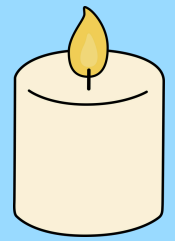


# Collective Worship



30th January

**Which path will I take?**

**The path to reflection**

**This week in collective worship we have been reflecting on the paths that lead us to thinking about important issues.**

## Thought for the week

It is important that we take the time to pause and reflect - to look back on the things that have happened and consider how is best to move forward. If we don't do this, things don't change - we don't make progress. It's ok to admit that we got something wrong or could do better - that's progress! We must also reflect on a bigger scale and look back at the atrocities that have happened in the past...so we can do our part to make sure they don't happen again. No one deserves to be treated in the way people were persecuted in the Holocaust. No one deserves to be treated badly because of something they believe. You have a choice of the path you will tread...the path of reflection is the path of progress towards a better future for our world community.

**'As water reflects the face, so the heart reflects the person.'**

**Proverbs 21:19**

'Blowing someone else's candle out doesn't make yours burn brighter.'

**Pupil voice**

## This week in collective worship

This week we have been reflecting on reflecting! We have thought about the importance of taking time out to pause and think about the important issues - whether that is the personal issues to us, or bigger issues that affect others and the world around us.

We welcomed Mr Spatchett in to speak to us about the importance of reflecting when things go wrong so that we can change our behaviour in the future. He spoke to us about the conversion of St Paul who had been named Saul when he was intent on arresting Christians. When he was on his way to Damascus, he was blinded by a light and he heard a voice asking, 'Why are you persecuting me?' Saul spent three days reflecting with Ananias who had received a message from God to look for Saul. Saul changed his ways, changed his name to Paul and became a Christian. We also heard about Ursula Stone who lost her job and retrained as a florist. She noticed the amount of flowers that go to waste after weddings and other events. After a time of reflection, she decided to collect the 'waste' flowers and sell them or give them away. She shares her skills with young offenders to help them to change their ways and 'flower bombs' by dropping bouquets in places to be found.

Mr Ayling asked us to consider if we are the sort of people who reflect before we act or act before we reflect. He then told us about the different actions Moses took - some of which he reflected on before acting, others where he acted and subsequently reflected. We considered the impact of his actions. We considered what the world would be like if no one ever took the time to reflect. In class collective worship we have considered the issues that we face as a global community as well as the issues within our own school community. We have considered the way we treat others and whether we are choosing words and actions to build others up or knock them down.

A group of Year 8 students visited Parkstone Grammar School to hear the testimony of a Holocaust survivor through his daughter. We will be hearing more about this in a whole school collective worship to be led by the group next week. By walking the path to reflection and taking the time out to consider our actions and the way we treat others, we can ensure that we are acting in a way that means everyone is able to flourish.

## Prayer for the week

Heavenly Father,

Help us to value the importance of reflection and to make sure that we take time out to consider our actions; help us to focus on building each other up, not squashing each other down; help us to help each other's candles burn brighter.

Amen



**Each person uniquely made in God's image merits the best that we can give.**