



A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles



is the first in a series of books which introduces very young children to aspects of the Christian faith. They are designed to capture the interest and imagination of children through the adventures of Puddles - a very mischievous cat.

In this first book, Puddles is enjoying playing in the autumn leaves but not content to play outside, she joins the congregation of the Reverend Freddie Fisher's church for the Harvest service - and then the fun really begins...

This book is a must to support topic work on Harvest celebrations in school or nursery settings.

A beautiful soft toy Puddles / Pwllyn is also available to accompany the series and is ideal to become the class pet! She has also been known to accompany individual children and adults to the church on weekends and report back to the class on her adventures! A fantastic soft toy of the Reverend Freddie Fisher with four sets of vestments is irresistible. An ideal resource to support children's play - they will love to dress him up!





Cross-Curricular Topic Web based on the 2012 EYFS Framework plus Religious Education



Expressive Arts and Design

Media and Materials

- Collect fallen leaves and twigs etc. and make an autumn display
- Paint leaf shapes
- Use leaves for printing with paint
- Make leaf rubbings using crayons
- Learn and sing songs about autumn and Harvest

Being imaginative

- Use imaginative play to recreate some elements of the story
- Make a church role-play area and act out the Harvest service – include the characters Puddles and Freddie
- Dress Freddie in his clothes that he wears for the Harvest service (green chasuble and stole)



Religious Education

Enjoy a range of stories and accounts from different faith traditions and cultures

- Hear the story A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles

Find out about what happens in places of worship in the local area and why people go to these places

- If feasible visit the local church to see it decorated for Harvest
- Talk to a Christian (lay person or clergy) about what Harvest means to them
- Make a church role-play area and act out the Harvest service – include the characters from the book Puddles and Freddie

Develop curiosity and begin to ask questions about their own and other people's home and community life

- Explore ways in which other religions celebrate harvest – e.g. Jewish Sukkot, Sikh Baisakhi,

Explore how and why religious people in the local community help others through the work that they do

- Invite someone from a charity or The Salvation Army to talk about how they care for the less fortunate - support others with food parcels etc.

Consider the rules and codes of conduct that they and others follow which guide them in everyday life at home and school

- Look at a Christian Bible and talk about how it tells people that they should care for one another

Personal, Social and Emotional

- Talk about how and why Christians say thank you to God for food / harvest
- Talk about how other people in class might show thankfulness/ appreciation for food and care for others (e.g. Jewish Sukkot, Muslim Eid-ul-Fitr)
- Explore how some people are kind to others by offering food and shelter (e.g. The Salvation Army)
- Think about what you say thank you for and to whom
- Think about how different people say thank you
- Consider the consequences of Puddles' actions in the Harvest story
- Discuss – should Puddles climb up the pile of fruit and vegetables and drink from the vase of water?
- Think about what is right and wrong or mischievous

Context for Learning / Theme: A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles By Gill Vaisey



Mathematical

- Sort autumn leaves by colour / shape /size
- Create a pictogram for leaves found in the school grounds or local park
- Make a graph / tally chart of how many children go to church, mosque, synagogue etc.
- Create a role-play shop to sell Harvest produce
- Count and sort fruits and vegetables
- Sort size of Harvest fruits and vegetables – smallest, biggest

Communication and Language

- Hear the story A Wet and Windy Harvest for Puddles
- Explore the meaning of new words to extend religious vocabulary– match words to pictures in the book.
- Recall the story to show an understanding of the main elements, such as main character, sequence of events.
- Learn the names of different fruits and vegetables – match names to pictures and real produce



Literacy

- Read and write some words for the features of the church as mentioned in the story

Physical

- Select from a collection of foods to show healthy choices

Understanding the World

The World

- Explore the school's grounds or local park to note seasonal changes / signs of autumn
- If possible, take the children outside on a windy day to have first-hand experience of leaves blowing in the wind.
- Collect autumn leaves and note colour, shape and textures
- Make an autumn display.
- Make an autumn vegetable soup
- Make a harvest loaf or mini rolls
- Grow seeds in pots e.g. mustard, cress, salad,



