

# Celebrating

# Easter



## Celebrating Easter

Every year many Worship Co-ordinators wonder if we should celebrate Easter with the children before or after the Easter Holidays. I would like to suggest that you celebrate Easter when the children return to school. Before Easter look at the events of Holy Week and then celebrate the resurrection after Easter Week.

### Give the children a challenge for the holidays!

Ask the children to create an acrostic poem using the word Easter that tells the Easter Story. (or create your own! OR ask a small group or class)

I have created this one as an example.

#### **EASTER**

**E** mpty tomb

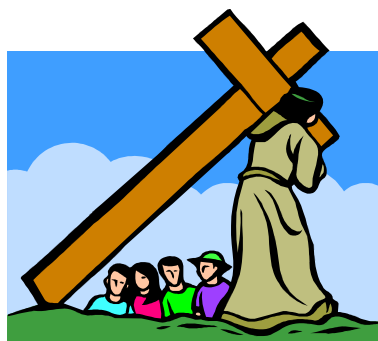
**A** lleluia He is risen

**S** adness to joy

**T** riumphant over death

**E** veryone one of us

**R** esurrection



## Collective Worship for Easter

Display the children's work in the hall and use it as a focus for worship. Select the best poems and copy them on to overhead transparencies. Each day in the week back at school after the Easter holidays use one or two of the children's poems in the worship as a way of telling the Easter story.

## Ways to use the Poems in Worship

You may read the whole of the poem but focus on one line.

Empty tomb

**Alleluia He is risen**

Sadness to joy

Triumphant over death

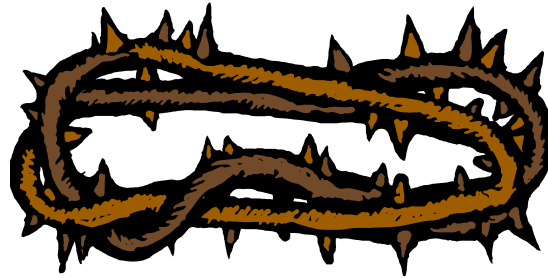
Everyone one of us

Resurrection

You could teach the children the response from Common Worship "Alleluia he is risen!"  
"He is risen indeed Alleluia!"

Read from the Bible the appropriate verses Matthew 28 and in Luke 24.  
Highlight 2 or 3 lines of the poem

Empty tomb  
**Alleluia He is risen**  
**Sadness to joy**  
**Triumphant over death**  
Everyone one of us  
Resurrection



Tell the story of Good Friday. (The Lion Storyteller Bible gives an excellent account of Good Friday) Discuss with the children the dreadful sadness, but this sadness turns into amazing joy on Easter Sunday. Ask the children to tell you what happened when the women went to the tomb. "Alleluia He is risen!" Jesus had conquered death and evil and had come back to life. He was triumphant!

Introduce them to the chorus of the traditional Easter hymn "Thine be the Glory."

"Thine be the glory, risen conquering Son  
Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won."

You could use the poem as an opportunity to explain one word.

Empty tomb  
Alleluia He is risen  
Sadness to joy  
Triumphant over death  
Everyone one of us  
**Resurrection**

Ask the children what the word resurrection means.

Write their ideas on a flip chart or whiteboard.

Read out a suitable dictionary definition.

Bringing something that was dead to life is a very difficult thing to illustrate! Have a collection of things such as seeds or bulbs, a picture of a cocoon, a twig with buds or new leaves, a picture or a hibernating animal, etc all of which seem dead but are full of new life. What appears to be the end is really the beginning.

### **Empty tomb**

Alleluia He is risen

Sadness to joy

Triumphant over death

Everyone one of us

### **Resurrection**

At first the empty tomb is a horrible shock to the women and they feel that they have lost Jesus completely. However the empty tomb is really the most wonderful sign because it means that Jesus is alive. 'The Easter Angels' by Bob Hartman is a brilliant book to use with older children to discuss and discover the Easter message.

Although you are taking a big risk because unless you make up your own poem or use mine you won't know what the children are going to come up with, I think that this could be a very exciting and new way to explore the Easter Story which could involve the whole school in a challenging and creative way.

