**Collective worship in <insert school name> 2021 2022**

**(Please fill in and then put this filled in sheet into the Collective Worship Blue ring binder in Maire’s office)**

***School Vision:***

***<insert school vision>***

***<insert school Bible quote>***

 Prepare laptop and music in advance of your assembly. Prepare artefacts.

Move the altar table forward with the correct coloured table cloth for the Christian calendar.

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| Date: | Collective Worship 3 - Week beginning 13/12/2021 – Week 14 |
| Theme of assembly: *(Circle your option)* | **Key Christian beliefs**: God as creatorJesusThe Holy SpiritThe Trinity The BibleThe church |
| British values(*Circle the option)* | **Democracy, The Rule of Law, Tolerance,** **Mutual Respect, Individual Liberty** |
| Music: | Genre: Rock / Christmas |
| Entering assembly | Children enter and are settled and focused |
| Greeting options in bold.*(Circle your option)* | **The Lord be with you**. And also with you.**Peace be with you**. And also with you.**This is the day that the Lord has made.** Let us rejoice and be glad.**In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.** Amen |
| Candle or symbol(*Circle the option)* | **Light candle, show picture, show flower, or a colour.**Refer to the colour purple which is the colour of Advent in the Church’s year. |
| Assembly notes: | (Introduce theme explicitly, Resources, pace and timing, will the children be engaged, needs of the adults considered) **Advent/Christmas - Visitors for a King (Shepherds)**Luke 2 8-20You will need a reader to read out Luke 2.8–20, which is the story of an angel announcing Jesus’ birth to the shepherds and their visit to see him.**Have available:** All wrapped in Christmas paper…* a toy sword,
* a crown,
* some play money or junk jewellery,
* a baby’s toy,
* a handful of nails
* a bundle of straw, all wrapped in Christmas paper.
* the word ‘Immanuel’ written on a piece of cardboard (see Matthew 1.23).

Begin by informing the children that we are still in the season of Advent. Throughout the world, Christians are waiting to celebrate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.Ask the children if they are also waiting for Christmas Day! Ask them what it is about Christmas that they are most looking forward to. Christmas dinner? Christmas crackers? A stocking? Opening their presents?Discuss presents with the children. Who knows what they are getting? Who would prefer a surprise?For hundreds of years before Jesus was born, people had been expecting God to send someone special, someone who would help them. Tell the children that you have wrapped up three items that are clues as to the type of person they believed God was going to send to them.Ask for three volunteers to unwrap the sword, the crown and the play money or junk jewellery, one at a time. Allow each volunteer to guess what the wrapped item might be before opening the parcel. When each item has been unwrapped, comment briefly on its significance.**The sword**: people were expecting God to send a great warrior who would fight their enemies.**The crown**: they were expecting this great warrior to be a king, too; he would destroy their enemies, and then rule over the whole world.**The play money or junk jewellery**: people were expecting this warrior king to be rich and to share his money with them.That’s the person people were expecting – a rich and powerful warrior king – but Christians believe God had prepared a big surprise.Ask for three more volunteers to unwrap the baby’s toy, the nails and the straw. Again, when each item has been unwrapped, comment briefly on its significance.* **The baby’s toy**: God sent a baby.
* **The nails**: the baby was born into an ordinary working family (Joseph was a carpenter).
* **The straw**: the baby was born in a stable – many babies at that time were born in a humble place.

Ask the children, ‘So, were the people disappointed that God sent a baby rather than a warrior king?’Talk about how some people must have been disappointed, but others would have been delighted.At Christmas, Christians tell the story of the very first people who visited the baby. They weren’t kings or warriors or millionaires, but shepherds. Some wise men also came, but it certainly wasn’t like visiting a royal prince in a palace!*Ask a reader to read out Luke 2.8–20, which is the story of an angel announcing Jesus’ birth to the shepherds and their visit to see him.*How would you have felt if you were one of those shepherds?In the same way that the shepherds sang praises to God for the baby, Christians today still sing songs of celebration. |
| Questioning:COULD YOU MENTION OUR VALUES?(Courageous optimism, Boundless creativity, Heartfelt compassion) | The shepherds were afraid at first when the angel visited them, but were courageously optimistic about visiting the new king.When they saw Jesus, they felt such compassion towards him and his parents. |
| Reflection time: | e.g. What value can you see/hear in this story?See above |
| Reflection and stillness time: | e.g. How can you show this behaviour/value/moral of the story?Pretend you are surprised at the discovery of a final wrapped item: the word ‘Immanuel’ written on a piece of cardboard. Invite a volunteer to unwrap it.Ask if any of the children know what the word ‘Immanuel’ means. Explain that it means ‘God with us’. This was God’s biggest surprise for people. Christians believe that the baby was none other than God himself, come down to earth to live among them as an ordinary human being. |
| Prayers: | Say a known prayerRead a prayer from the prayer book that the children have writtenChild to lead a prayer Adult to lead a prayerPrayers with a repeated responseCollective prayer (lots of children) House Captain/R.E. Focus group prayer |
| Hymn: |  |
| Ending: | **Go in peace, love and joy**. We go in peace, love and joy. Amen.**May the light of Christ shine in all our hearts.** Amen. **This is the day that the Lord has made.** Let us rejoice and be glad.**Let us go into the world as messengers of hope and peace.** Amen.  |
| After the assembly is over: | Play music and blow out candle, if necessary. *When the hall is empty: R.E. Focus group to tidy the hall and put away furniture.* |