PETER

Following Peter through the events of Holy Week gives us a different view of events. You could interview ‘Peter’ each day about what has been happening or read ‘Peter’s diary’ each day to find out what has been going on. Try and bring Peter alive in some way, if possible.

SEAL link - Getting on and falling out
Values link - Friendship

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<th>GATHER</th>
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| Display some objects or pictures which give clues about the person of the week eg a net, a boat, a fish, some keys, a sword, a towel, a cockerel, or build up a mosaic of the pictures as you tell the different stories about Peter | Peter at the last supper (whole school)
John 13 v 1-9
This is an episode which could be acted out – perhaps by the headteacher washing the feet of the youngest pupil in the school – the idea that conventional ideas are turned on their heads when Jesus becomes the servant to those who called him ‘Master’. Peter is always impulsive – here he first of all tells Jesus that he is not worthy to have his feet washed by him – but when Jesus explains how important it is, he insists on being washed all over. Imagine what it must have been like to have Jesus talk about his death and carry out the task of a humble servant – Peter would have been worried and confused at the same time. Encourage foot washing in classrooms as a focus for some reflection about service and being a servant during the day. | Ask pupil worship leaders to design an Easter prayer area using the symbols of St Peter and words from the life of St Peter to help the school community to think about following Jesus no matter what happens. Blessed are we, when we know that the kingdom is more important than wealth. Blessed are we, when we hunger for justice more than for our own satisfaction. Blessed are we, when we celebrate our hope not the misfortune of others. Blessed are we, when the love of Christ is more precious to us than what people say about us. Blessed are we, when we live God’s way!’ | Lord Jesus Christ, in your love invite us to be your friends. Lord Jesus, in your joy choose us to go out and bear fruit. Lord Jesus, in your power send us to be your faithful witnesses. |
| Jesus says to us ‘You are my friends if you obey my commands.’ (John 15.14) | Jesus predicts Peter’s denial (whole school)
John 13 v 36-38 and Matthew 26 v 36-46
Jesus knows that Peter will deny him but Peter vigorously argues against this – he even swears that he will die for Jesus. We know that the denial will take place but that Jesus will forgive Peter and make him the rock on which his church will be built. At this point in time, however, Peter is distraught that Jesus thinks that he will let him down. What does it feel like to let down a close friend? What does it feel like to be let down? Then Jesus and the disciples go out to the Garden of Gethsemane and even though Peter has said that he will never let Jesus down, he falls asleep when Jesus has asked him to watch and pray. This happens three times (as will the denial in the courtyard later). What is it like to be really tired? Do we mean to let people down? | Lord Jesus, Servant King
May you go with us today as we seek to serve others. | |
| Peter follows Jesus, Peter denies Jesus (whole school) | | | |
God says: I will write my law on your hearts.

All: Help us to serve you, to follow you and to love you.

**Matthew 26 v 69-75**
Peter followed Jesus to the house where he was taken when all the other disciple have run away and deserted Jesus – why do you think he did this? Would he have been curious/afraid? When have the children really wanted to know what was going to happen? Is this exciting? Scary? Is it better to find out for ourselves rather than rely on others telling us?
Why did Peter deny Jesus? He was probably afraid for himself – Jesus was under arrest. Peter swears that he did not know Jesus – this showed how strong the denial was – and he repeated the denial three times. Why did he cry? Have you ever felt like Peter did? What do you think Peter did next? What would your advice to Peter be? What would Jesus have said to Peter at this point? (if you want to know what Jesus does say to Peter next time they meet, look at John 21)

you have taught us that what we do for the least of our brothers and sisters, we do also for you: give us the will to be the servant of others as you were the servant of all, and gave up your life and died for us, but are alive and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

**GOOD FRIDAY (class or key stage)**
Think about crosses
- A kiss – love
- A mark in a school book – wrong/sin
- A mark on a multiple choice question or voting paper – choice
That is why the cross of Easter is needed – to show God’s love, to put right what is wrong and to give people a choice.
Use ‘Across the World’ or the ideas from ‘Barnabas in schools’ about different crosses from different parts of the world if this is more appropriate for older pupils.
Look at different sorts of crosses and think about the symbolism which helps to deepen our understanding of the meaning of Easter.

Write class prayers based on the ideas which you have explored about Easter