

11. Light for the journey

Age range: Primary

Theme: We gather as a community for collective worship that is **inspiring, invitational and inclusive**, reflecting the fact that we are a part of a diverse school family and the wider church community. *This is part of our new series (and with apologies for the split infinitive!) 'To boldly go....'. You may need to tailor this script to suit the needs, age range & levels of concerns of your school community, which of course includes adults as well as children. This week, we are linking with the worldwide celebration of Dharma Day, this year on 10th July, a Buddhist festival focused on the life and wise teachings of the Buddha. We introduce the idea of wisdom as light for the journey of life, helping us to decide how to live, and take time to be grateful for those who have shared wisdom with us.*

Background information for teachers:

The first teaching to the Buddha's disciples is known as 'The First Turning of the Wheel of the Dharma' and the celebration of Dharma Day marks the giving of that first teaching, giving Buddhists opportunity to give thanks for and reflect on the teaching of Buddha and other wise teachers of Buddhism. In Buddhism, it's believed that Buddha has moved through many lives as a Bodhisattva on the way to gaining Enlightenment. These stories are collected as the Jataka Tales, which contain stories about the Buddha, who Buddhists believe was born into many lives. We don't choose to emphasise this in this resource, but again, you may be able to pick this idea up in any RE teaching that links to Buddhist beliefs.



How does this link to your school's Christian vision & values?

Use this section to reference your school's values and the things that are a part of your school's unique vision. This week, although the focus is on a story from Buddhism, and the value of wisdom, we also hope that you might take some time this week to value teachers as givers of wisdom! We begin with some words from the Bible about wisdom and think about how wisdom is like a light.

Resources:

- The PowerPoint slides are numbered with a point in the script so you can find your way, and the parts in **bold** show you where to click on to activate the next slide or animation.
- Today's rucksack object: a torch**
- You will also need to print some torch cards (p5) for **your reflective area this week**. These will be used as thankyou's to people who have shared their wisdom with us this year.

Gathering:

Slide 1 or 2 [choose whichever image you prefer, or use them in rotation]:

Use the greeting for this term

Leader: We are on this journey together...

Children: We are friends along the way...

ALL: May God go with us.

BSL interpretation:

Sign for 'way' (nearest to the idea of 'journey'): [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - way](#)

Sign for 'friends': [British Sign Language: friends](#)

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

Engaging:

- Slide 3:** We're starting today with some words from the Bible. These were written down about the time of one of the great prophets of the Old Testament, the prophet Daniel, who was miraculously kept safe from the lions in the den. *[You can read about this in Daniel chapter 6]* What do you think we mean by 'wise people' – and how might they 'shine like stars'? How might wisdom be like a light in the darkness? *[Briefly talk together]*
- Slide 4: Dharma Day:** Today / this week / 10th July is a special celebration for many people who are Buddhists – a celebration called Dharma Day. Buddhism is a religion that started far across the world in countries like China and Tibet, but there are Buddhists in countries all over the world. Dharma Day



remembers the time when the Buddha – the first wise teacher of Buddhism – taught his first followers. Interestingly, he lived at around the same time as the Prophet Daniel!

- **Slide 5:** One of the symbols of Buddhism is this – a wheel that represents the teachings that Buddhists live by. Dharma Day is also called the ‘festival of the first turning of the wheel’ – because it remembers the day that this teaching started – when the wheel started turning, if you like. Buddhists all over the world will think today about the wise teachings of the Buddha and how it helps them on the journey of their own life. Before we hear some of the Buddha’s wisdom today, let’s find out.....
- **Slide 6: What’s in the rucksack today?** *Open your rucksack and get out the torch. Talk together about how a torch might be useful on a journey.*
Just like a torch can bring light into a dark place, Buddha, taught that wisdom can do the same on the journey of life. He once said....
- **Slide 7: ‘No light is brighter than wisdom. Wisdom is the light in the world.’**
One of the ways that many Buddhists gain wisdom is through hearing stories from the life of the Buddha, and we are going to share one together now. As you listen, think about the important message that Buddhists might find in this story, which might help them to live wisely.
- **Slide 8:** Our story comes from a very famous book of stories about the many lives of the Buddha, called The Jataka Tales.
- **Slide 9: It’s called King of the Quails**
A quail is a small bird that looks like this! As you listen, see if you can hear the wisdom in this story.
- **Slide 10:** A fowler lived in a little hut in the woods. He earned a living catching the flocks of quail that landed in the clearing to feed.
- **Slide 11:** The quails were easily frightened and so when the fowler’s net loomed large over them, they simply froze and off they went to be sold.
- **Slide 12:** The King of the Quails was the wisest of them all and as he watched, with despair, from the trees as another net full of birds was carried off by the fowler, he came up with a clever plan. Under cover of the trees, he called a meeting of all the quails. ‘The next time the fowler throws his net over you, this is what you must do. Every single one of you must flap as hard as you can. Together you will be able to lift up the net and fly away.’
- **Slide 13:** Early that next morning, the quails were again gathered in the clearing in the woods, pecking at the berries that had fallen from the trees that morning.
- **Slide 14:** Down came the fowler’s net, but as one, the birds flew up and away with his net, just as their wise king had instructed them to. This happened day after day, much to the fowler’s frustration, until one unfortunate incident occurred.....
- **Slide 15:** In the early morning sunshine, as the quails were again enjoying the peace and quiet of the forest, one small quail bumped into another – and an argument began.
- **Slide 16:** ‘Take care!’ warned the King of the Quails, as he watched the argument escalate. ‘You’re putting yourselves in danger by being distracted with your silly argument!’
Before long, the quails were all arguing with each other about anything and everything and took no notice of the wise King’s warning. At that very moment, the fowler spied his chance!
- **Slide 17:** Down came the fowler’s net, but the birds were too cross with each other to co-operate. And so off they went to market, where the fowler sold them for a good price!
- **Slide 18: What’s the wisdom in this story?**
[Talk together about your ideas.] On Dharma Day, Buddhists will remember and be grateful for the wisdom of Lord Buddha, but also for others who have been wise teachers. For a few moments now, we are going to pause and think about our own school community, and those who have helped us to learn.

