

All God's Creatures— Connecting with the natural world through a spiritual lens.

Year 3 Grace Darling C of E Primary School

Sea and Believe

This piece was made by Year 3 at Grace Darling C of E Primary School. This is a town by the sea and in the past most families made their living from the sea. This has changed over time. Over the past few years there have been multiple dolphin sightings and a group set up to watch these. These creatures have been a positive influence and have brought people together as well as encouraging others to visit this town. Our children are always keen to talk about these sightings when they occur so this seemed a perfect fit for this project.

In Art, the children had been creating pictures in the style of Henry Matisse focussing on 'The Snail' and 'Goldfish'. We then moved on to working in fabric and using simple applique techniques to create a fish. The children then used the collage style studied to apply shapes to their dolphins.

As a Church of England School developing spirituality is a key focus for us. The children were very keen to explore the links between Christianity and dolphins. We found the following explanation of these links:

"Dolphins are seen as a sign of God's grace and mercy, and represent divine guidance, protection, and spiritual connection. They have been used to symbolize the Christian faith since early Christianity, and are associated with the power of the Holy Spirit. Dolphins also symbolize resurrection in Christianity, and represent the aspect of Jesus carrying the dead to heaven. They are considered sacred in Christianity, and became a symbol of Jesus Christ for those who made a living by the sea."

The children could identify with many aspects of this and it became the central focus for our display. The children took key words from the quote to write in fabric pens. They began with 'Grace' as this links nicely to our school.

All of the children in Year 3 have contributed a piece to this art work which reflects the hope that the dolphins have brought to this area, the links between Christianity and these beautiful creatures and it embodies the spiritual connection between these sea creatures, our school and our community by the sea.

