



*The Southport &
Area Schools Worker
Trust*

A Local Ministry Partner
Trust for
**Scripture
union**

Your local schools team from the local churches partnering with youth work apprentices
from the international Pais Project.

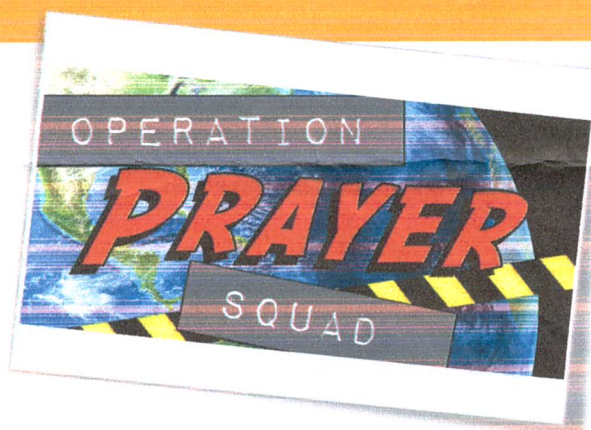


Dear supporter, **Here's some Autumn half term news...**

November 2014

PRAYER: WITH AN ENTIRE SCHOOL FOR A WHOLE MORNING!

New Head Teacher at St Philips CofE Primary has some great ideas on how to start making her mark on the school, and we've been able to help.



We spent much of the last half term knowing we were building up to something pretty special in the last week. We'd been asked to provide a whole morning's worth of workshops exploring the theme of prayer, that we would be released to lead the ENTIRE school in, with just the aid of the class teaching assistants!

We started the morning with a Collective Worship for the whole school aiming to look at the question like 'What is prayer?', 'How do we pray?', etc. We did this with some fun games and illustrations, and introduced ourselves as 'Operation Prayer Squad' (see branding in image above).

We looked at the Lord's Prayer and worked through understanding it better using the key words 'Wow!', 'Thanks', 'Sorry', and 'Please'. We used these key words in the craft workshops with the lower years, which included 'Prayer Smoothies' (where the ingredients represented the four key words), prayer clocks/spinner dials, prayer hands and a prayer tree.

With years 3 – 6 we looked at trying to produce something physical or memorable to encourage prayer at the school.

With Year 3 we had them making a Lord's Prayer board game. Year 4 made 7 prayer dice, where each side had a handwritten version of The Grace, for each class to role and pray before lunchtime. Year 5 collectively wrote a prayer song for their school, which we sung in the closing Collective Worship. Year 6 wrote prayer cards from the school to the local community, and had individual time to talk and pray (should they wish) with their buddies in Reception.

The take-away message from Operation Prayer Squad was that Christians use prayer, not just to talk to God, but as a powerful tool to bring change to the world. We feel this is one of the most amazing opportunities we've ever been given. This is a clear testimony to how God has blessed our country with so many excellent Faith Schools. We have future dates planned for engaging the school with the national Prayer Spaces in Schools initiative.

So, who's new?

Well, David ('Tabz') is still with us, motoring on ahead as busy as ever, and so is Sarah Petermann from last year's Pais Team. We are very blessed to work with a team of apprentices from the Pais Project, who not only work alongside SASWTrust in schools, but also carry on the relationships with young people into local churches, exploring mission and discipleship with them. This year Sarah is leading the Pais Team.

Ruven Oehmke was our first new Pais Team apprentice to arrive. He's from Germany, 18 y/o, hosted by Liverpool Road Methodist, and is a bit of a machine when it comes to work! He's also doing a diploma through the Pais Projects links in the USA.

Juliano Munhoz was our second new Pais Team apprentice to arrive. He's come all the way from Brazil, and every day he gets more amazed how different Britain is! He's nearly 23, has plenty of previous overseas mission experience, is quite charismatic with the young people, and yes, he has met Cristiano Ronaldo! Juliano is hosted by both Canning Road and Christ Church.



The Pais Team put on a very successful Vision Evening the other week. They'd like to thank all who came. We watched the documentary: 'The Spirit of a Pioneer', which can be accessed online. (vimeo.com/72473264)



A 'selfie' from Juliano (left) and Ruven (right).

BIG steps in local High Schools!

Two Christian Unions/Outreach Lunch Clubs in one school?! Yes, that's right! At Meols Cop, we felt the CU was at an appropriate size to break into two, one for younger years & another for older years. Since we did that at the start of the year, we feel both have grown in number and God is blessing the topics we talk about that are more directly relevant to different ages.

In Birkdale High we've also seen a reshape of our weekly lunch club. Deeper, and have seen an influx of Year 7s. One week our numbers went from 2 to 16! Our work in both these schools has been a profit of our strategy to help Year 6 pupils bridge the gap into high school. We've had chance to do assemblies for Year 7 in both these schools, which at Birkdale High is very new step forward that we owe to the very welcoming new Head Teacher.

Stanley High also welcomed us in for 5 days alongside the Gideons this year. We gave out around 150 copies of the NT & Psalms. Our in-roads into Stanley have never been well established, and so this is a very promising BIG step!



Exciting things ahead

Lots to look forward to between now and Christmas! We've been finding doors opening into several schools we've not had much contact from for a while, if ever. For instance, we've not been to Churchtown Primary for a little while, but now we can look forward to 4 year group assemblies during Anti-Bullying Week. Of course we are also very involved in Anti-Bullying Week at other schools too, especially Meols Cop where we will be doing three assemblies.

David, our schools worker, is currently music director for a musical production being put together by the learning mentors at Meols Cop to inspire and encourage the students they work with. The preparations are underway for some time in February, and it's looking very exciting.



Last half term we were able to be a part of SonFest, a live Christian music festival on the bandstand in the center of Southport during the airshow organised by Tina Powsey. David was a performer and compere for the event whilst the Pais Team did a Because You're Loved outreach with cakes. It was a great success, and there's funding to provide an even bigger event next year, potentially with bigger acts from further afield.

And for those who have followed us for a few years, you'll know we're soon to go Christmas crazy! From Dec 1st - 12th, we'll be presenting our lively, (hopefully) funny, Christmas Presentation to primary schools across the town. Always an exciting project to pray for! And we're involved in two carol/advent services where schools in Ainsdale and in Scarisbrick have joined together to celebrate Christmas. We've got a big vision for how this could grow in future years into a inter-church / community / multi-school Carol Extravaganza in a large local venue – please pray for this too!

In the last couple of months David has taken services and preached in a couple of churches in Southport. (He does this anyway as a Methodist preacher). He speaks on our current strapline, which is:

Light, Faith & Mission with an Emerging Generation

If you'd like him to speak at your church, please put your church leaders in touch.

He has also been working hard on the organisation of SASW Trust, having produced new leaflets and introduced many innovative new ways for supporters to give to the Trust. This includes giving by text message. You can find more information on this at www.saswtrust.com/get-involved/give

Please pray:

- Thank God for all the opportunities we've had so far this year.
- Pray we will be able to reach more schools at Christmas than before
- Pray for more openings in high schools (particularly those we've not had much to do with before.
- Pray for the seeds sown in St Philips, and for the development of Operation Prayer Squad into a package we can offer to other schools.
- Pray for the Juliano and Ruven as they continue to settle in, and for Sarah as she helps them.
- Continue to pray for financial provision – things are looking up, but we're not quite where we need to be just yet!

We need your prayer!

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