

What is sanctuary?

Sanctuary is defined as: seeking refuge or safety from pursuit, persecution, or other danger. (Oxford Dictionary)

City of Sanctuary

Newcastle is a City of Sanctuary. City of Sanctuary is dedicated to build a more welcoming UK for people forced to flee their homes.

As a school in Newcastle, we are committed to earn recognition for the daily work taking place to welcome all children. This recognition will give us the title of a School of Sanctuary.



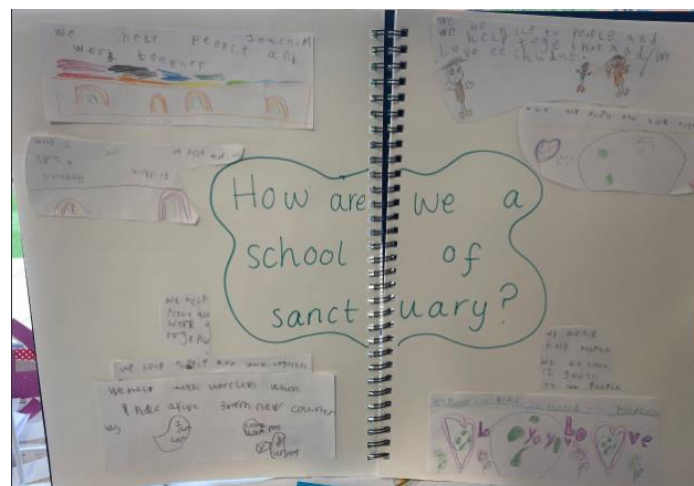
School of Sanctuary

As a School of Sanctuary, we would be recognised in our belief that, 'We all have a part to play in building a welcoming and inclusive society.'

School of Sanctuary are a national network of over 300 primary and secondary schools all committed to creating a culture of welcome and inclusion for refugees and people seeking asylum.

Driven by teachers, school staff, parents, governors and community groups, this network supports the thousands of young people seeking sanctuary in the UK, raises awareness of the issues facing people in the asylum system, challenges misconceptions and builds social cohesion.

Our mission statement (below) highlights how we at Christ Church CE Primary are committed to create a culture of welcome. This stems from our Christian values of love, respect, friendship and trust.



Vision

Reach for the Stars – Living Life in all its fullness

Thriving on diversity and underpinned by Christian values, Christ Church is an inclusive school where everyone is welcome and valued. Our vision is to shepherd each other in a safe, loving environment, whilst building a solid foundation to encourage and inspire us to reach for our own star.

Values

As a church school our foundations for living and learning are the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. The message of God's love for all and the Christian values of respect, friendship, love, forgiveness, trust, and perseverance are at the heart of all school life.

Mission

*Our mission is to develop independent learners with active and creative minds whilst providing opportunities to reflect and ask some of the "*big questions*" of life.

* We put the wellbeing and spiritual development of our children first, enabling them all to flourish and be the best they can be.

* We help children to become confident and successful learners by discovering their gifts and talents. We appreciate hard work, encourage perseverance and resilience and celebrate achievement.

* We seek to engender the joy and wonder of learning by providing a creative and challenging curriculum using the local community and beyond which makes learning vivid, real, enjoyable and fun.

* We promote moral development, aspiration and hope. We provide opportunities for our children to engage in social action and be courageous advocates for change in our local, national and global communities.

* We develop social growth and an understanding and compassion for others. Through the practice of forgiveness and reconciliation we encourage good mental health to enable all to live well together.

* We create a school environment that embraces difference where all children are equal. We cherish ourselves and each other and form healthy relationships offering respect, kindness and dignity.

* We work as a team, listening to children, considering their views and their parents and involving them in decisions that affect them. We encourage partnerships with governors, parents, our local parish community and the diocese. We promote partnerships locally, nationally and globally in order to become active citizens, global champions and responsible stewards of our world.

Our school parable, The Lost Sheep, further supports our belief system that every child is a valued member of our community.

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

Luke 15 New International Version (NIV)

Christ Church has chosen the story of the Good Shepherd to represent our school. This story has been chosen because we are all shepherds caring for each individual child; every last one is important. But the role of sheep and shepherd is interchangeable. Sometimes even staff can be sheep and governors have been the shepherds. Children too can be shepherds as they show kindness and thoughtfulness towards each other and adults in school. The whole school family supports and cares for each other and staff, children and parents change roles.

