

Teacher notes

Books: bullet-pointed list of ways to give new people an even warmer welcome to our school.

Reflection Area activity idea:



Fruits from the Roots



THE PERSEVERANCE TRACK



Make a display of a racetrack. Children write or draw a picture on a small piece of paper of themselves practising a skill that needs **perseverance**. (This could be an educational or personal target.)




(A3 poster rather than display that children can add to over the term).


Monday 17th January



This half term's Christian value is:



PERSEVERANCE



**'I can do all things
through Him who
strengthens me.'**

Philippians 4.13

The graphic features a teal background with a white circular icon of a turtle at the top. Below it, the word 'PERSEVERANCE' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. In the center, there is a photograph of two young boys from behind, walking on a dirt path through a sun-dappled forest. They are both wearing backpacks; the boy on the right has a blue backpack with a colorful cartoon design. At the bottom, a white speech bubble contains the quote 'I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.' in a teal, sans-serif font. Below the speech bubble, the text 'Philippians 4.13' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Monday 17th January

Greeting

Light your class worship candle.



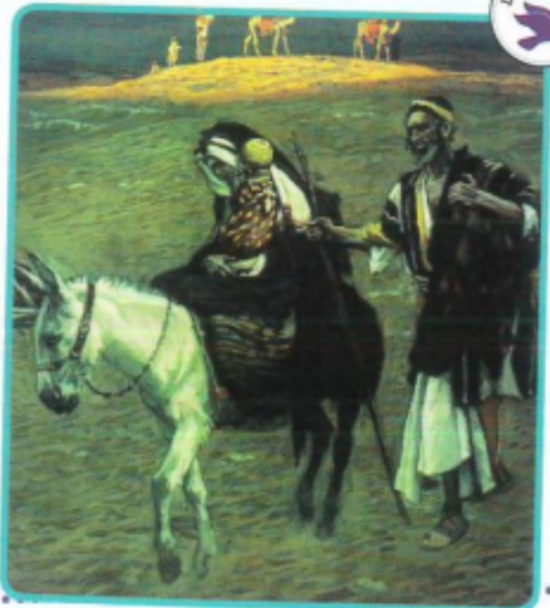
We have gathered in the name of
God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
to worship together,
and think about our value

Perseverance

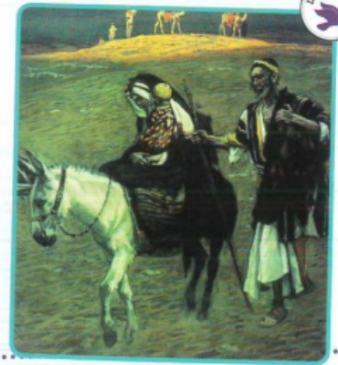
Engage

Today we're going to look at a painting by a French artist, James Tissot. It shows some refugees with a young child.

Who do you think the artist is depicting in this picture?
What makes you think this?



Engage



The painting is called 'The Flight into Egypt'.

We are now going to hear the part of the story from the Bible which was the inspiration for James Tissot's painting. *Ask a child to read.*

An angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take Jesus and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave."

Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died. Matthew 2.13-15

Mary and Joseph must have felt afraid and scared about what the future might hold as they travelled to start a new life in a strange land. It was a very long way to travel and yet they knew that this was a journey they had to make.

They had to **persevere** in their quest to escape from King Herod and keep their small child safe.

Respond

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People become refugees when they are forced to leave or escape from their home due to circumstances they can't control or being in danger, just like Mary and Joseph in this story.

Sending

Let's end with saying this prayer for refugees.

A PRAYER FOR REFUGEES

Loving God,
whose Son became a refugee and had no place to call his own;
look with mercy on those who are fleeing from danger,
who are homeless and hungry.
Bless those who work to bring them relief;
inspire generosity and compassion in all our hearts;
and guide the nations of the world towards that day
when there will be justice and peace for everyone.
Amen.

Adapted from *Prayers for Asylum*, LGBT Faith & Asylum Network



Tuesday 18th January



Sit down calmly,
ready for our
class worship
session...

Children will need
spiritual journals

Engage

Recap: what happened to Mary and Joseph in this story?

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Engage



Reflecting

Being made a refugee is not something that belongs just to the past. Every day people are forced from their homes because they are in danger of losing their lives if they stay.

This is the account written by a young girl who fled from Burundi at a time when war made her country a very dangerous place to live.

It is hard when you have to leave everything behind you, not only your belongings, but also your family, friends and country. Your journey seems to be difficult and to have no end. You are torn up, and you think that you will never smile again, or you will never be happy as you were before. You have to accept the way life is, and sometimes you want to cry and hope for a better day, but it is not always the case.

To leave everything behind you, to leave not because you want to, because it is your decision, but because it is not safe, and war does not give you that choice. War decides for you, and has no mercy on you. For me the war is there to destroy peace and love, to separate children from their parents, and to live always in fear. One has to live with a scar, which often doesn't heal.

And your journey doesn't finish in your refuge or asylum. It continues because you have to learn to accept what happened to you, and to realize that the nightmare is so far from the happy dream that you wish to have every night. Dreams are broken. You feel so sad and alone that any moment of joy can make you feel guilty because you think you do not deserve it, and you are not worthy of it.

But step by step you learn one lesson, and that keeps you going. You have to live and persevere because tomorrow could be better.

Jesus and his parents, Mary and Joseph, were refugees 2000 years ago, but there are still millions of refugees escaping from dangerous places in the world today. Some flee to this country. They have come searching for safety and a new start. They hope with all their hearts that they will find a welcome.

Respond



Responding

How welcoming is our school?

How do we make new children and new teachers feel quickly at home here?

Explore with your friends and teachers how you might offer an even warmer welcome to new people who have joined the school so that they won't ever feel lonely and isolated.

Discuss: In what ways do we make new children and new teachers feel at home at our school?

In your books, write a small bullet-point list of how we could create an even warmer welcome for new people who join the school.

Ideas:

A day doing an exciting adventure together.

A buddy system.

Sending

Let's share the ways that we could make someone new feel welcome at our school!

