

## The Story of Ben (RE 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021)

Ben was very poorly. He couldn't come to school. He couldn't play with his friends. He couldn't even stay at home with his family. He was so poorly he had to spend some time in hospital. Ben felt very miserable. The doctor looked after him and gave him medicine.

The nurses helped him to sit up and lie down and be comfortable in bed but Ben still felt sad and miserable.

One day, Ben's mum went to his school to see his teacher.

"How is Ben?" asked the teacher.

"He is getting better," said Ben's mum, "but he feels very sad. He misses his friends and he wishes he was back at school."

The next day, Ben's teacher gathered all the children round.

"Ben is getting better," she told the children, "but he feels very sad because he has to stay in hospital a little longer. I wonder what we could do to help him feel happy."

The children all thought hard.

"I know!" said Alana, "We could make him a get well card and write our names on it. Then he would know we haven't forgotten him."

"That's a good idea," said the teacher.

"We could draw him a picture of all the things we have been doing in school," said Elliot. "Then he would see what's been going on."

"And we could make a place for him in our prayer corner," said Susie.

"We could say a prayer for him every day." "That's a very good idea," said the teacher. "It's the best idea of all."

So the children did all those things to help Ben feel happier. They made get well cards and wrote their names. Ben could read the names and he felt happy to know his friends hadn't forgotten him. They drew pictures of the things they had done at school.

Ben smiled when he saw all the cards and pictures. He felt as if he hadn't missed out at all. But most importantly, the children made a special place for Ben in their prayers. They put up a photo of Ben in the prayer corner and the teacher helped them write some prayers on little cards to put next to the picture.

Every day, the teacher lit a candle and the children all prayed together and asked Jesus to be close to Ben and bless him. Ben began to feel much calmer and peaceful.

Later on, when Ben was well enough to come home, Ben's mum took the prayer cards home to show him. "I'm glad my friends didn't forget me," Ben said. "I'm glad I know what they've all been doing while I was away. Most of all, I'm glad they prayed for me!"