People and Communities

- Explore ways in which religious communities celebrate harvest – e.g. Christian Harvest, Jewish Sukkot, Sikh Baisakhi,

Activity Suggestions for Early Years Foundation Stage focussing on People and Communities and Religious Education

Possible General Themes: Festivals; Food; Autumn; Colours

RE Theme: Special Places and Festivals **Key Resource:** A Wet And Windy Harvest For Puddles

RE Focus: Develop an awareness and enjoyment of church activities and the Christian Harvest festival.

Activities relate to the book: *A Wet And Windy Harvest For Puddles*, by Gill Vaisey

Suggested Activities	RE and Early Learning Goals (2012)
Collect autumn leaves with the children. Look at the colours, shapes and textures.	<p><u>Mathematics:</u> Children use everyday language to talk about size, weight, to compare quantities and objects. They recognise, create and describe patterns. They explore characteristics of everyday objects and shapes and use mathematical language to describe them.</p> <p><u>Understanding The World: The world</u> know about similarities and differences in relation to places, objects, materials and living things. They talk about the features of their own immediate environment and how environments might vary from one another. They make observations of animals and plants and explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.</p>
Provide opportunities for the children to be creative with paints and crayons to produce their own leaves.	<p><u>Expressive arts and design:</u> experiment with colour, design, texture, form and function.</p>
Make an autumn display.	<p><u>Expressive arts and design:</u> experiment with colour, design, texture, form and function.</p>
If possible, take the children outside on a windy day to have first hand experience of leaves blowing in the wind.	<p><u>Understanding The World: The world</u> explain why some things occur, and talk about changes.</p>
Read the book <i>A Wet And Windy Harvest For Puddles</i> . Encourage the children to talk about the story and in particular the Reverend Freddie Fisher's explanation of Harvest. Encourage the children to reflect on why it is important to share food with others less fortunate. Encourage the children to think about how Freddie responded to Puddles knocking	<p><u>Communication and Language:</u> listen to stories, accurately anticipating key events and respond to what they hear with relevant comments, questions or actions.</p> <p><u>Personal, Social and Emotional:</u> They show sensitivity to others' needs and feelings</p>

<p>down the fruit and vegetables and spilling the flowers (laughter rather than anger).</p>	<p><u>Understanding the World: People and Communities</u> They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. <u>RE:</u> Explore similarities and differences in people’s festivals. Explore how and why people in the local community help others. Find out about what happens in places of worship and why people go to these places.</p>
<p>If possible visit a church and explore the special features noted in the book. Encourage them to appreciate that some objects in the church are special and should be treated with respect.</p>	<p><u>Understanding the World: People and Communities</u> They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. <u>RE:</u> Find out about what happens in places of worship and why people go to these places. Show curiosity and develop positive attitudes when learning about people from other religions and cultures. Explore and experiment with new learning opportunities.</p>
<p>Create a church role-play area which includes some of the features mentioned in the story e.g. a ‘lectern’ for the Bible, a pulpit, a harvest display. Include the soft toy Puddles and the Reverend Freddie Fisher so that the children can re-enact the story.</p>	<p><u>Expressive arts and design:</u> They represent their own ideas, thoughts and feelings through design and technology, art, music, dance, role-play and stories.</p>
<p>Learn and sing Harvest songs.</p>	<p><u>Expressive arts and design:</u> Sing songs, make music and dance.</p>
<p>Make different types of bread that reflect different families and cultures. Share some food with each other. Encourage the children to say ‘please’ and ‘thank you’.</p>	<p><u>Understanding the World: People and Communities</u> They know about similarities and differences between themselves and others, and among families, communities and traditions. <u>Personal, Social and Emotional:</u> They show sensitivity to others’ needs and feelings, and form positive relationships with adults and other children.</p>