



*Serving Schools and Churches throughout Wales*

Newsletter August 2020

The academic year 2019/20 started just like any other. The work of Ice Wales was well under way by the end of September with the usual activities starting in approx 45 schools. On top of our regular programme of assemblies, Bible Explorer lessons and extracurricular clubs, the "Y Christmas" programme saw over 600 children welcomed into local churches to explore the true meaning of the season. 'Easter Eggsplained' was scheduled for a similar number of pupils to be held in March. Plans were in position to host the Counties Life Exhibition in June 2020 at Bethesda, Rogerstone.

All this came to an abrupt halt with the introduction of lockdown on March 23rd. There were no longer any schools for us to visit. Laura Toomer, our Village Schools Worker, was put on furlough. Was this the end of Ice Wales?

After much prayer it seemed that God was saying "not yet". We approached various heads and class teachers and enquired whether they would be interested in online material to use whenever the schools opened again. This was greeted with great enthusiasm and July saw Laura returned from furlough and the project started. 44 schools have been involved. When schools opened in Wales they received two Bible Storytime sessions, and a lesson for year 6 on the subject of 'Moving On' to the senior school. Feedback has been encouraging and we are now working on assemblies for the autumn term, until we are allowed back into the schools for face to face contact with children and staff. This project has also given us entry into one senior school which we hope to build on in the future. These initial resources can be viewed by opening the link below, and we will be in touch again in September regarding circulation.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrDvS0YZ6j70xmVSbYSDrHw/videos>

Thus Ice Wales is still up and running. We are currently waiting on the Lord for support for Laura's work for another two years. If you would like to support her work, or the work in general, please get in touch. Both one-off gifts or regular monthly support are welcome. Prayer support is, of course, vital: please remember us as we approach September 2020 and negotiate the "new normal" as it affects our contact with schools.

Best wishes

Chris Thomas

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