



Assembly



Signs of the times

Aim:

- To encourage pupils to be more aware of the trends in society

Introduction

Advent

What are you like at reading the signs? Can you detect new fashion trends or predict the scores of Premiership games? Are you ahead of everyone else in making plans for the future because you've got a clear grasp of what's going to be important? We are at the start of the Christian season of Advent, which traditionally has been all about reading the signs. Bible readings for Advent focus on passages from the Old Testament that predicted the birth of Jesus and passages from the New Testament where Jesus talks about the signs that will accompany his Second Coming when, Christians believe, God will bring in his rule and his judgement of our world.

It's not easy to read the signs. For instance, Jesus talks about knowing when each season is arriving by the signs in the natural world. That's all a bit topsy turvy at the moment in this country. In our gardens we can see the seeds and fruit from this Autumn on the trees and bushes, while alongside them are the first flowers for next Spring. Ladybirds and other creatures that have normally entered a dormant winter phase are still bustling about the undergrowth. Are we in Autumn, Winter or has Spring arrived early? We need to make very careful judgements.

Looking Deeper

Sorting through the signs

What kinds of signs might exist for us to be aware of? If we travel along a motorway we can get a fair set of examples. On the one hand there are warning signs, telling us of hazards ahead, such as an accident or road works. Then there are information signs. One might indicate that the next service area is 15 miles ahead. Another might tell us that it will take 22 minutes to reach Junction 19. Finally, there are direction signs, particularly at each junction, indicating which lane to drive in or to take the exit in order to get to our destination. Warnings, information and direction.

Similarly we can look out for the warning signs in our own lives. It might be a poor result in a test or a below par performance in a competition, indicating that we need to put in more effort, more practice, sort out our priorities. Information signs carry less threat and probably are more about offering opportunities. It pays to be aware of what's on in this school and community so that opportunities can be grasped. Finally, direction signs often come from the advice of those who've travelled our road before us.

Reflection

What are the warning signs we might be tempted to ignore, right now?
What are the information signs we need to look out for, right now?
Where do we need direction to, right now?

Prayer

God of the past, the present and the future,
Grant us the sensitivity to notice the signs of



Current Affairs Assembly

KS3 Christmas – Advent

Assembly

the times around.
May we then take clear and appropriate
action.
Amen



Thought of the day

Look out for the signs



Keywords

Advent
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Warning
Information
Direction

