

Our school: together and apart

Reflections for 'school' at home: Geese



A note for parents and carers:

At school, your child will be used to taking part in collective worship every day (they might call it 'assembly'). This is not the kind of worship that some of you might have been part of in a religious building. In church schools this collective worship is planned to be:

- **Inclusive:** something for children and teachers, of all faiths or of none to be able to join in with
- **Inspirational:** a time in the day to think about the big questions in our lives; an occasion that supports the school community's spiritual development, creates an opportunity to gather around and reflect on a common theme and 'feeds' their inner being;
- **Invitational:** in school, children and teachers are invited to pray, think, or reflect, it is the child's or teacher's choice how they respond.

At this time, many children will be missing the familiar routines of school. One way in which we can help to keep that sense of normality is by offering these resources to schools to share with their school community at home. Please be clear: these ideas are for you to use, adapt, or not use at all. You choose!

We plan to produce these resources for the weeks that schools are 'at home' and would love to know if there's anything that your school community at home would appreciate. You can find our contact details on the [Diocesan website](#).

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Theme: Geese
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are many things we can learn by looking at the natural world around us, in fact, Jesus himself encouraged his disciples to do just that in one of his most famous lessons, the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus told them to 'Look at the birds.....and look at the flowers' as a reminder not to worry.• Find the picture of the geese flying, on the next page or using the link here. Geese like this migrate in the winter to warmer parts of the world.
Things to talk about together:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Look at the picture together. Are the geese together, or apart? (It does look as if they are practising social distancing!) Or are they both? Share your ideas.• Is this picture like us at this present time? How? (i.e. we might be socially isolated from some people in our family, friends and people we work with – but we are all doing this together.)• Geese work as a team, even when flying apart, as in the picture. The flapping of their wings makes it easier for the birds behind them to fly and they take it in turns to be the lead goose. How might we do this (work as a team, take it in turns) with the people in our households during this time?• Geese 'honk' to encourage each other when they are flying in formation, like in the picture. What do you think they might be 'saying' to one another? What words encourage you?• Geese also look after each other during their migration and if one bird gets too tired or is injured, two other geese will land with it to keep it company until it is fit to fly again. How can you care for the people in your house at this time? [if someone in your household needs to be isolated, caring for them will be a bit different]
Things to do together:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make origami birds out of paper. You can see a simple video here: although they are not quite geese, the folding is quite simple to follow. Or you could be more adventurous and try a flapping version here.• Have a day where you really try to be encouraging to other people around you: you don't have to honk like a goose unless you really want to (and it's OK with the grown-ups!) Find ways to encourage people you're not able to see at the moment e.g. by calling them on the phone, or sending them a message.• Make handprint standing geese, with the thumb facing upwards, using paint, or by drawing around your hand: your 4 fingers are the body of the goose, with the fingertips becoming the tail feathers, and the thumb becoming the neck. Add a head and legs – and if you have any at home, a googly eye! You can find one to look at here. (Scroll down to see 'G is for Goose')• Become a twitcher (birdwatcher)! You may not be able to watch any geese in flight today, but spend some time looking through your window to see which birds visit your outside space. You could even keep a chart of which birds visit and how many times. If you're able to share your food with the birds, there are some suggestions of what's best to give them here.
Things to reflect on or pray about together:
<p>In the Bible, Christians read these words: 'Encourage one another and build one another up' (1 Thessalonians 5:11) Think together about how encouragement 'builds' you up. Then cut paper into brick shapes and on each write an encouragement or positive message for different people in your household. Use the shapes to create a 'wall of encouragement' and as you arrange each person's brick, pray for them if you'd like to. You could use these words:</p> <p>Dear God Thank you for.....[person's name] and for all that they do for me. Please bless them. Help me to speak words that</p>

encourage them this week.

Amen

