

Y1 Spiritual Arts Exhibition Piece: All Creatures Great and Small

“One’s Wonderful Woven Whale and Snail”

As part of our *Spiritual Arts* project, *All Creatures Great and Small*, our Year 1 children took part in a creative and collaborative art project to celebrate the beauty and diversity of the animal kingdom. Year 1 children created a large woven whale and a small snail to celebrate the beauty and importance of all animals in our world. This project also closely linked to key objectives from the Year 1 art curriculum, particularly in the areas of developing techniques in using colour, pattern, texture, line, shape, form and space, and using a range of materials creatively to design and make products.

To represent the *great*, the children worked together to create a large woven whale using a range of materials and fabric strips on weaving boards. Inspired by the story of Jonah and the Whale from the Bible and the idea of God's care for even the biggest of creatures, the whale became a symbol of strength, protection, and spiritual reflection.

To represent the *small*, the children also designed and made a single snail. This smaller creation encouraged the children to see the importance of even the tiniest of God's creatures and that they are special and worthy of our attention. The children reflected on this beautiful truth:

“Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God.” — Luke 12:6

This small creation reminded us of the importance of slowing down, noticing the little things, and treating all life with gentleness and care.

Throughout the project, pupils developed their fine motor skills, experimented with mixed media techniques, and learned how art can express meaning, beliefs, and feelings. They also practiced teamwork, and explored ideas of care, compassion, and responsibility for all living creatures. This project not only brought the Bible to life through art but also allowed children to express their spirituality in a personal and creative way. The whale and snail together serve as a joyful and thoughtful reminder of God's love and care for all creatures, great and small—while reinforcing the creative and expressive goals of the Year 1 art curriculum.

“One’s Wonderful Woven Whale and Snail” stands proudly on display as a vibrant visual centrepiece, representing not only the creativity of our students but also a shared message of respect for the natural world and the wonders of God's creation.