The Lost Sheep

15 Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. 2 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

3 Then Jesus told them this parable: 4 "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn't he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? 5 And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders 6 and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbours together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' 7 I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

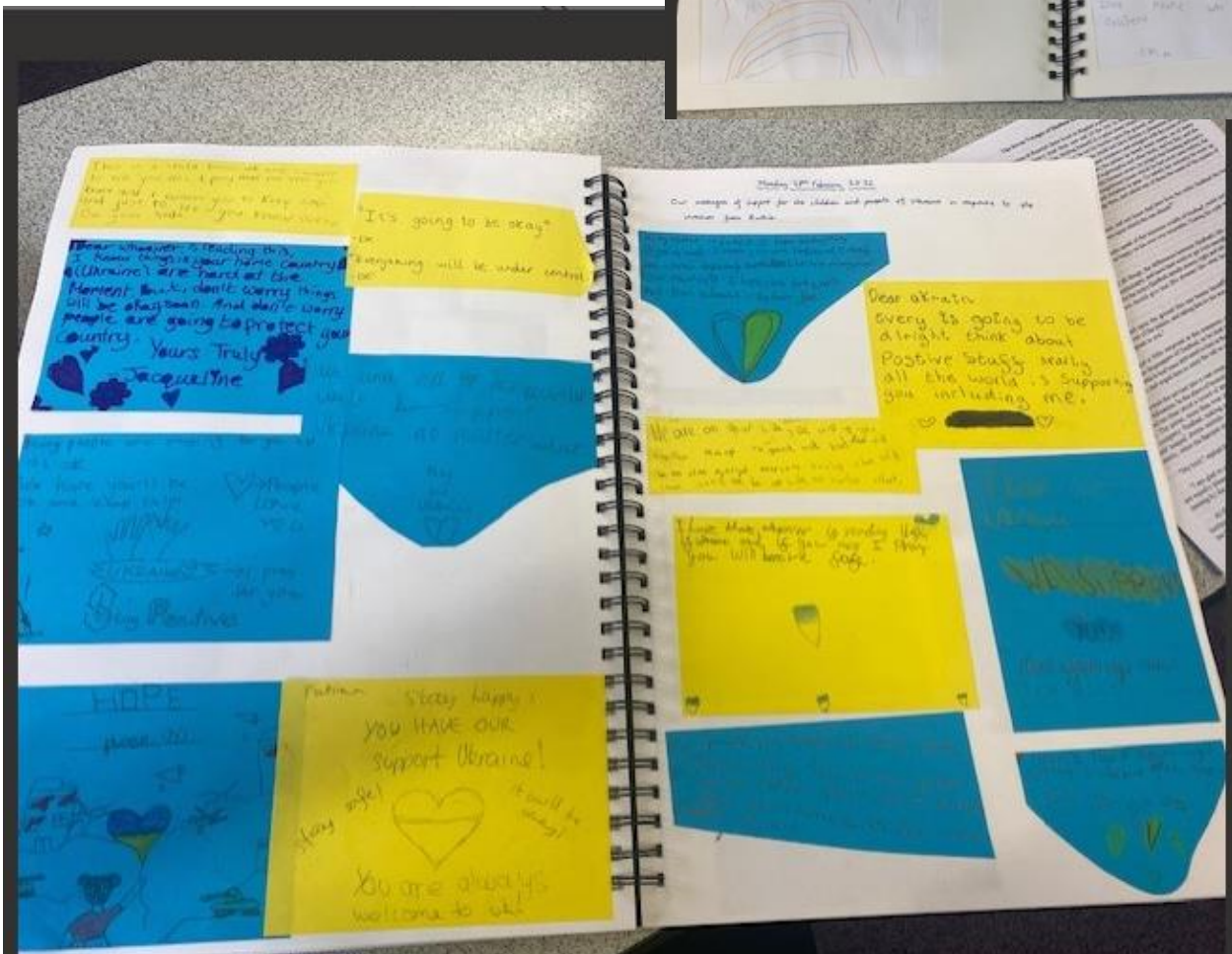
Please see below some of our children's fantastic work developing their understanding, awareness and empathy towards those who have sought sanctuary, both past and present.



