

Open the Book/ICE Torbay Newsletter

April 2016, Issue 14



This year got off to a great start...

Since January we have concentrated our efforts on further developing our **ICE Lunch Clubs**. The sessions which we've developed have enabled the children to explore how God asks people to live their lives and behave towards others. The children have then been able to relate what they learnt to how they interact with their own friends.

We started running the lunch clubs during the Autumn Term, and since then they have remained very popular. They are great fun, with plenty of games, exciting activities, crafts, video clips and various other things going on. The children really look forward to the clubs and enjoy getting involved.

We tend to pitch the clubs at Key Stage 2 (7 to 11 years old), and the attendance figures vary from school to school but typically we'll get up to 15 children for a lunch club lasting about 30 to 45 minutes. We currently run these clubs at four primary schools within Torbay, and plan to start a fifth club during Summer Term.

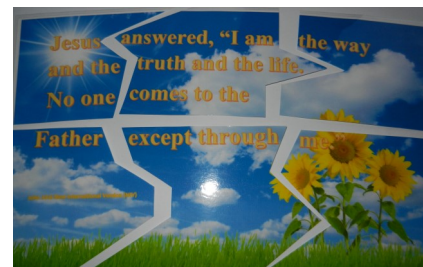


We have been really keen for children to have the opportunity to hear and understand certain Bible verses, and so during Spring Term we developed some of our clubs around four verses in particular. We discussed the topic of 'love in action', where we looked at verses from Matthew chapter 22 and 25. We also looked at John 3:16 and John 14:6. We finished the term with an exciting Easter session with plenty of fun activities, and the children also learnt more about Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection. We gave away plenty of prizes and stickers - as well as consuming a reasonable amount of Cadbury mini eggs!



We are always keen for the children to retain (even a small amount) of what we talk about - so we sometimes give each of them a small laminated card with a Bible verse on it, to take home. The next time we visit the school we would offer a small prize (a pencil, bookmark or sweets etc.) to those who had memorised the verse, and were able to explain what it meant. This has always proved popular! (Particularly when there are sweets involved!)

One thing that we often do (which the children never seem to get bored of), is to hide sections of a Bible verse around the room (cut into jigsaw pieces). They have to find the pieces and fit them together - which then provides us with an opportunity to briefly talk with them about the Bible verse and what it means.



Open the Book

There are now 15 Open the Book teams in Torbay, with more schools asking for teams to start. There are also 9 teams in the South Hams, and 1 new team in Teignbridge. The teams are reaching thousands of children in the local area with Bible stories who wouldn't normally hear them. For more information about Open the Book, visit their website: www.openthebook.net

Getting involved

ICE Lunch Clubs

We currently run four lunch clubs in primary schools across Torbay, and we hope to increase this to six very soon. There is an increasing demand from primary schools for the clubs that we offer, but it is only possible to meet this demand if we have sufficient volunteers.

ICE Lunch Clubs offer a half hour program of activities including stories, crafts, games, quizzes, drama & video clips.

If you would like to be involved in helping with lunch clubs, please contact us on the details below for more information. If you could spare about an hour every fortnight or even every four weeks (during school term-time) we would love to hear from you. (All volunteers will need to have a current DBS & work within ICE Torbay's policies & procedures.)



Support

There are three main ways in which you can support the local primary schools work:

Practical: Open the Book storytellers & ICE Torbay volunteers are needed across the local area. If you would like to be involved in any way, please contact us for more information.

Financial: The work of Open the Book Torbay & ICE Torbay is funded by South Devon Evangelical Trust, and your financial support, whether as a one off donation or a regular gift is vital for the work to continue. Gift Aid forms are available.

Spiritual: Please pray for the work of Open the Book and ICE Torbay & sign up to receive the monthly prayer diary.

Prayer

- Pray for the ICE Vision Day 2016, which will be held on 13th May.
- Thank God for all of the 'Open the Book' teams and other volunteers who go into schools each week.
- Thank God for the various opportunities that He has opened up in primary schools, and pray that He will continue to grow our lunch clubs, and continue to equip us with the skills and resources to run these clubs well.
- Thank God for the volunteers who help with our various activities, and pray that He will continue to provide suitable volunteers in line with our needs.
- Pray for LINX, Youth Genesis and other organisations as well as local churches doing schools & community work with children and young people in Torbay.
- Pray for Exeter ICE, and ICE partnerships in Ilfracombe, Dawlish, Exmouth & Wales



**Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
Colossians 4:2**

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