



INSPIRE

news & updates
SUMMER 2024

Introduction

Clare & Caroline, Core Team

The verse on our heart this term is Psalm 34:8 and the theme, 'Taste and see that the Lord is good', has been picked up throughout the newsletter. As we make every effort to bring the goodness of God to schools and children through wonder and learning, we are ourselves constantly inspired by God's goodness - whether in the wonderful responses from children, the shared sense of mission with supporters and team, the warmth of relationship with the schools we visit, or in our personal encounters with Jesus as we pray and seek to bless our schools!

When discussing the content of this term's newsletter, the words of the chorus from the song 'Build My Life' came to mind:

*Open up my eyes in wonder -
and show me
who You are,
and fill me
with Your
heart, and lead
me in Your love
to those around me.*



We hope that in reading our news, you will join us in wonder and praise of God for these opportunities. We hope too that you will know what an important part you play, that together we are able to share His love to those around us in our schools.

Life-saving work!

Mike Harrowing, CEO

There is really no easy way to describe the funeral I attended last month of a local young man. It was a beautiful remembrance, a deeply sad occasion and something that should never have had to happen. As I listened to the recollections of the positive and lasting impact that Christians had had in his troubled life, I was greatly affected by the very real truth **that young people need to know Jesus.**

After this, I was inspired to speak on the power of faith as small as a mustard seed in my next few assemblies - sharing my own personal testimony of overcoming 'mountains' in my life. Shortly after one of these assemblies, I was approached by a parent thanking me. Her young son was a borderline school-refuser until he heard this message and has now overcome his fear of school!

Children are actively seeking the Lord - more than any of us realise!

Our verse for this term is 'Taste and see that the Lord is good', and children are so very keen to taste and see! Research being published over the summer will show that (unbeknown to most parents) children regularly pray and seek comfort and confidence in God. Children are actively seeking the Lord - more than any of us realise!

Part of the mission of Spinnaker is to reveal where God is at work in their lives. The aim is simple, but very real, very relevant, and very urgent: because it is a life-saving work for each child - here and now, and long into their adulthood.



Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

- Psalm 34: 8

Spinnaker's verse for the term

Oh Taste and See!

Sam Oakes, Eastbourne Hub Leader

We want to speak words of life

I remember as a young Christian handing out tracts and hoping for the opportunity to follow up with a conversation and perhaps the chance to pray for somebody. More often than not this felt impersonal and unfruitful, like scattering seed to the wind.

Another memory is the fun I experienced walking through French supermarkets and being handed free samples of different foods and treats although, being a child, there was little chance of any direct sale taking place.

My heart is that our schools work should be more like handing out samples than tracts. We want children and staff to 'Taste and see that the Lord is good'. We don't just want to talk about Jesus, but to speak with words of life taught of the Spirit that offer the opportunity of encounter (John 6:67-68, 1 Cor 2:13).

- Continued over page...

Oh Taste & See - continued...

I love the anti-consumeristic irony of what Jesus said to the woman at the well, that anyone who drinks of the water that he has to offer will never thirst again. Surely, we want people coming back for more?

In schools, as we speak to children and staff, we are sharing the good news of a living God, who amongst other things has come to satisfy our innate thirst for life. We are not inviting people to follow ourselves or join our club but pointing them to Jesus.

This term in Eastbourne we have been thinking about how we can offer opportunities to meet the living God. We prayerfully seek to ask stimulating questions, lead reflective responses, create prayer spaces and take up every opportunity to share tasters of the bread of life.



We are not waiting for the harvest, it is already ripe. The task is to go into the fields and to learn on the job as the Father teaches what is appropriate for each grain ([Isaiah 28:26-29](#)).



BEYOND BELIEF: Values into Action

is the title of our exciting, school-centric, child focused, all-new worship resource that is being launched in schools this term, ready for the new academic year. This pack is being created by our hard working and very excited writing team, following research carried out with all our schools. It will deliver a worship series written in the language of schools - Values. We have chosen the top forty values of schools surveyed and can easily demonstrate for children how each of them is rooted and grounded in the Christian faith.

Using Spinnaker's signature template, we ensure each and every episode is a ready-to-go multi-media resource for the weekly rhythm of collective worship that includes a retelling of the

associated Bible verses, a beautiful focus image (again created for us by children's illustrator Sarah Horne), recommended songs and activities, prayers, and child-led follow-up suggestions.

This worship pack explicitly uses the values already embedded in school ethos and is building on the success of the 'It's Jesus' resource - taking children BEYOND what we have learnt together over the last 2 years, and into ACTION. The title expresses the heart of the pack which, just as Jesus exemplifies in His teachings, is to go further than knowledge and into transformed lives.



This pack plays centre stage in Spinnaker's fundamental strategic goal. This is to support local churches, schools and households to work cohesively towards raising children with a deep awareness of the divine reality of the Kingdom of God. Indeed, to 'Taste and see that the Lord is good!'

I asked the children what they thought Jesus may have written on the ground. They responded: 'Don't worry', 'Everyone makes mistakes', 'Don't throw stones', 'God loves you'... Awesome!

- Katie, Bromley
June 2024

At the start of the assembly a girl in year 3 put her hand up to tell me and all her friends that she has been praying a lot lately.

- Sam, Eastbourne
June 2024

When asked 'What can we learn about Jesus from today's story?' children's answers included: 'Jesus thinks children are special', 'Jesus loves children', 'Jesus wants children to come to Him.'

- Caroline & Phil, Lewisham
June 2024

quotes from
the classroom