

Andrews' Endowed Church of England Primary School

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Thursday 4th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to inform you that your child/children will be learning about organ and tissue donation during their topic of 'The Art of Being Human'. This complements our Guided Reading work on 'The Pig Heart Boy', starts our Science unit on the circulatory system and will cover a number of lessons from the NHS about blood, organ and tissue donation along with some of the ethics surrounding transplants and genetic engineering. Our key question for this unit is 'Christians believe we are stewards of the earth, and that we have 'dominion' over all living things. Does this mean we can do what we want to animals?'

NHS Blood and Transplant, working together with experienced primary and secondary school teachers, has developed this unit of lessons. NHS Blood and Transplant is the Special Health Authority dedicated to saving and improving lives through organ, blood and bone marrow donation services provided to the NHS.

From spring 2020, the law around organ donation in England changed. All adults over 18 in England will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die, unless they had recorded a decision not to donate or are in one of the excluded groups. Therefore, I believe it is particularly important for us to educate young people about organ and tissue donation, so they are aware of how the legislation will affect them when they turn 18.

The lessons aim to encourage the development of personal skills including formulating questions, discussing moral issues, evaluating information and articulating an argument for and against organ and tissue donation. The lessons will be taught in a way that ensures the beliefs and values of students are respected.

Your child/children may have questions about some of the topics and themes that will be explored in class and we encourage further discussion at home wherever possible. For more information, I would recommend visiting the NHS Blood and Transplant's organ donation website at www.organdonation.nhs.uk where many frequently asked questions are answered. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or if you need me to know that this is sensitive to your family.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Mr Sam Paine

Y6 Teacher

