

Dear Messy Church Families

Welcome to Januarys Messy Church, our first one for 2021. Who would have thought we would still be in lockdown at this point As Brierley Hill is now being used as a vaccination centre it will be a while before we can meet again so we continue to bring Messy Church via email.

This month we are focussing on Gods wonderful creations. The start of the year always has us reflecting on what has gone before and what we can look forward to. Have you ever read the creation story? There is a version of it attached with this email and if you would like to hear more you can always join us for our Messy Church online Video from Sunday 31st January, in the Vale of Stour Circuit YouTube channel which has a link through the website www.valeofstour.org.uk

There is also a really good video you can watch about the current situation across our world. It tells the story of the natural world through the Pandemic and the lockdowns – see what you think.....

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppv2f1yfwMM&t=94s> – there is also a book version of this available too if you want to read it yourself.

I hope you enjoy our Crafts, as usual we have linked in some ideas of things you could make to create discussions about God creating our world and some fun things to do that may give you a break from schoolwork. You may want to show your teachers if you are meeting online as this will help towards your understanding of some of the Religious Studies curriculum, or just do it for fun as a family – It's up to you.

We miss you all so much and hope you are keeping safe. We do look forward to able to meet again in the future and really can't wait to share in messy church in person. You could maybe send some photos of your creations to us or upload them to our Facebook page if you wish

Lots of Love

Rev. Helen Croft, Jayne Corns, Claire Biggs and all your friends at Messy Church Brierley Hill

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Find us at Facebook, Vale of Stour Methodist Church

CRAFT 1 - BUNTING

To make the bunting you will need:

- The template below printed on some card or paper
- Scissors
- Coloured pens or crayons
- String or ribbon
- An atlas or Access to Google

Print the template 5 or 6 times (it depends how long you want your bunting to be

Choose a country for each of the bunting flags and draw/colour their flag onto the bunting shape.

Fold the top piece of the bunting over and glue or tape making sure you leave space to thread the string or ribbon – it easier to do this first – you can always add to your bunting later on or find out some fun facts about the countries you have chosen and write them on the back.