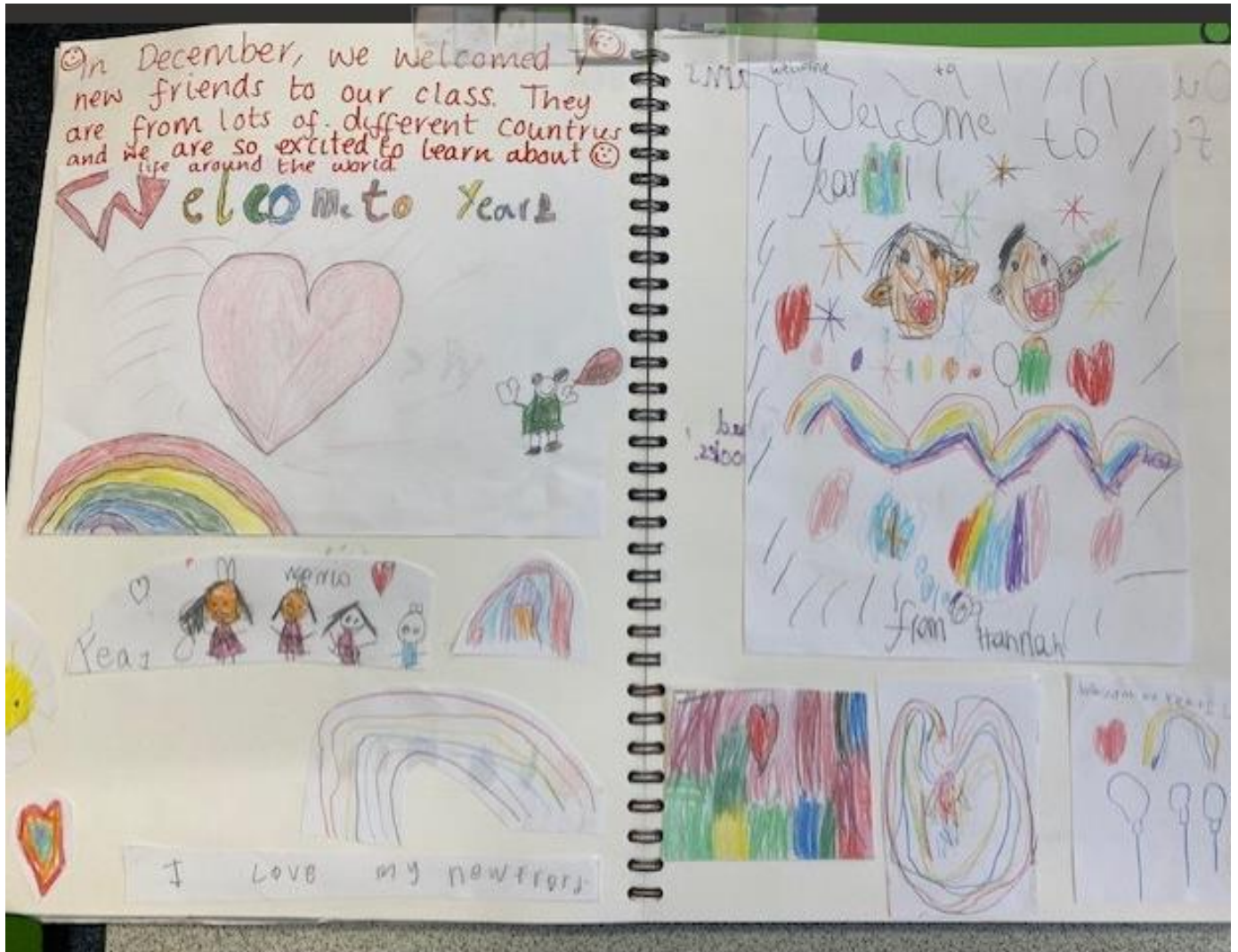
We include prayers for Ukraine in our weekly collective worship.

Our Ukraine focussed table keeps them forever in our thoughts.

