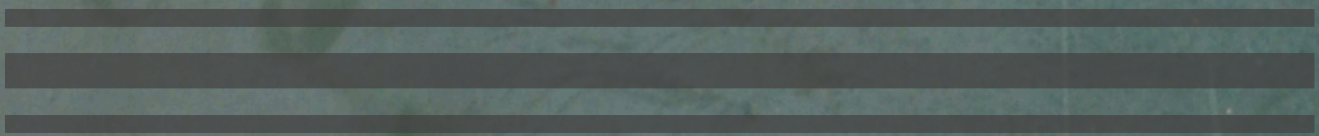
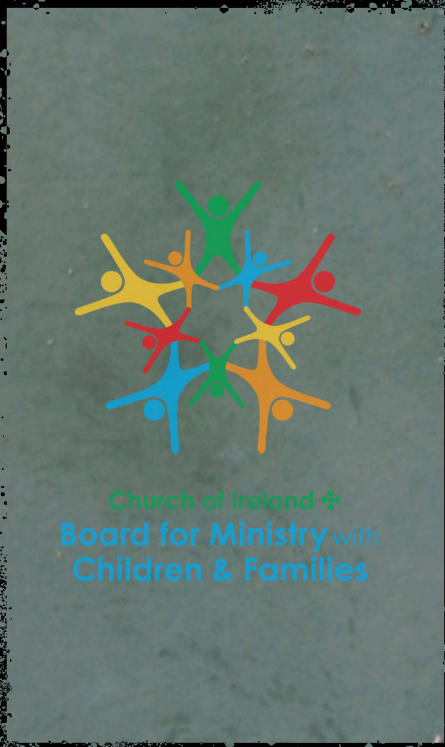


FAMILY FAITH

LOCKER





How to use this pack

Did you have a locker when you were at school? Was it neat and tidy or was it like mine in the 80's covered in stickers and pictures of your favourite bands?!

School lockers can give us a chance to time travel. At the end of the school year, when we emptied them we would realise how much we'd changed. We'd look at the copybooks and remember how nervous we were when we first started, how worried we were that we'd never work out which classroom we had to be in and when, or if we would make new friends. But at the end of the year that all felt like a lifetime ago.

We want this Family Faith Locker to help you time travel too, but this time to see how your faith as a family has grown and changed during the year. To see what God has done in your lives and all that you have experienced together. The times when you have struggled and the times you have questioned, as well as the times when you have seen God answer prayers in amazing and unexpected ways.

You will see that the first few pages relate to your children. Print a page for each child to complete with information about their class, the things they are good at and the things they want to get better at etc. There is also a page where they can draw a picture of those in your family. The other pages at the start of the pack are for you to talk about and complete as a family. You might print a few copies of the prayer request and answers to prayer page, then every term - or more often if you wish - fill them in together once again. Keep each one safe in your locker, don't throw them out. At the end of the year you can empty your locker together and read through all that you have written and drawn and chat about how things have changed, the challenges you've been through, the way God answered prayers and the opportunities you each had to share God's love with others.

Finally you will see that the start of each term has a Family Devotion to read together and chat about, as well as a simple activity you can do together. Again keep any of these you want to in your locker as a reminder of the year that has passed.

We pray that as your school year goes by you will be able to fill your locker with precious memories and faith filled exploration as you journey together as a family. Allow yourselves to listen and learn from your Children's faith as much as they listen and learn from you.

My name is.....



My school is called:

I will be in this class:

My main teacher will be:

Three things I love about school are:

These are the things I am good at:

These are the things I want to get better at:

Things I hope will happen at school this year:

These are some ways I can show God's love in my school:

Things I will pray about for my time in school:

Ways I can use my skills to help others in my school:



Family Prayer Requests

Date:

Friendships

School / Jobs /
College etc

Home /
Finances

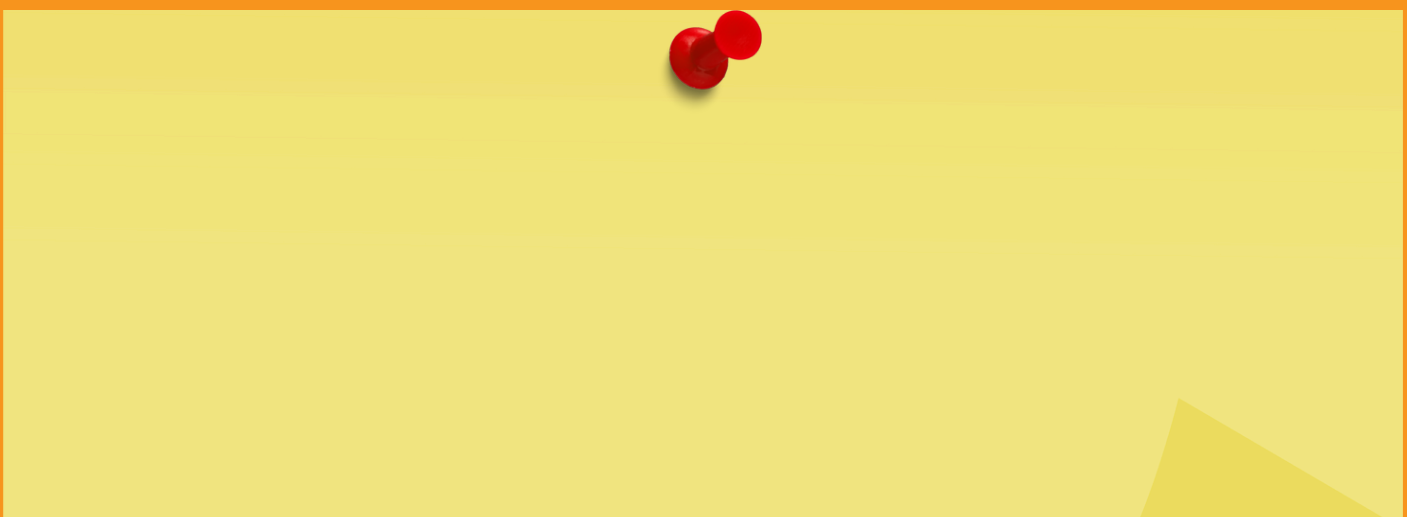
Church



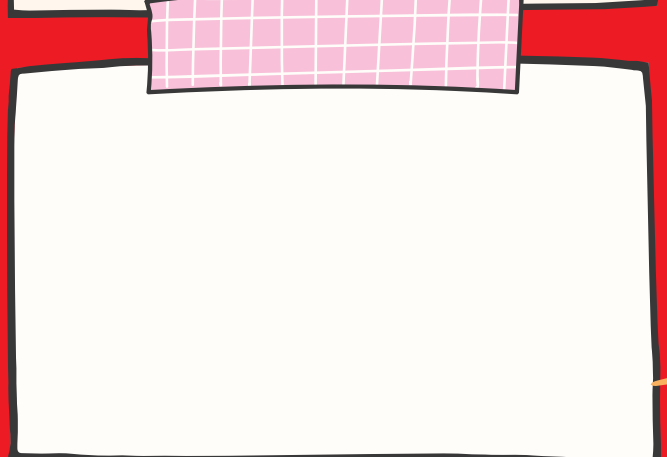
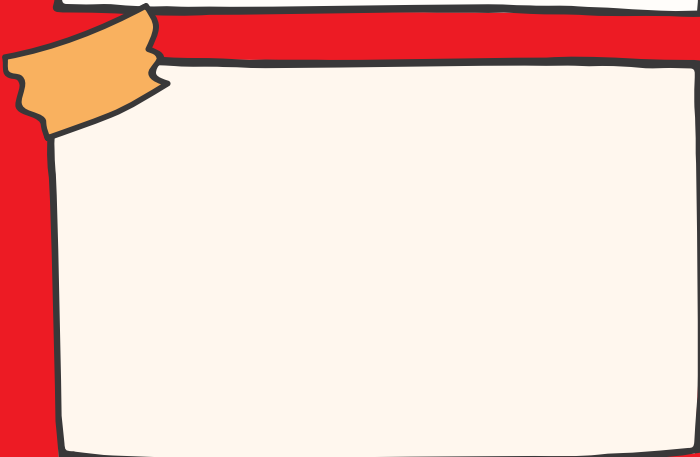
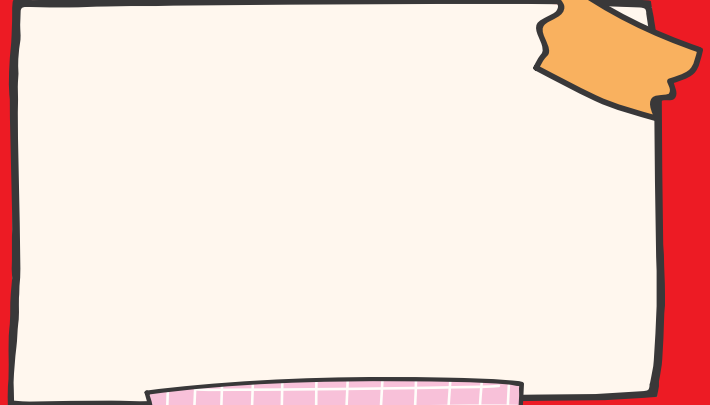
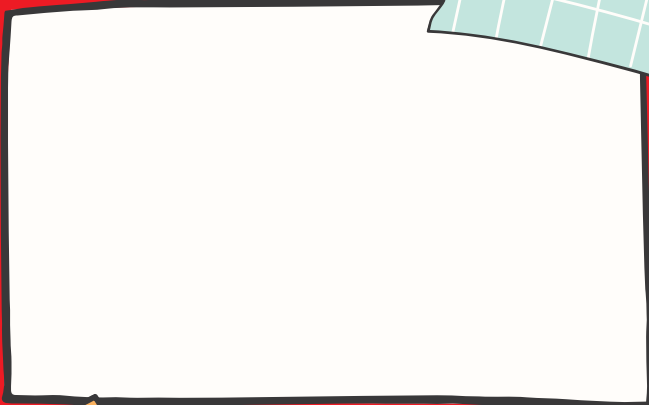
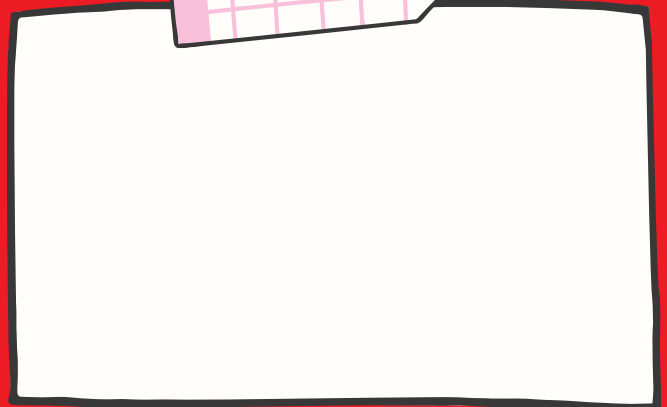
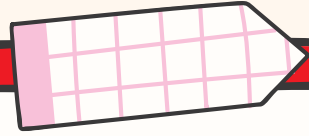