Slide 19: Responding (and words for worship):

....so in the stillness of this moment, let’s spend some time wondering together.....

.... I wonder who has shared their wisdom with you this year?...

At the end of another school year, on/near Dharma Day, it’s good to be thankful for all those in our school community who have shared their wisdom with us.....



This might be other children, your teachers and other adults who work in your classroom, or other adults who help in school, or families that help at home.

...Pause and think for yourself now...

....I wonder how we might show our teachers, especially, that we are grateful for their wisdom?....

...Pause and think for yourself now...

Slide 20: We started our time together today with these words from the Bible. As we end our time, let's pause one more time and think....

.... I wonder how we might be wise people, who teach others to live right?....

...Pause and think for yourself now...

Slide 21: I'm going to pray now, and ask God to bless our teachers (which of course includes all the adults who work in our classrooms!) as we draw near to the end of a busy term – and school year. They all deserve a break! Join me if you'd like to at the end of each line of the first part, by saying '**WE THANK YOU, GOD.**'

Prayer:

For all that our teachers have done for us – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**

For the new things they have taught us – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**

For the problems they have helped us to solve – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**

For the times of fun and laughter – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**

For helping us to shine – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**

We are near the end of a busy year, and ready for a break – **WE THANK YOU, GOD.**

Give our teachers a happy end to the term, with the reward of good holidays filled with rest and relaxation, and time to be with their families.

Bless them, we pray.

Slide 22: Amen

Sending:

Slide 23: Use this term's leaving words

Leader: We have journeyed together today.

As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead...

ALL: ...May God go with us.

Sign for 'God': [British Sign Language BSL Video Dictionary - God](#)



Sign for 'go with us' – we have invented this! After you've signed 'God', bring your finger down alongside your other finger and make them 'journey together' in front of you.

To sing / listen to:

[Shine](#) (NBD)

[City on a hill](#) (NBD – check words first)



