

This should be a tremendous encouragement for us. We may sow, but it is God who waters and brings forth the fruit. In all that we do, God is at work. We may never see the fruit of our labours, but all God requires us to do is to work with Him in seeing the Good News of Jesus spread throughout Letchworth and District, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire, across the UK, and to the ends of the earth.

Thank you again for your continued practical and prayerful support.

Christopher Baker

Schools Worker

Christopher's Autumn Assemblies

September

13th - Grange Junior School: 18th - St. Francis College Prep.: 26th - St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold: 27th - Etonbury Academy KS2 and KS3: 28th - Etonbury Academy KS4

October

9th - St. Francis College Prep.: 11th - Grange Junior School: 17th - St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold: 18th - Etonbury Academy KS2 and KS3: 19th - Etonbury Academy KS4

November

13th - St. Francis College Prep.: 14th - St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold: 15th - Grange Junior School: 21st - Etonbury Academy KS2 and KS3: 22nd - Etonbury Academy KS4: 27th - St. Francis College Senior

December

St Paul's Church 4th - 8th "The Christmas Journey"

11th - St. Francis College Prep.: 12th - St. Mary's C of E Academy, Stotfold: 13th - Grange Junior School and Etonbury Academy KS2 and KS3: 14th - Etonbury Academy KS4

CIS Newsletter

(Autumn 2017)



Christian
Initiative to
Schools



Prayer Drill at St. Francis

in partnership with



Scripture Union

Registered charity no 1104698.

Message from Kevin How, Secretary of the Trustees

I have been reflecting on the inception of Scripture Union and was intrigued by the following:

In June 1867 Josiah Spiers spoke to 15 children in a drawing room in Islington, London, pioneering a new approach to sharing Jesus with children. These meetings grew rapidly and soon the Children's Special Service Mission was formed, later becoming Scripture Union. Through games and stories (especially through meeting on the beach during holidays) Josiah Spiers empowered his young audience to engage with Jesus.

Much has changed since then, but the big idea is still the same - as it is with CIS.

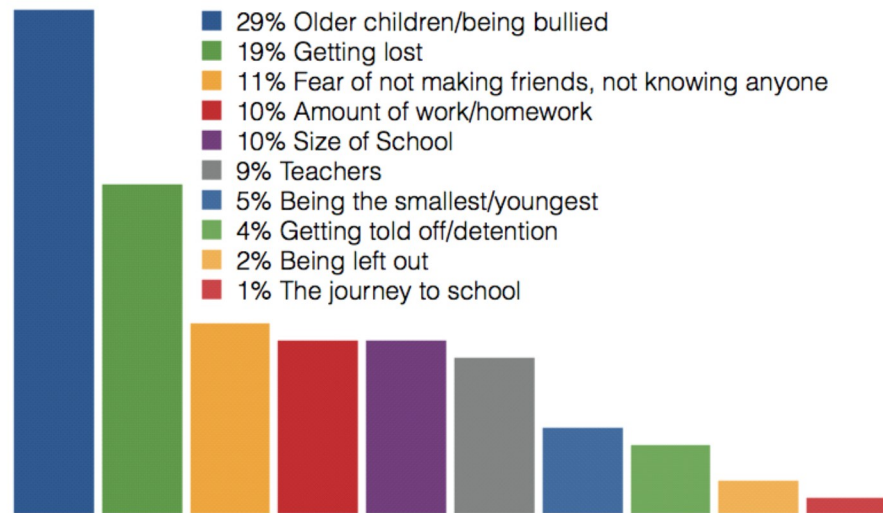
We, as Trustees, are really encouraged by both the scope and breadth of the new & continuing elements of the work, developed by our Schools Worker, Christopher. However, for some time now we have been aware that there have been possibilities for expansion of the work in the Herts/Beds locality, if we had additional resources (as Christopher cannot be in two places at once!)

Please pledge to join with us as we pray this through over this new academic year - and bless you for your interest in this vital work.

Christopher Baker's Report

As I write, children and young people are preparing for the new academic year ahead. A term that for all of them will bring change. New schools, new teachers, new lessons, the start of GCSE or A level courses and also those moving on to University, gap year or work. For some change brings excitement, a new challenge, a new start. However, for others it brings apprehension, anxiety, fear.

One of the great things about meeting with the Year 6's in the Junior Schools during the Summer Term is being able to talk through some of the issues that they will face as they move to Secondary Schools, and that includes some of the fears they have. When Scripture Union first published the 'It's Your Move' book in the year 2000, they carried out a survey of 781 Year 6 pupils, investigating the biggest concerns they had about moving to secondary schools. The results are below:



Although the survey is now quite dated, the results remain true. These are still the biggest concerns year 6 pupils have about moving up, and for me it is a privilege to meet with them during the Summer term and discuss the coming challenges.

Whatever the anxiety or fears they may have as an individual, they are not alone in their fears, because others in the class have them too. Therefore, as they move up to Secondary School, they do not face them on their own. And in all the change there is One who goes before them who will never let them down or fail them, who loves them with an everlasting love and is there in every situation.

Being able to have the opportunity to share these truths with pupils of all ages, whether in an It's Your Move session, assemblies, lessons or lunchtime Hubs/CU's, is a tremendous privilege. The relationships built with schools and staff over many years has enabled the doors to remain open with further opportunities for involvement. Opportunities like "Walk Through Easter" at Etonbury Academy during the Spring Term, where, alongside King's Baptist in Stotfold, the story of that first Easter, from the Last Supper to the Empty Tomb, was communicated to all the Year 6 and 7 pupils in the school over a 2 day period. The response from pupils and staff was very positive. The Head and Chief Executive of the Trust were amazed at what had been created in the hall, and how the pupils responded.

Events and activities like these are real answers to prayer. Over those two days 360 children and young people went back in time to the places in Jerusalem where Jesus spent His last days. They were able to ask questions, enact out various scenes and hear the Good News of Jesus through the words and lives of followers of Jesus today. Going into schools to take assemblies, lessons, Hubs/CU's and other activities is a wonderful opportunity to share Jesus with pupils, and staff as well. I may never know how many of the pupils I've spoken to eventually come to faith in Jesus. My role is to sow seeds and to fulfill faithfully what God called me to do over 30 years ago.

In conclusion I want to mention a young man I met last November at a conference. He approached me and asked if I was Christopher Baker. I said yes, and then he told me that he had been a pupil at a local school where I had regularly taken lessons, at least 10 years ago. He remembered them and me, and then told me that he had become a Christian last Summer. He is now working for a church in that locality.