

RE and the Royal Wedding!!



1. Christian symbolism in weddings.

Explore the symbolism in Christian marriage e.g. the ring, joining hands, white dress. Explore biblical passages about marriage and love which may have influenced these traditions and symbols. Ask children to design their own symbols for love (no hearts please!!), commitment, loyalty and so on. Use the popular wedding passage from 1 Corinthians 13. Express symbols through colour, shape, texture and/or music and movement. Children could design invitations that reflect the Christian symbolism of marriage.

2. Designing memorabilia.

Look at why memories are special to us. With young children invite them to bring in pictures of weddings they have been to, as well as other special events in their lives. How do we

remember special events? Talk about mementos from holidays, souvenir programmes, postcards, badges and so on. Ask the children what kind of object would be good to commemorate the royal wedding. Create their objects and have a display for parents and others to view! Maybe even hold a competition.

3. Westminster Abbey.

Explore the place where the couple will get married using their website. <http://www.westminster-abbey.org/>.

Tell children that this is the same venue for a big service later in the year to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the National Society and the beginning of church schools. There is a whole section about famous weddings that have taken place in the Abbey as well as current news! This would be useful for Key Stage 2 pupils to undertake an investigation or research, and perhaps produce a presentation.



4. Weddings over time.

Which parts of a wedding are the same? Which parts are different? Older children may compare costs of weddings, and the ethical implications of this! Look at the costs of the royal wedding compared to the average wedding in the UK. Children could predict what weddings might be like in the future- which bits would they keep and why? The number of weddings is decreasing...will weddings ever become out of date? This might be a useful stimulus for a community of enquiry.

5. Promises.

What is a promise? Look at the promises William and Kate will make. What do they mean? What would you expect them to do/not do? Children might create their own wedding promises and/or promises for each other or their class/family/school. With older children, consider the relevance of the promises- do they matter? Aren't they just words? Does it matter if they are broken?

6. Acrostic wedding poems/wordless.

Use the words 'William and Kate' to create acrostic poem about weddings, marriage and love. Or why not create a 'wordle' (see <http://www.wordle.net/>) using a biblical text about love.



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7. Royalty and Kingship

The Royal Wedding takes place soon after Easter, so look at the symbolism of 'kingship' and royalty'. What makes a good King? Create a 'job advert' or 'job description' for a king. What kind of qualities do they need? Explore Jesus as a 'servant king'. You might use the lyrics and music of some songs to explore this with Key Stage 2 pupils, such as 'Come and See' (Graham Kendrick) or 'The Servant King' (also Graham Kendrick). You might explore the use of the colour purple as a symbol of kingship and royalty. Would the servant model of kingship be a good one for William to follow when, or if, he becomes King?



8. Music for a wedding

Choose the music for a wedding, or compose a song for a wedding. Listen to a range of 'wedding' music from the traditional, to typical love songs. Ideally gather music from different cultural traditions if you can. Children could create their own music expressing the themes of love, celebration and possibly royalty or power/authority.

9. Readings at weddings

Choose a suitable reading for a wedding, illustrate it, and explain why they have chosen it. Look at biblical texts used at weddings, plus other readings and poetry that are popular. You may want to invite parents or staff to share passages they had read at weddings if appropriate. Ask the children to choose or write their own passage.

10. Create their own wedding service and/or re-enact one.

Why not have a school or class celebration on 28th April? Could you have a 'William and Kate' for the day?!! You might re-enact the wedding, or perhaps ask children to design their own service. You might even link up with the local church...

Some one line suggestions...

- Explore the concept of community. How might the Royal Wedding bring communities together?
- Design a menu for the Wedding Buffet- but with a 'love' theme, and/or with red, white and blue foods!
- Explore weddings in the bible. The Wedding of Cana, Parable of the Wedding Feast...
- Make Wedding Cards
- Create congratulation 'texts' and 'emails'



A selection of resources...

About the wedding:

<http://www.theroyalweddingwilliamkate.com/>- an 'unofficial' sponsor, useful information about the wedding day, good collection of photos, background on the couple...

Request Website:

<http://www.request.org.uk/main/dowhat/weddings/wedding01.htm>

Suitable for KS2

<http://www.request.org.uk/infants/milestones/wedding/wedding01.htm>

Suitable for KS1

Welsh Grid for Learning:

http://www.ngfl-cymru.org.uk/wedding_service (Welsh Grid for Learning resource). This is an interactive resource for Key Stage1. It could be used on an interactive whiteboard with children together or for independent learning.

Early Years resource:

<http://www.booksatpress.co.uk/>- fantastic simple account of a wedding from the 'Puddles' the cat series. Puddles and Freddie are best friends. But, when Freddie finds a new special friend Puddles begins to feel lonely. As Sally and Mike plan their wedding, Puddles wishes she had a special friend all of her own. And then the day of the wedding arrives and Puddles gets a surprise.

Do all of her wishes come true?

A Wedding Day Wish for Puddles



Key Stage 2 English Link:

<http://www.teachers.tv/videos/a-royal-wedding-kate-and-william-> with a 3-4 minute video clip and accompanying lesson plan.

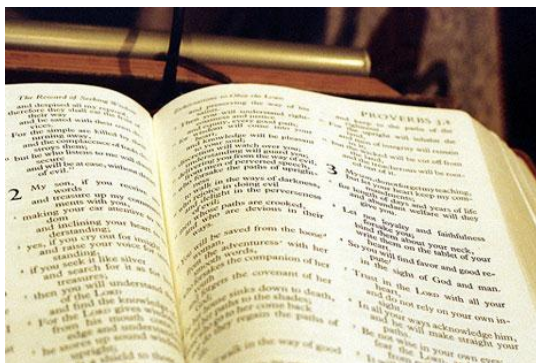
Craft materials:

http://www.activityvillage.co.uk/the_royal_wedding.htm provides simple crafts, colouring pages and activities.

<http://www.bakerross.co.uk> provide craft materials and decorations with a patriotic theme!

Biblical Passages that may be useful:

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“Since they are no longer two but one, let no one separate them, for God has joined them together.” (The Bible, Matthew chapter 19 verse 6)

In Christian marriage the couple are joined together by God in a life-long partnership.

“... Submit to one another ... husbands must love your wives with the same love Christ showed the church. He gave up his life for her ... In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies.” (The Bible, Ephesians chapter 5 verses 21 - 28)

In Christian marriage each gives the other appropriate love and care in a self-sacrificing way by putting their partner's needs first.

“Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love does not demand its own way. Love is not irritable, and it keeps no record of when it has been wronged. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never give up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance.” (The Bible, I Corinthians 13 v 4-7)

This is one of the most popular passages to have read at weddings.

Have fun and enjoy celebrating!

Kathryn Wright

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