Year 4/5 RE: Could the Buddha's teachings make the world a better place?





Kisa and the Mustard seed

Buddha and the angry elephant

Why are we learning about Buddha's teachings?

We are building on all our previous learning about other world religions to help us with our understanding of Buddhism. We are also building on our learning about the Life of Buddha during term 1.

This new learning is important because it offers us the opportunity to consider a widely followed faith that is not based upon the relationship between humanity and God but is rather focused on an understanding of human suffering and how to prevent it. It is also important for us to explore what Buddha taught about change and consider whether his teachings can make the world a better place.

This will help us get ready for future learning about the best way for Buddhist to lead a good life (term 5). Our learning will also help prepare us for learning about other world religions in future years.

Important questions to answer:

- Why might some people not experience a 'wonderful world'? •
- What did Kisa learn in the story of the mustard seed and how did • this help her?
- What could Buddhists learn from the story of 'Buddha and the • angry elephant' and how could they put this into practice?
- Would following the Buddha's teachings from the 8-fold path • make the world a better place?
- What actions could I take to help make the world a better place?

Experiences we will have:

- Role play to help empathise with experiences depicted in Buddha's teachings
- Visual displays to show our ideas for making the world a better place.

Things we need to know:

- To know that everyone's experience of the world will be different, and that negative experiences can lead to unhappiness and suffering.
- To know that change is inevitable, and that loss is not personal.
- To know that living a good life without being selfish or greedy would make the world a better place.
- To know that Buddha's eight-fold path demonstrates ways in which Buddhists can live a good life and make the world a better place.
- To know that living a life free from selfish actions and by taking responsibility, we can make the world a better place.

Skills we need to learn:

- I can **compare** different people's perspectives and experiences of the world.
- I can summarise the teachings of Buddha as shown in the story of Kisa and the mustard seed.
- I can **explain** how the story of Buddha and the angry elephant could inform the choices Buddhists make.
- I can **apply** my understanding of the eightfold paths to **suggest** actions which would make the world a better place.
- I can illustrate ways in which the world could be made a better place.

Subject Specific Vocabulary:		
change	experiences	right speech
compassion	Kisa	selfishness
Devadatta	perspective	teachings
eightfold path	responsibility	wonderful