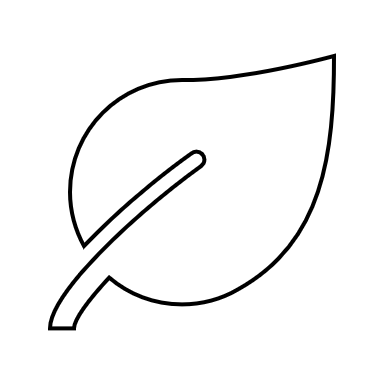
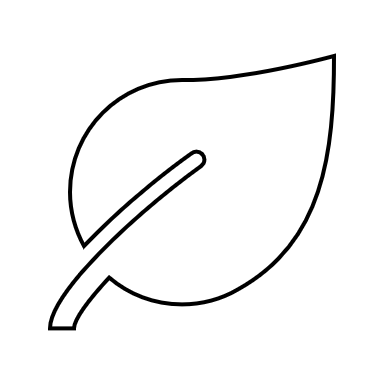
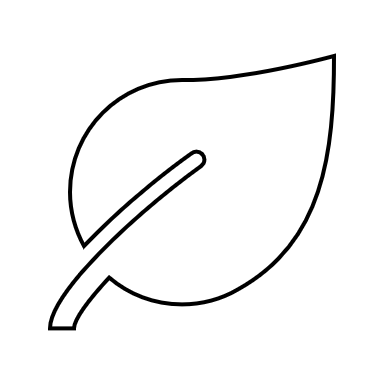
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Description automatically generated**1. A new leaf – 2022!**



*There is an accompanying PowerPoint for this assembly*

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| **Age range:** Primary |
| **Theme:** This term’s themes create an opportunity for all pupils to think about the most famous of all Christian prayers – **the Lord’s Prayer** – which is prayed in Christian communities all over the world. It will be accessible for all children, regardless of their faith or belief as we will explore the meaning of the words *for Christians,* and reflect together on concepts common to all: on school and family life, being part of a community, forgiveness, gratitude and making good choices. We start the term with a brand new year – 2022 – and think about what it means to ‘turn over a new leaf’. |
| **DiamondHow does this link to your school’s Christian vision & values?**  This week, the focus is on new beginnings – the chance a new year gives to look back and look ahead: for a new focus and new intentions. Jesus always offered people a new start. |
| **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. There are slides to go with today’s script, but you could quite easily use this collective worship without the PowerPoint if you preferred. * You will need green card, cut into leaf shapes (there is a template on p3). You could write on each a suggestion from the list below (there are some personal, some whole school suggestions) – or you could write your own, or just leave them blank for children to suggest what to write. Scatter these on the floor, blank side showing, leaving one empty for the reflection – or you could put them into a bag.  |  |  | | --- | --- | | **Personal** | **Whole school** | | * walk more * be more generous * listen more carefully * do what I’m asked first time * work even harder * worry less * spend more time with friends * do something amazing | * we take responsibility for our actions * we respect each other * we listen to each other * we treat others as we would want to be treated * we work together as a community * we treat each other fairly | |
| Door Open**Gathering:**   * **Slide 1:** Use these new gathering words for this term, or your usual greeting if you prefer. |
| Puzzle**Engaging:**   * **Slide 2: Happy New Year!!!** * **Slide 3:** ‘Welcome to 2022! At this time of year – as a brand new year starts – we often take time to think back over the year that’s just ended. * **Slide 4:** Here’s a selection of things I think you might remember…..*[show some photos of events in your school life over the past year, or national events e.g. sporting, in the news etc.]* * **Slide 5:** For many of us here, there will have been big milestones during 2021….. special birthdays….learning to read…..or swim…..or play an instrument….. I wonder what you might say has been the most memorable moment in your year? *[ask a few children / adults if time allows]* * **Slide 6:** Another thing that we sometimes do at the start of a new year is to think ahead....about things we’d like to happen….. or hopes that we have…..or things we’d like to get better at…People call this making ‘New Year’s Resolutions’. We’re going to think some more about this now – and what it might mean for us….. * **Slide 7:** People sometimes say that at the start of a new year, they are going to **‘turn over a new leaf’**. What a strange thing to say! I wonder what you imagine that might mean?.... * ‘Turning over a new leaf’ is an old phrase that means we are starting again – **like turning to a clean, new page in your writing book.** It means that we can leave behind in the old year the things that we know we haven’t done so well and make a fresh start. The Bible is full of stories about Jesus giving people a chance to start again – to leave their ‘old’ lives and begin again. * **Slide 8:** Matthew, one of Jesus’ disciples, was one of the most unpopular people in Jesus’ home town of Nazareth, because he was a tax collector. But Jesus gave him a chance to start again…. and Matthew became one of Jesus’ closest friends: in fact, it’s thanks to Matthew that we know many of the things that Jesus did, because he wrote them down in the book of the Bible named…..MATTHEW! Matthew was only one of a whole host of people who Jesus offered a new start to: and a new year gives us an opportunity to do the same for others, and for ourselves. * **Slide 9:** I wonder what ‘turning a new leaf’ might look like for us at the start of 2022? Here are a few ideas to get us started *[use the leaf shapes you have made, including the blank one at the end….]* |
| Thought bubble**Slide 10: Responding (words for worship):**  **Let’s be still and quiet together now….**  …in the stillness, think about the things that we’ve heard today….  ….you might want to decide for yourself on something to make as *your* new year resolution at the start of this brand new year…..something that *you* might write onto this new leaf….  ….maybe it’ll be a new skill you’d like to develop…..  …..something that you want to get better at…..  …..or something you could do to help someone else…..  …..or for the world around us…..  …..or to make this school, or our world, an even better place to be…..  I’m going to turn my thoughts into a prayer now, as I ask God to help us to put some of these ideas into practice. Make the prayer your own if you’d like to…or if you’d prefer not to pray, then just sit quietly with your own thoughts.  **Slide 11:**  **Dear God**  **Thank you for 2021, the old year that lies behind us, and for all the memories it’s made. Thank you for this new year, 2022, the year that lies ahead of us now – and for all that *this* new year might be. Help us as we make our resolutions and ‘turn over a new leaf’. Help us to work on them, whatever they might be, so that our families, our school and our world is a better and happier place for everyone.**  **Slide 12: Amen** |
| **Sending: Slide 13**  **Leader:** As we leave this place and time and go into the day ahead…  **All:** **Let’s ‘turn over a new leaf’!** |
| **To listen to / sing:**  Song of blessing (Songs for Every Assembly – Out of the Ark) |
| **Reflective / prayer idea:**  Put blank leaves in your reflection area for children to use during the week, just as you have modelled. |

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