



AWE AND WONDER

Do you remember that feeling as a child of seeing something so amazing that you said "Wow, that's awesome!"? That is awe and wonder. At St. Peter's we feel that this magical feeling should be fostered and actively promoted throughout the curriculum for all children and adults.

"For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. As the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us."
Psalms 103:11-12

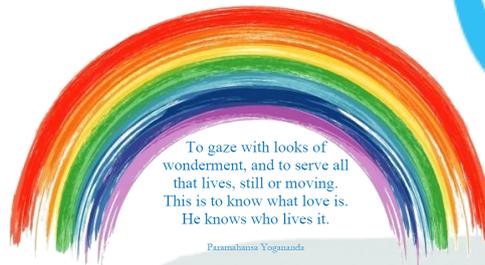
"Blessed be the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone works wonders. And blessed be His glorious name forever; and may the whole earth be filled with His glory. Amen and Amen."
Psalms 72:18-19

The Knowable God

"I have made your very being known to them -- who you are and what you do -- and continue to make it known, so that your love for me might be in them exactly as I am in them."
John 17:26



"Wonder is the heaviest element on the periodic table. Even a tiny fleck of it stops time."



To gaze with looks of wonderment, and to serve all that lives, still or moving. This is to know what love is. He knows who lives it.

Paramahansa Yogananda

The world around us is a very special place and, as a Church of England school, we believe that God's creation is something to be explored and celebrated at every opportunity.

We are privileged to be able to play an active role in the spiritual development of our pupils and encourage reflection, enquiry and a sense of 'something other'.

Can you talk about the wonderful world that God created?

Why do you think he created the world in this order?

Can you create a 'Creation Wheel' to show the order that God created the world in?

Can you name different things and spot them around you that God created each day?



Read Together....

IN THE BEGINNING...

In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth, and while the earth was still unformed, God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. And God saw that the light was good. Then God separated the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day and the darkness Night. And there was an evening and a morning, making the first day.

And God said, "Let there be a sky and let it divide the waters that are below from the waters that are above the sky." And it was done. And God called the sky the Heavens. And there was an evening and a morning, making the second day.

And God said, "Let the waters under the heavens be brought together, and let the dry land appear." And it was done. And God called the dry land Earth and the waters that were brought together Seas. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let plants and trees grow from the earth." And it was done. And plants and trees grew from the earth, each plant bringing forth its own kind of seed and each tree its own kind of fruit, and God saw that it was good. And there was an evening and a morning, making the third day.

And God said, "Let there be lights in the heavens to separate the night from the day. Let them be signs to mark the seasons, the days, and the years. Let them be lights in the heavens to light the earth." And it was done. So God made the two great lights (the sun and the moon): the greater to rule the day and the lesser

to rule the night. God made the stars also and placed them in the heavens to throw light upon the earth. And God saw that it was good. And there was an evening and a morning, making the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the waters bring forth many living creatures and let birds fly above the earth and in the sky." And God made large sea-monsters and all kinds of living creatures with which the waters abound, and all kinds of birds. And God saw that it was good. And he blessed them, saying, "Increase and fill the waters in the seas, and let the birds increase on the earth." And there was an evening and a morning, making the fifth day.

And God said, "Let the earth bring forth all kinds of living creatures, cattle and creeping things and wild beasts." And it was done. So God made all the different kinds of wild beasts, and the cattle, and everything that crawls upon the ground. And God saw that it was good.

And God said, "Let us make man like ourselves. Let him rule over the fish in the sea, the birds of the sky, the cattle, the wild beasts and all the living things that crawl upon the ground." And God made man like himself, like God he made him. He made them male and female.

And God blessed them, and said to them, "Have children, increase, live all over the earth, and conquer it; rule over the fish of the sea, the birds of

the sky, and over every living thing that crawls upon the ground."

And God said, "See, to you I give every plant which grows on all the earth, and every tree which bears fruit with its own kind of seed. It shall be food for you. And to every wild beast and to every bird of the sky and to every thing that crawls on the earth and is alive, I give every green herb for food." And it was done.

And when God saw everything that he had made, he saw that it was very good. And there was an evening and a morning, making the sixth day.

