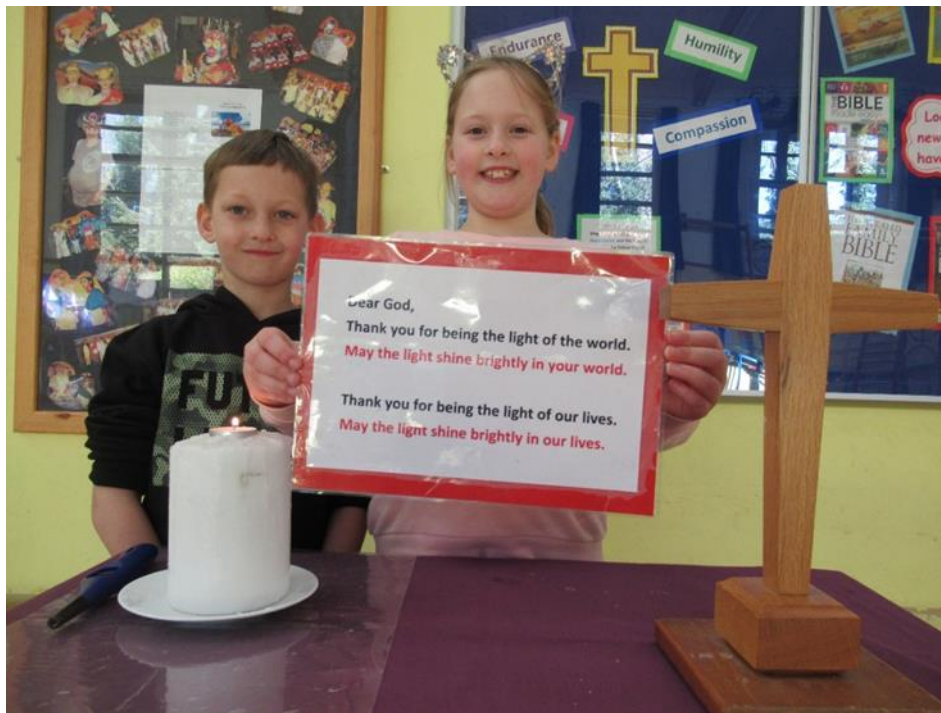


Home Collective Worship – Monday 27th April



Today, we are thinking about one of our school values ... endurance and a small animal that always seems to keep going even when things get tough.

It's a bird that is regularly spotted in my garden, at school and I expect near your homes too. Can you guess from this description?

It is a small bird.

This bird stays with us all winter.

This bird is often seen on Christmas cards.

This bird has a red breast.



Here it is. A robin.

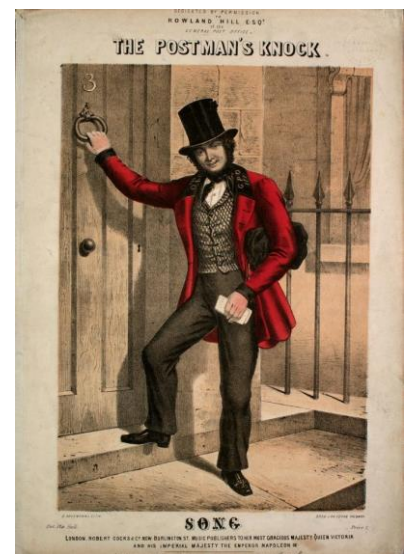
What colours can you see?

The robin is the UK's favourite bird. Why do you think this is?

We often see robins on Christmas cards – do you know why?

A long time ago (in the Victorian period) postmen wore red jackets and were known as 'robins'

Here is a picture of a Victorian 'robin' or post man. People would wait for the postman with great excitement for the arrival of cards from loved ones. This association with the postman made robins a symbol of Christmas.



Robins, unlike many of the birds that visit my garden, stay all year round. Most of the birds that come to our bird feeder, migrate to warmer countries during the winter. The robin stays with us all through the dark, cold, windy, snowy days and nights of December, January and February. It

is difficult for the bird to find food and to keep warm during these months and they certainly suffer.

Read the poem 'The north wind doth blow'.

The north wind doth blow,
And we shall have snow,
And what will the robin do then, poor thing?
He'll fly to the barn,
To keep himself warm,
And hide his head under his wing, poor thing.



Once March arrives it should be springtime, but often cold winds blow in from the north, spelling great danger for already tired and weakened little robins. Sometimes they have to do as it says in the rhyme and keep itself warm. When the weather is too bad for the bird to come out to find food, robins will simply

have to rely on its own reserves (the food it has stored up in its body). It will do what it can to help itself. It will simply 'dig in', settle down and 'ride out the storm' as best it can.

We can learn some lessons from this little robin. Often we will face difficulties and problems and sometimes we'll just want to give up. Usually, there will be people to help us with them, like parents or teachers or friends. Christians believe that God is there to help too. All you need to do is ask. In the Bible it says, 'Do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go'. Joshua 1:9



Reflection

When we are faced with a problem, like the little robin, it may seem that we are on our own. At that time, we too will have to 'dig in to our own reserves' and 'ride out the storm'. This is when we will learn, like the little robin, to become strong and to have endurance (keep going).

Prayer

Dear God,

We thank you that you have made us stronger than we think.

We thank you that we are able to do and achieve far more than we think.

Thank you that you have promised us your help and wisdom and strength,
whenever we need it.

Amen.

Hymn Give me oil in my lamp

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8t8zA1N6mCY>



Abe has created a wonderful poem about a robin – read below.

Robin

Little robin little
Busy building a nest
in the bush.



Little robin little
Flying glutting beating his
wings.



Little robin little
To and fro from the
garden he goes.



Little robin little
Your red breast plate of
~~armor~~ ^{armor} shining bright.

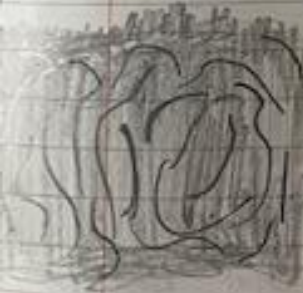


Little robin little
With a wiggly worm
in your beak.

Little robin little
Back to the nest song and
sound.



Little robin little
Back to your nest
where you'll never be
sounded.



Abe