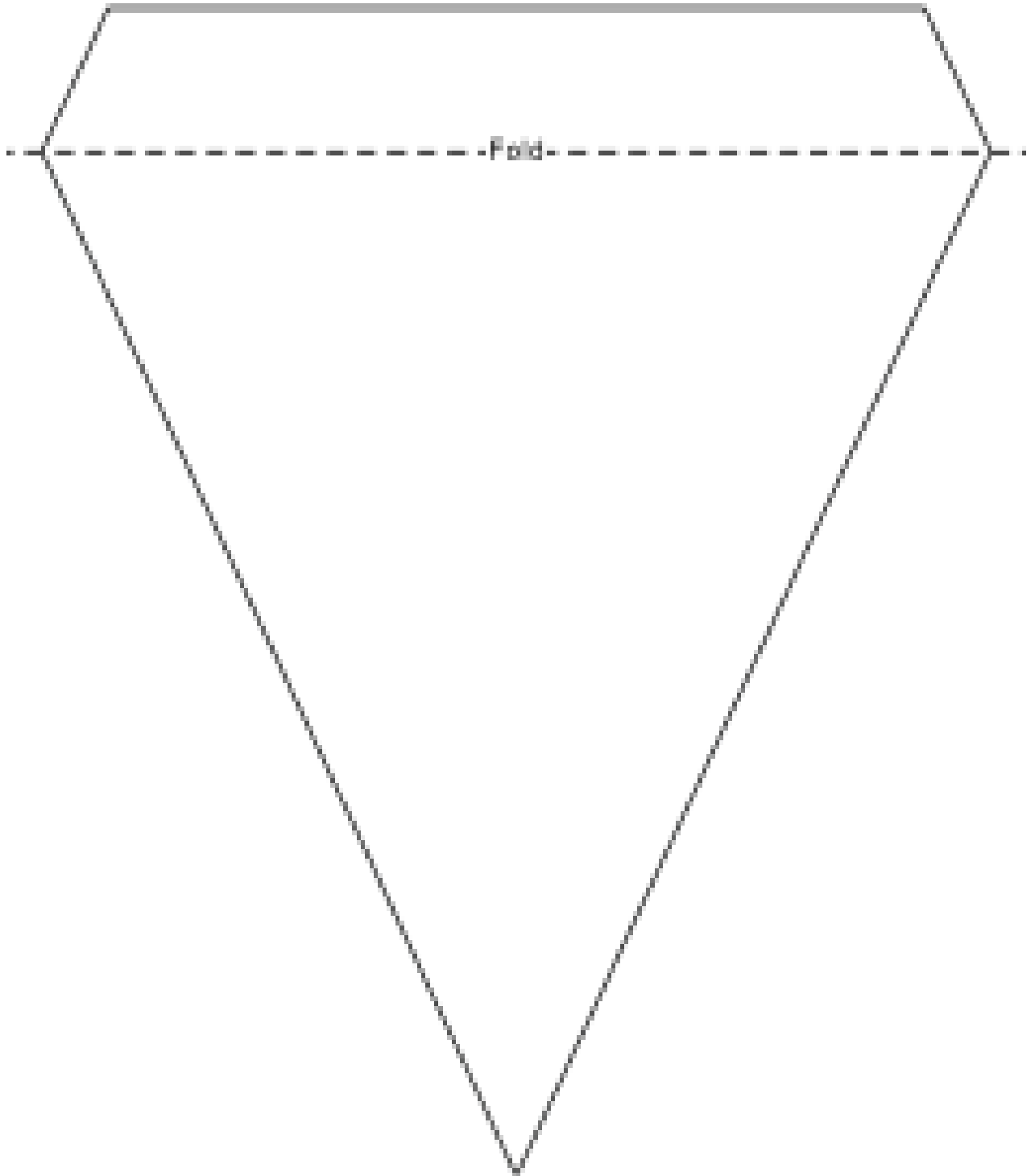
The bunting reminds us of all the wonderful countries and cultures that are part of our world.

Have you been lucky enough to visit another country? What did you think of it?

If not – Where would you like to visit? Could you find some pictures of life in that country?

Why do you think God created a world with so many different people and cultures?

Template for Bunting – Print and colour with the flags of your choice



CRAFT 2 - CREATION WHEEL

To make the creation wheel you will need:

- Some card with two circles cut out the same size or paper plates work well for this.
- Scissors
- Butterfly clip
- Coloured pens/crayons

Firstly, divide one circle into 7 sections like you would cut up a pizza, then cut a triangle in the second circle to cover the portions and leave one exposed.

Colour or write in each section the creations that God made on each day of the week – not forgetting to rest on the 7th day. (You could use the poem attached

Secure the cut section circle on top of the complete circle with a butterfly pin so you can move the top one round and look at each day separately.



The wheel shows us that God made the World a bit at a time and it became something beautiful. Sometimes we may get frustrated when trying to complete a piece of work or a puzzle but if we do a little at a time we will create something wonderful in the end.

What do you like doing when you are not at school?

Have you created something in lockdown that you did bit by bit?

What do you think of thought when he had created the world? And what do you think he thinks of it today?

CRAFT 3

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CALENDAR PHOTO

To make the Calendar photo you will need:

- 2 pieces of strong card the same size
- A calendar – you can print the small ones from the Internet or order from Amazon for a few pounds
- A photo of yourself or someone you love
- Some coloured pens/crayons
- Cellotape or Glue
- Some stickers if you have them
- Some ribbon or string

Cut the 2 pieces of card into the same shape – you could be really creative here.

On one piece – cut a similar shape out of the middle so you have a frame.

Place one on top of the other making sure the photo fits inside the middle.

Write on the top of the frame 'Gods Best Creation'.

Decorate the side of the frames and finally stick the calendar at the bottom.

Attach the string or ribbon to the back so you can hang your frame.



The frame reminds us that we are all God's creation and unique and individual, loved and protected by God.

What are the important things/people in your life – what makes them so special?

What are your hopes for 2021?

What do you think are God's hopes for 2021?