



Community

Aim: to understand that we are not all the same because God has made us each with different skills and talents to use to build community.

Gathering:

Light candle: (Say together words in bold)

This is the day of new beginnings/so we come to worship/**This is the day of new beginnings**/so we come to pray/**This is the day of new beginnings**/so we come together

Have a collection of different tools to take out of a bag – take each one out and talk about what that tool would be useful for

Engaging:

1. Invite 2 children to the front and talk about them as both being children but how are they different? Hair colour? Size? What they are wearing? Eye colour? etc Point out that they are both children but they are not the same. They are both very different to look at. Comment on ways in which all the children in the hall today look different (if you have twins in the school it might be worth talking about the differences between them!)
2. Invite 2 more children to the front. Ask them to say what they are good at – refer to these as talents or gifts. Talk about how both of them are just as important as each other but that they both are good at different things and it is this that makes the school a special place. Lots of different people coming together each with different things they are good at, using their gifts/talents to help others.
3. Return to the bag of tools. Use some examples of how a specific tool is for a specific purpose e.g you couldn't mash potatoes with a screw driver or bang a nail in the wall with a chopping knife! It's important to have the right tool for the right job, but if I didn't have 1 of these tools then there would be some jobs it would be really difficult to do. (You might want to try and illustrate with a memorable activity – try cutting an apple with a potato masher!)
4. Remind everyone that we are all different and can do different things. Read out the following ideas and ask people to put up their hand if this describes them (they can do this more than once!) Remind them this is not about how clever you are but what you can do well.
 - Helping people
 - Listening to others

- Looking after new children
 - Making others feel good
 - Mending and making things
 - Sharing ideas
5. Talk about school as a wonderful community where lots of people come together who are all very different & that what is important is that everyone uses the gifts and talents they have to make the school a wonderful place to be. Important not to want to be like someone else but to be glad that 'you are you' and be ready to do everything you can to make this school a great place to be.

Responding

Invite everyone to hold up one hand pointing upwards & then to try and make their ring finger stand up without the others – try to curl the other fingers into the palm without holding them with the thumb. It is almost impossible for most people to do this because this finger needs other fingers to help it. It isn't very strong on its own.

That is what it is like for us in school if everyone doesn't work together using their gifts and talents - someone else won't be as strong as they could be because they haven't got you helping and supporting them.

Prayer

Father God thank you for all the gifts and talents you have given me.
Please help me to use them to help everyone in school to be the best they can be so that this school can be a place where your love is known.
Amen

Sending

Give each class a parcel bag to take back to the classroom. Invite everyone at some time in the day or week to write on a piece of paper and put into the bag some way in which they have used their gifts or talents to serve someone else. These could be brought back to collective worship next week and shared as a way of celebrating.

Resources needed:

- A bag of tools – kitchen tools/household tools/garden tools
- An apple or similar to experiment with
- Willing volunteer children!
- A parcel bag for each class

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