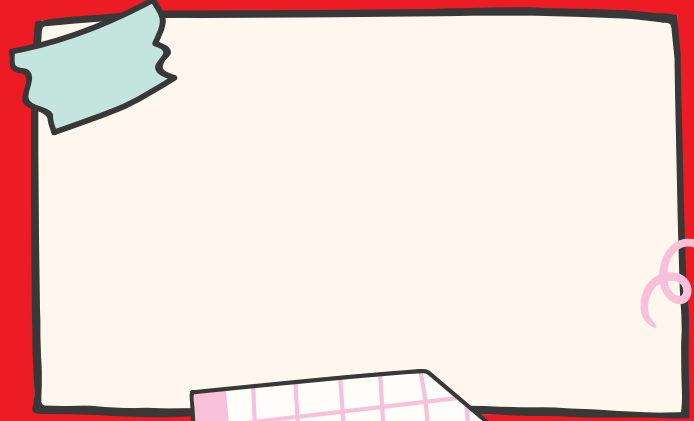
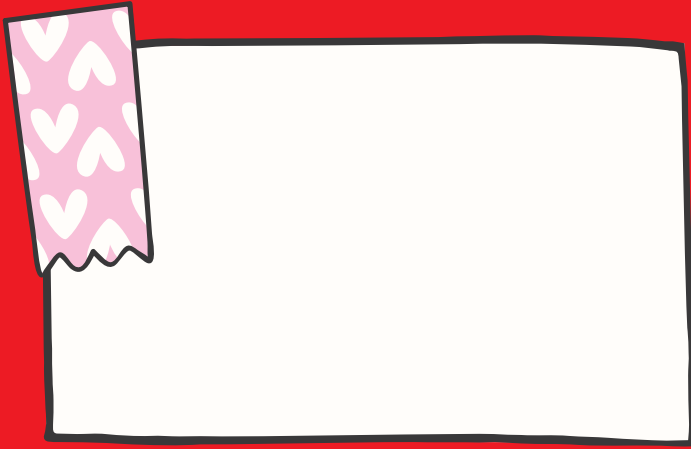
OUR FAMILY



Hopes & Dreams



Answers to prayer: ✨





Autumn Family devotion



Church of Ireland
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families

Read:

James 5 v 7-8

"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near."

