

## **Reflection by Siobhan Smith-Inniss (Young People & Children's Worker)**

September although the ninth month of the year brings its own set of firsts. It is the first month of autumn and the first day of the school term. 2020 will be a year to remember for its own reasons. With the onset of the **Coronavirus** brought its own set of firsts, people being asked to remain in their own home to stay safe (lockdown).

It is the first time some family members have had to be together 24/7 whilst other family members have not been able to meet up at all. For the first time children have been asked to stay home, not attend school, not meet up with their friends. However, this week everything has changed for children as they return to school.

A lot of children will be filled with mixed emotions, worrying about all their education, staying safe, building relationships with their teachers and friends. As a church we are here to provide support and guidance for children and young people as in Mark 6:45-52

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark%206:45&version=NIV>

Jesus was there for the disciples and when they thought they were alone he appeared and was able to give them hope and courage by joining them. It is important for children to feel safe, supported and loved especially through this difficult time. At Six Ways Erdington Baptist Church children and young people are a major asset to the church and we encourage them to trust the Lord, have faith and remain positive.

### **A prayer for our children and young people**

Dear Lord Jesus,

Thank you so much for all the precious children in this world.

We know they mean so much to you.

We pray you would help us do all we can to protect and give them the start in life they deserve.

I pray you will help them to learn well and flourish.

May they discover their unique talents and gifting. Give them a passion for the world around them.

I pray they would place their identity in you.

I ask that in the pressures of life, they would know you are their rock on which they can stand.

I pray that through the challenges of school life, exams, and future decisions, you would lead them, guide them, and bring them comfort.

Jesus, In your name.

Amen.