Ideas for classroom reflection: torch cards

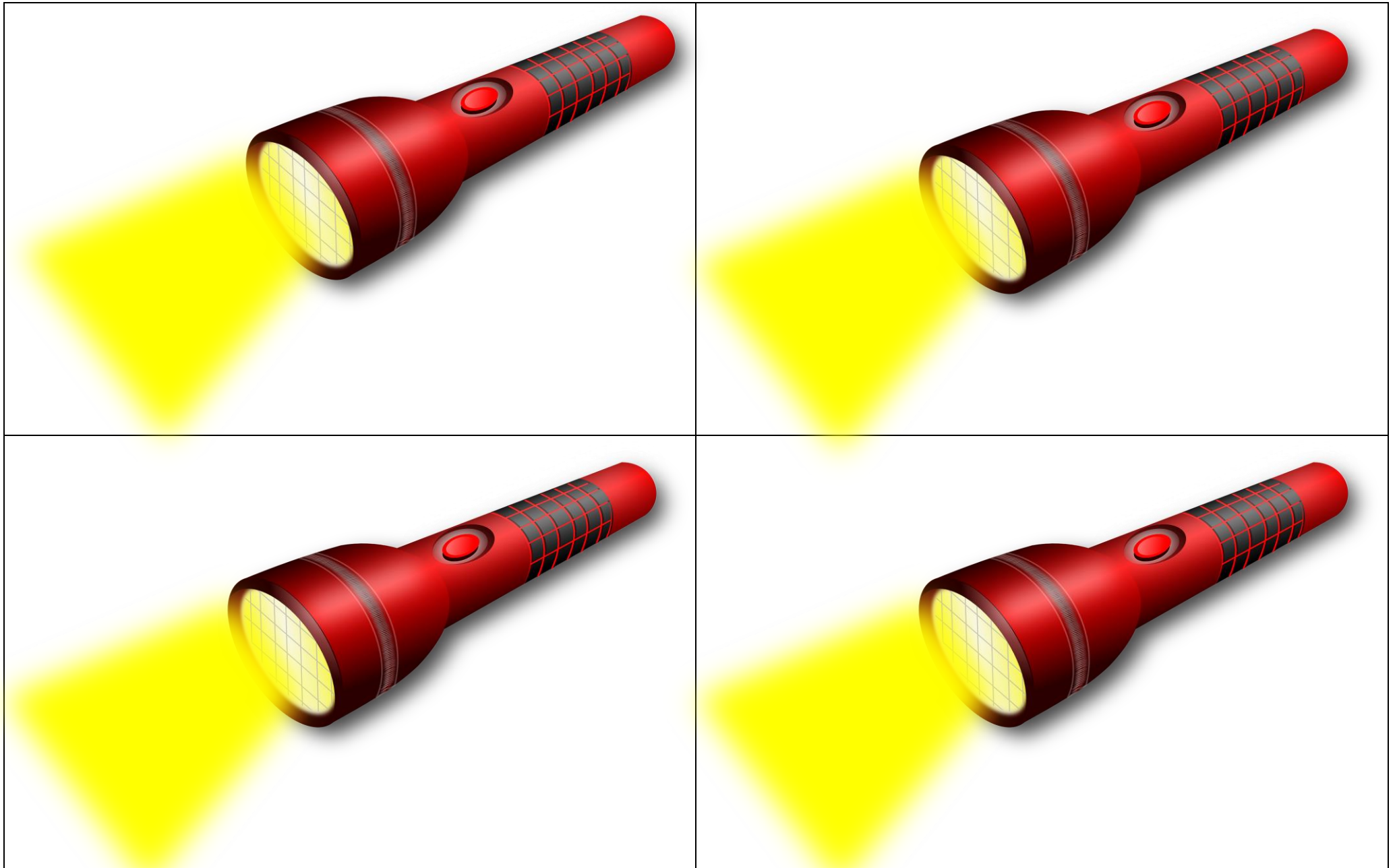
Think about someone who has shared their wisdom with you this year.

How has their wisdom helped you?

Write them a short thank you note on the back of the torch card.

Don't forget to give it to them to show that you are grateful!



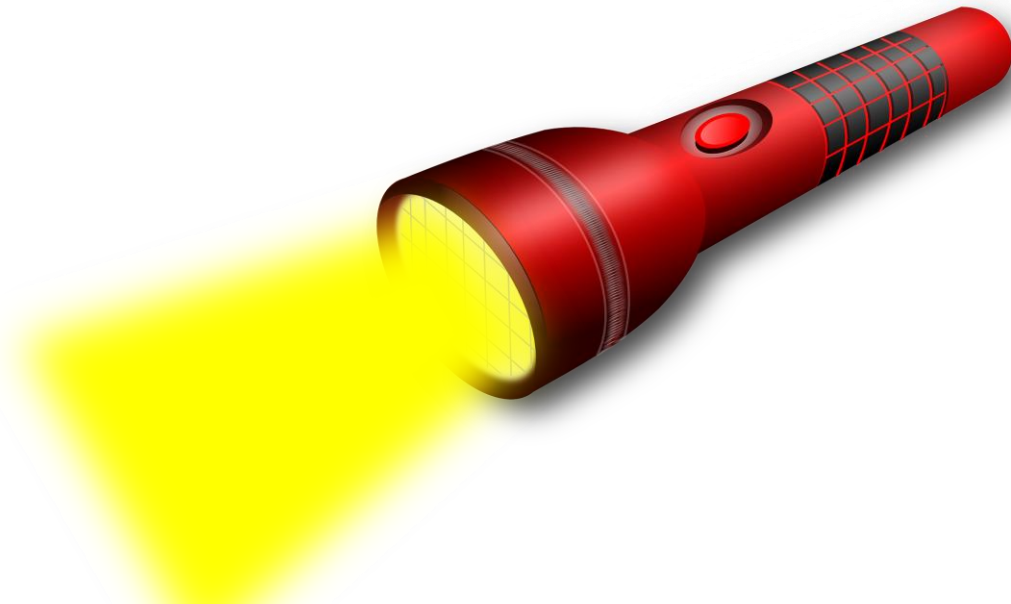


'To boldly go.....!'

11. Light for the journey

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THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND





*Buddha said **that** 'No light is brighter than wisdom.'
Daniel wrote that 'The wise people will shine like the
brightness of the sky.'*



**Think about someone who has
shared their wisdom with you this
year.**



**How has their wisdom helped
you?**



**Write them a short thank you note
on the back of the torch card.
Don't forget to give it to them to
show that you are grateful!**