Hebrews 10 v 23

"Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful"

Chat & think about:

Being patient can be really tough can't it?!

When do you find it difficult to be patient?

Maybe it's waiting for your dinner, or waiting for the weekend to come or maybe it's waiting for your turn in a game? I find it hard to be patient when there's chocolate cake in the house and I have to wait for my family before I can eat it!!

Autumn is a time of change, a time of patience, where we appreciate and give thanks for all we have been blessed with, and anticipate all that is to come. The fun and energy of the summer has passed, and the excitement of winter, Christmas and snow has not yet arrived.

Many animals use the Autumn to prepare themselves for the winter's rest, the long sleep - to hibernate. **What animals can you name that hibernate?**

At times hibernation seems to me like a really good way to cope with the challenge of being patient, just sleep through the waiting! When I was excited about Christmas or my birthday, my parents used to say that if I went to bed early the day would come even faster! Maybe that's what the hedgehogs think too?!

In the Bible passage, we read about the farmer who has to be patient waiting for his crops to grow. He waits and waits through the autumn and the long winter, where it seems nothing is happening in the fields until eventually change begins to show in the spring soil and the shoots of the crops breakthrough. These verses were written to remind us that even when we can't see any changes happening we should not lose hope.

Sometimes we can pray and pray for things to change but it feels as though God isn't listening to us. When this happens, just like the farmer, we need to remember all that we have seen in the past - the crops have grown, things do change, God answers prayers. We know that sometimes God might not answer our prayers exactly as we ask, but He always hears us and as we just read "He who has promised is faithful."

If you are waiting and praying for change, remind yourself of all the blessings you have received in the past, all the ways God has answered your prayers, and give Him thanks and praise as you wait patiently this time.

Romans 8 v 25 "But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently."



Autumn Activity



Take a walk as a family and gather some leaves. Bring them home and stick googly eyes or paint eyes and mouths and see what leaf creatures you can make :)



Winter family devotion



Church of Ireland
Room for Ministry in
Children & Families

Read:

Isaiah 55 v 9-11

"Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways. And my thoughts are higher than your thoughts.

Rain and snow fall from the sky. They don't return without watering the ground. They cause the plants to sprout and grow. And the plants make seeds for the farmer. And from these seeds people have bread to eat.

The words I say do the same thing. They will not return to me empty. They make the things happen that I want to happen. They succeed in doing what I send them to do."

Chat & think about:

It's been a while since we had a "big snow" here in Ireland. You or your parents may remember other years when you were snowed in at home or when school was cancelled because it was too dangerous to drive. Maybe this will be one of those years!

When you think about snow, how does it make you feel?

When I think about snow I think about snowmen, snowball fights & sledging and I love all of those things so I feel excited. I also think about how amazing and beautiful each snowflake is - when you get a chance google images of snowflakes under the microscope, they are AMAZING!

If you look at our logo you might see how it looks a little like a snowflake and this is something we wanted to use, to show how every boy and girl, every family and every church is different, beautiful and unique, just like a snowflake :)

We also wanted to show how amazing it is when snowflakes connect. When it snows and those individual flakes join together, what we get to see is a blanket of pure white, whole fields and gardens are covered. We can no longer see the details of the grass or trees, it's like the whole world has changed!

What does snow do?

Apart from giving us loads of fun and a day off school! The snow is watering the earth and even more than that it is protecting it. Snow provides insulation and stops the soil from becoming frozen solid. Without snow the soil freezes which traps gasses like carbon and methane, its surface is sealed over and so it also absorbs less new liquid water. So the snow does an amazing job.

