

School sheet

Assembly outline

Explain to the children that the school is part of a fundraising appeal with the Diocese that is giving money to two projects in Africa. The projects are in Egypt and Uganda, where many people rely on what they can grow themselves for food for their families – either they grow things to eat or they grow things to sell in order to buy food, or a mixture of these two things. Both are teaching farmers new ways of farming to help them grow more food so that they are better able to look after their families.

Explain that people often worry about trying new things, in case they don't like them or in case they go wrong. You could ask them to offer examples of things from their own experience that they were worried about that turned out well in the end. These might include trying a new sort of food or trying a sport or activity (particularly something that seemed frightening, such as abseiling on a school trip).

You could also give an illustration from the curriculum, such as the way that they are taught a range of different strategies in maths for dealing with multiplication and division. Sometimes these seem strange or complicated when we first encounter them, but then we discover how useful they are. You could go on to explain that when their parents were at school, children were not taught some of these methods – their parents probably never heard of the 'grid method' or 'chunking' until their children told them about it!

(In a longer assembly, you could also consider using the memory technique used for the children's address on the Appeal Church Sheet, available on the diocesan website carlisle-diocese.org.uk)



Joseph Tawfeeq is one of the farmers who has been helped by the project in Egypt that our appeal is supporting this year

Christian Aid/Tabitha Ross

School fundraising ideas

- The school could invite someone in to teach the children a new physical skill, such as skipping or football skills. (The school may have existing links to external providers who could lead this teaching, which might also fulfil other curriculum requirements.) The children could then be given a challenge to complete based on their new skill, and ask for sponsorship from their family and family friends if they can complete it.
- The children could be invited to give a small amount, perhaps £1, in exchange for seeds, compost and a plant pot (or plastic cup), with a challenge of growing and looking after a plant, either one with attractive flowers or something that can grow impressively tall, such as broad beans. There could be a prize for the best specimen or tallest plant at the end of term.

Ideas for classroom activities

The theme of learning new things and new ways of doing things could be incorporated into many existing lesson plans. For a stand-alone activity, the children could share ideas of how they have learned new things as they have progressed through the school, particularly where they can see a progression in a particular skill. This might be the way they have progressed from learning to form letters to being able to write whole words and learning spellings, to learning cursive (joined-up) writing; or the techniques they have used in maths as they have progressed from simple counting through using number lines, number squares and other aids to being able to do mental maths and more complex techniques.

They could also talk about other skills they have learned and developed, such as swimming, dance lessons or learning to play a musical instrument.

The children could design a poster to celebrate their learning, either showing the variety of things they have learned, or the way that they have progressed in one particular area. This artwork could then be made into a display for parents to see at your next school event, for use in a subsequent school assembly.



Tim Raby/Tearfund

Anna Nacur is one of the farmers being helped by the project in Uganda that our appeal is supporting this year

Prayer

Dear God,

Please help the farmers in Egypt and Uganda whose families don't have enough to eat. Please may they trust the people who are teaching them new ideas.

Please help us as well; help us as we learn new things at school help us to learn more about you and help us as we discover new things about your world.

Thank you for everyone who is part of the Bishop's Harvest Appeal. May they use the money we give to help many more people have a better life.

Amen



Courtesy of en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:A_green_bean.jpg

The project in Egypt has taught Joseph Tawfeeq to grow green beans like these, that no-one in his community used to grow