And the heavens and the earth were finished and all that there was in them. And on the seventh day when God had finished the work which he had done, he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, for in it he rested from all the work which he had done.

Genesis 1:1-23



“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.” Aristotle

Sir David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is a broadcaster and naturalist best known for his television awe-inspiring natural history documentaries such as “Life on Earth”, “The Living Planet” and “Blue Planet”.

His contribution to broadcasting and wildlife film-making has brought him international recognition and influenced a generation of wildlife film-makers. At least 15 species and genera, both living and extinct, have been named after him— a butterfly (*Euptychia attenboroughi* or *Attenborough's black-eyed satyr*); a spider (*Prethopalpus attenboroughi*); and a frog (*Pristimantis attenboroughi*) amongst others.

The undisputed king of wildlife television, Sir David Attenborough has worked tirelessly to introduce generations to the wonders of the world for more than 60 years.

“People must feel that the natural world is important and valuable and beautiful and wonderful and an amazement and a pleasure.”

Attenborough doesn't just make nature shows: he brings the natural world, in all of its glory, into our living rooms. His narration is compelling and engaging, his manner warm and almost grandfatherly. And, despite calling upon his studies in geology, geography, biology, zoology, botany, anthropology and more during each and every single episode, he does not remain cool and aloof.

“I can't pretend that I got involved with filming the natural world 50 years ago because I had some great banner to carry about conservation - not at all, I always had a huge pleasure in just watching the natural world and seeing what happens.”

Instead, Attenborough is the Willy Wonka of the natural world, treating each and every documentary as a complex story about our planet. He recognises our excitement, feeds our fascination, reawakens our childish curiosities, and forces us to wake up to the fact that the world needs us to look after it.

“It seems to me that the natural world is the greatest source of excitement; the greatest source of visual beauty, the greatest source of intellectual interest. It is the greatest source of so much in life that makes life worth living.”



Awe is an emotional mix of fear, wonder, and reverence experienced when someone is overwhelmed by the presence of something powerful. The trigger for these feelings is typically viewed as especially beautiful, threatening, talented, virtuous, or supernatural in nature.

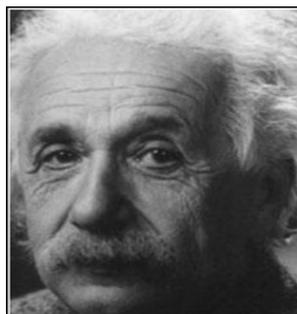
Most of us can probably recall a moment when we've experienced awe, although we may not have had words to describe it at the time. When we experience awe, it is not uncommon for us to have difficulties expressing how we feel because the experience of awe is often very intense and it is a mix of emotions.

Awesome!

QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS, QUESTIONS

Draw the outline of a huge question mark.

Fill this in with questions that you would ask God about life, the universe, and everything scientific. Use this as the basis for discussion.



The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing. One cannot help but be in awe when he contemplates the mysteries of eternity, of life, of the marvelous structure of reality. It is enough if one tries merely to comprehend a little of this mystery every day. Never lose a holy curiosity.

— Albert Einstein —

AZ QUOTES

CLOSE YOUR EYES

Reflection: Think about the things that you use every day that are as a result of the on-going wonder of creation: the food you eat, the clothes you wear, the flowers in your garden.

Take a moment to appreciate all their beauty.



TIME FOR SOME FUN

How good are you at noticing something and then describing it to someone else?

Look around you to find something 'natural'. Stare at this for 30 seconds. Describe it to your partner or, tell them how to draw it.

Show your partner the object you were looking at. Did they get it right?

Swap over. At the end who was most accurate?



dreamstime.com

GROW YOUR OWN BEANS

Get some broad beans and place them on a damp piece of kitchen towel in a small sealed bag.

Create a bean diary and be amazed at how quickly your bean grows, and the time it takes to develop shoots.



“The most beautiful thing we can experience is the mysterious. It is the source of all true art and all science. He to whom this emotion is a stranger, who can no longer pause to wonder and stand rapt in awe, is as good as dead: his eyes are closed” Albert Einstein