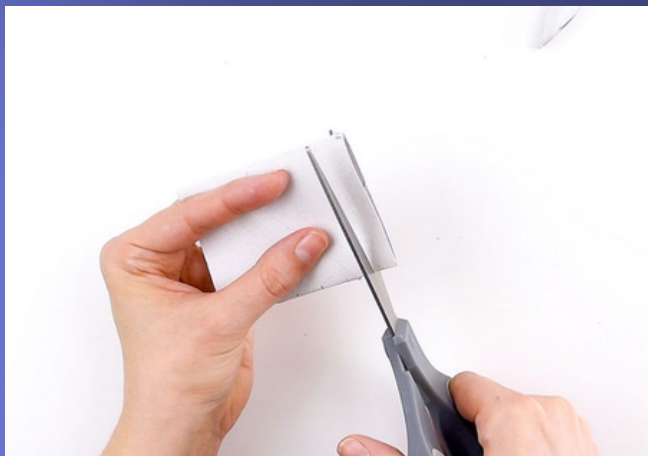
In the Bible verses above snow and rain are used as examples of God's word and the impact it has in our world and in our lives. We see that the snow and rain help the ground to produce crops, flowers, grass and all that we need in the world to live and grow. In the same way God's word - the Bible - has an amazing impact on our lives. When we read the Bible it helps us to grow just like the rain helps the crops, and like the snow it stops our hearts from becoming frozen solid and unable to hear what God is saying to us. When we read the Bible and chat with God, asking Him to speak to us and taking time to listen - we grow, we hear, we learn and we can then be the unique and purposeful people He created us to be. How wonderful is that?!

Matthew 4 v 4 "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

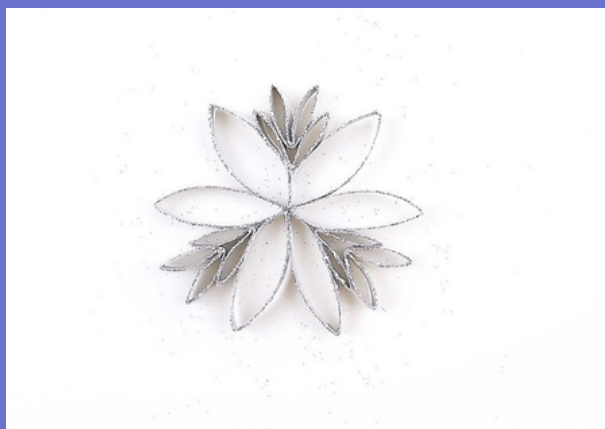
Winter Activity



Ministry of Education
Board for Ministry with
Children & Families



Toilet roll



Snowflakes

<https://onelittleproject.com>

Summer Family Devotion



Read:

Psalm 113 v 1-3

Praise the Lord.

Praise the Lord, you his servants; praise the name of the Lord.

Let the name of the Lord be praised, both now and forevermore.

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets, the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Chat & think about:

What's your most favourite thing about the summer?

Maybe it's the ice creams, the smell of sun cream, the beach or the BBQs? My favourite thing about the summer is that the days last so much longer so I can get out for walks in the evenings and wake up to the birds singing and the sun shining (well some days at least!)

During the spring and into the summer term it can feel like we get to enjoy so much more of life in some ways. We can get out more, do more, stay up longer and somehow life just feels that little bit easier! It's an odd thing when you think about it because life itself hasn't changed, we are all still the same people, we are all living in the same place, and apart from the summer holidays we all still have the same routines. So why does it feel different?

Scientists have discovered these "sunshiny happy" feelings are not just in our head...well they are but...! Many studies have shown that exposure to sunlight increases the brain's release of a hormone called serotonin. Serotonin is associated with boosting mood and helping a person feel calm and focused. So, the sun scientifically brings us joy!

When do you find it easiest to praise God - when life is going well or when things are tough?

For most of us, if we are honest, we find it easier to give God our praise and worship when life is going well for us - during those times when it feels like the sun is shining on us.

What does the Bible verse above say about when we should praise and worship God?

The writer of this Psalm - or song to God - tells us we should praise God 'from the moment the sun rises to the moment it sets.' But the thing is the sun doesn't only rise and set in the summer, it rises and sets even on the darkest, coldest, rainiest days of winter.

So when should we give God our praise and worship? Every single day, from the moment we wake to when we go to bed, even on days when life is awful, even when we feel sad, and even when it feels as though God is far from us. Why should we praise God every day? Because when we worship we invite God's presence into our lives and into our world. Worship has a way of changing our lives and giving us different perspectives on how we see our circumstances. It is an incredible blessing to see life from God's point of view instead of our own. No matter how young or old you are - there is power in your praise.

Psalm 8 v 2 "Nursing infants gurgle choruses about you; toddlers shout the songs that drown out enemy talk."

Summer Activity



Summer Sun Catcher

Even on days when the sun can't be seen these sun catchers will bring warmth and smiles into your home. All you need is some card, orange and red tissue paper & contact paper / sticky back plastic

Read the full instructions on how to make them here:

<https://lessons4littleones.com/2019/06/05/sun-suncatcher-craft-free-patterns/>