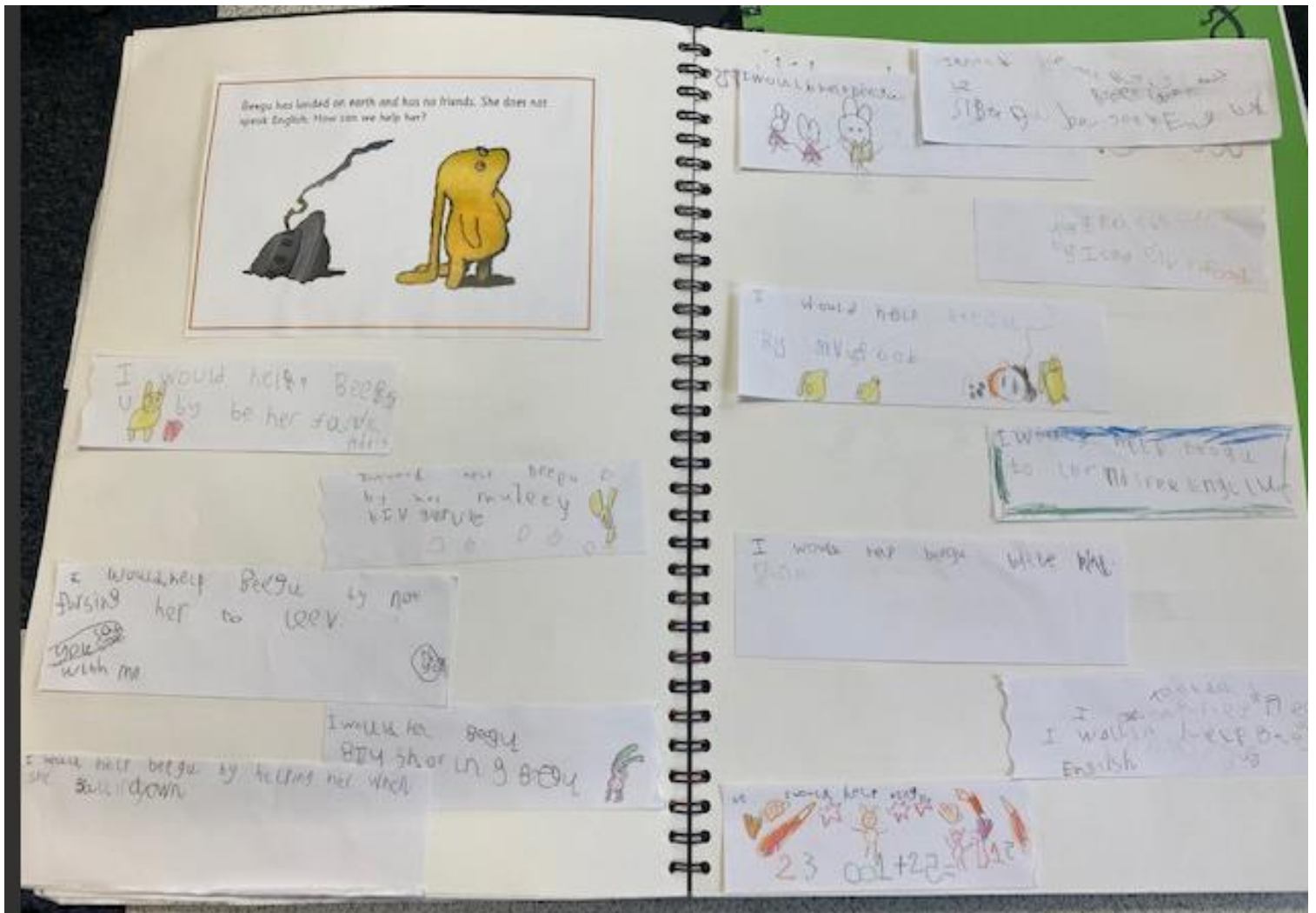
Children have reflected on events in the Ukraine and recorded their thoughts.



In Year 2, we enjoy welcoming new friends into our school and learning about where they are from.



We have used the story *Beegu* to think about friendship and how we can help and welcome children into our school who do not speak English.



We have considered how unique we all are.

