

WORSHIP AND ART

St Mary's CE Primary Academy, Welton

To mark Remembrance Day last year, we took inspiration from the Peace Doves art installation at Lincoln Cathedral, by sculptor Peter Walker. Collective Worship Council, therefore, invited members of our school and local community and businesses to write messages or prayers of "Peace" & "Hope" for their families, local communities and for the wider world, on paper doves, which became part of the art installation.

The installation, of over 500 paper doves, took collective worship council quite a few days to put together. However, this provided them with the immense privilege of reading the messages on every peace dove and even the opportunity to "Amen" the heartfelt prayers written. The 'peace doves' installation was then available on Remembrance day to provide children from our school and members of the local community, an opportunity to reflect on the prayers and messages of peace and hope written and to light a candle in memory of the sacrifices made by loved ones during the world wars and other battles that have enabled us to live in a peaceful country.



The installation was also open for viewing a month later after our Nativity performances. Parents and other members of our school family welcomed the opportunity, during this busy season, to sit in quiet reflection and ponder over the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace. Comments from some attendees like, " I didn't know why it moved me so much" or " It was a special time", showed us that this had indeed been a spiritual blessing for some.

Spurred on by the response, we have decided to set aside time on a Tuesday (christening it " Timeout Tuesdays"), where children and members of staff are invited, during breaktime, to join us in a time of quiet reflection beneath the 'peace dove' installation with opportunity to either take part in guided meditation like breath prayers or to simply sit in silence.

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This endeavour has not only highlighted the need for opportunities of stillness and quiet reflection for our students but that it's valued and appreciated by adults as well and moving on, we hope to provide further opportunities like this for our extended school family for the spiritual flourishing of all.

