

# NEWSLETTER

## Summer 2024

Dear friends,

The ten best rules sound rather more user friendly than the ten commandments. It was refreshing to lead a Year 5 group doing the Rules and Codes session recently. As well as recalling the commandments, children were asked to draw up a list of their own ten best rules. Many of them included most of the ones given to Moses on Mount Sinai, but there were some fascinating additions. Even the more frivolous ones were backed up by serious thinking. 'Don't tease people wearing glasses' reflected a real issue for one be-spectacled child. 'Don't eat junk food.' 'Don't be wasteful.' All of it was good advice on how to live well. Positive energy and thinking were very clear as they considered their priorities. They were also gaining an insight into the God-given directions for living well which underpin our faith.

REinspired exists to make experiences like this available to children. Whatever their faith background, children have the chance to engage with the treasures of the Christian faith as part of the curriculum. All sessions are delivered by leaders and volunteers for whom their faith is a living reality. As another school year comes to an end we can give thanks and celebrate the opportunities we have.



Richard Bainbridge  
Chair of Trustees

### Feedback from sessions

**"It was the best afternoon," a pupil tells us excitedly after the Noah session.**

**"The children loved the interactive session with good questions being asked" a teacher feeds back from the Beliefs & Practices session.**

**"A good introduction for the children; each activity linked well, being different from the other." great comment from a teacher after Rules & Codes session**

# REINSPIRED

helping churches bring RE to life



Christian Commitment to God session



In the Ark – Noah session

## Yr9 Science & Religion—The Origins of the Universe

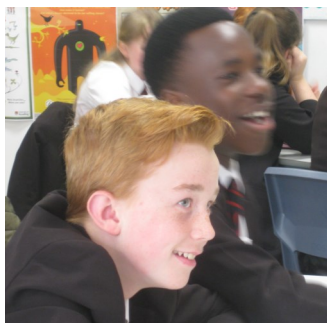
We have recently completed this series of sessions at Bulmershe School, and we have had some fascinating discussions.

We introduce the terms 'subjective thinking' and 'objective thinking' and wonder which generally relates to science and which to religion. After briefly looking at discoveries leading to The Big Bang Theory, and then looking at the 2 Christian creation stories found in Genesis, we discuss statements in groups as to whether we agree, disagree, or 'it depends'. Some statements are pretty straightforward, for example, 'Genesis should be read as a scientific document'. Others are much more meaty, for example, 'Genesis' version of events is more accurate as God is never wrong and scientists can be wrong'. Accurate in what terms? Is God ever wrong? Great questions thrown up by this statement.

My favourite statement to discuss is, 'The moment of The Big Bang is equivalent to the moment God said, 'Let there be light'. Could this be true? Is God the intelligent designer, the greatest scientist, the instigator of every form of energy and atom?

The students have enjoyed the session and have discussed intelligently and respectfully. We hope it encouraged them to think subjectively and objectively about this fascinating topic.

Carrie 



## Diary Date

### Volunteer Training

Thursday, 19th September 9.30am

**SPEAKER: Mary Van der Merwe**

(from Parenting Special children—part of the National Autism Trainer programme)

'Being neuroaffirming within our sessions'

PLUS

**- Prayer stations - Workshops - Lunch -  
at St Nicolas Church, Earley, Reading**

### Donations / Time

1. Please make donations [here](#)
2. Email [Julia](#) to become a [volunteer](#)
3. Email [Julia](#) to start a [new project](#)



thank you



Big Questions from Yr6 pupils

## Yr6 Big Questions

Yr6 at Aldryngton, Earley St Peters and Whiteknights have completed their time with REInspired with a 'Big Questions' session. They were asked for their questions beforehand, questions they would like answered from a Christian point of view, and wow, what a lot of questions!

It began with a clip from 'Outnumbered' and some Optical Illusions to get them thinking about how questions can be answered differently, and that's ok. Sometimes Christians will differ in their views about certain topics too.

The pupils play a game of Jenga in small groups, taking one of their questions about God or Jesus as they play. A panel of local Christians then attempt to answer some of their other questions like 'What happens after we die, what are heaven and hell like?' to 'Why is there so much hatred and war?' and 'Why am I me, not you or anyone else?' Big Questions!



In all 3 schools they then looked at their questions about Creation in small groups - and there were so many! They began by 'creating' their own human using playdough and related this to God as creator.

After working through some more of their Universe/ Big Bang/ Evolution questions, we finished the session with two REInspired volunteers going head to head in 'Mastermind', being asked questions about Christian living. Many pupils came away from the session with yet more questions and it was a real privilege to work with them all, as they question and search for answers at this stage in their lives.

A great session was had by all!

Sue R



If you want to know more please get in touch with us: 0118 966 3929 [office@reinspired.org.uk](mailto:office@reinspired.org.uk) [www.reinspired.org.uk](http://www.reinspired.org.uk)

St Nicolas Church, Sutcliffe Avenue, Earley, Reading, RG6 7JN

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## F1 Lost Sheep

I have had the privilege and joy to both lead and help with playing out the story of the Lost Sheep with groups of 3-4 and 4-5 year olds this month. What a joy!

We have sheep puppets to introduce the story, then we tell the story which Jesus told. We make sheep, pretend to be shepherds and have



to go searching for one of our sheep when we discover one is missing.

All the children enjoyed the session, but it was sad to see the effect of covid and financial crisis meaning that in one of my small groups most of the children had never seen a live sheep or visited a farm.



I love being able to go into schools and tell children this wonderful story and to make sure they know that God loves each one of them and that they are each very precious to Him.

Sue A



## Reasons to be cheerful

St Mathews/Southcote; Central Reading/Katesgrove; St Marys/Robert Piggot: Fab work, well done all, they want us back next year!

New launch Crazyes Hill, Governors and Head are the team:

They want to do it all again and build on what they've done.

New launch in the planning, for Tilehurst and West Reading. Conversations with Coley Park, REInspired is really spreading!

Chris van Es taking the reins for The Bulmershe School, welcome to the crew. Come and meet him at September's training where he is making his debut.

Prayers being answered, the love for REi is high. Thank you, glorious teams, you make the projects fly.

Julia



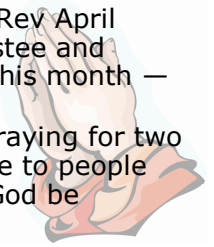
## Thanks and Prayers

### Giving thanks for:

- Our Project Director, Julia and Team Leaders who do fantastic creative work shaping and re-imagining our offer to schools
- Our positive school partnerships
- New REInspired projects happening further afield: West Reading, Tilehurst and Bristol
- New growth for Central Reading in Primary schools and East Surrey in Secondary schools
- The upcoming volunteer training event on 19th September
- Thanks for your support in so many meaningful ways

### Praying for:

- Praying for and giving thanks for Rev April Beckerleg who joined us as a Trustee and volunteer in 2020 and is retiring this month — thank you April; we will miss you
- We are particularly mindful and praying for two more Trustees to fill vacancies due to people retiring and moving on — might God be whispering in your ear?



**Our lovely Southcote team:** we thank Pads and Kirsty as they are preparing to leave for retirement in South Africa. It's been lovely working with you over the last 10 years.



If you want to know more please get in touch with us: 0118 966 3929 [office@reinspired.org.uk](mailto:office@reinspired.org.uk) [www.reinspired.org.uk](http://www.reinspired.org.uk)  
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