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Project aims

- ▶ To aid our wider school community to gain a greater understanding of each others faith, beliefs and worldviews.

We wanted our school community to ask questions and reflect on their own views and beliefs, whilst also discovering more about the local and global community in which they belong, to create a community with respectful, compassionate, tolerant and considerate individuals.

- ▶ To promote the development of early language and communication skills.

We knew from our own assessments and national evidence, that language development within our early years setting had been severely affected during the pandemic.

Reasons such as less or no contact with the community, families and grandparents, social distancing, no play dates, and the wearing of face coverings in public have left children less exposed to conversations and everyday experiences.



At the heart of the project was the use of stories and storytelling.

There are many advantages of storytelling, from developing imagination ,to the promotion of good listening skills, to the development of natural curiosity..... to name a few.

Our aim was to plan a series of parental workshops to support the development of story telling skills, to promote conversations and awareness of faith and religions through the telling of stories. We wanted our families and community to make a connection with each other!

As a school developed the idea of story telling by using the idea of a story tent, taking inspiration for the work of Anne Moseley.

<http://www.storytent.concordant.online/index.php>

To enjoy the experience of listening to new stories and gaining new knowledge, while developing friendships and an understanding of each others beliefs and faith.



The Story Tent project is the belief that dialogue around faith stories can help children develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to communicate across religious and cultural barriers , it provides a safe space where children can develop acceptance and understanding of others whilst still honouring genuine differences in religious and cultural beliefs.

Although the word tent is mentioned, at St.Barnabas it can simply be a quiet, comfy place. A place to relax, listen and enjoy company of others.



Project development

- Lots of changes due to the pandemic!
- We had to review the approach to the project. We had less visitors to school. We still organised a range of focused parental workshops using the story tent idea, promoting and demonstrating storytelling to carers in smaller bubbles.
- We have been able to work with Liverpool Community Spirit <http://www.liverpoolcommunityspirit.org/>
- Story tent Eid celebration led by local families and community members.
- Impacted on the knowledge of our community and also had a positive effect on the mental health of children, families and staff.

