RE

Today, I would like you to re-read both the piece of scripture below and your retell from yesterday and then, in your home learning book, draw and annotate (explain in words) a picture or a series of pictures to show the part that you found the most interesting.

When the harvest was being gathered in, on the feast of the first fruits, the friends of Jesus were not among the holiday crowds celebrating Pentecost in Jerusalem. Instead they were hidden away in a quiet room.

Mary, the Mother of Jesus was with them. Without the warmth of Jesus' presence among them, they felt stranded and clueless.

When Jesus had walked and talked with them, their hearts had burned within them; but now there was a death-like stillness and silence within them, which chilled their hearts and froze their power to act.

Then on that Pentecost morning, everything changed. The friends of Jesus knew all would be well.

They described the experience like this.

They said it was as if a strong, powerful wind had filled the whole house and as if tongues of fire had spread out and touched each one of them. They felt alive as never before. The warmth of God's love circulated through and among them, so that they felt compelled to rush out and share their joy with the whole world and to witness to the Good News of Jesus.

No longer tongue-tied, but with fiery conviction, the words tumbled out so fast and free, that in their excitement, they sounded crazy, as if they'd lost their senses.

At first people thought they were drunk.

It was Peter who controlled the situation; no longer afraid, he told the crowds how God had generously poured out the Spirit upon all so that they could speak out.

A great change took place amidst the listening crowds.

Barriers between people seemed to be melting away, barriers of language disappeared, so that everyone understood and heard what he or she most needed to hear. The love of God for people, was 'like a flash of fire, a flame of Yahweh Himself ', burning away all the rubbish in their lives, and leaving behind only what was firm and strong and for good.

The good news of God's love and power, spread like sparks from a mighty fire and warmed the people's hearts towards God and all peoples.

The Spirit was with them and so they could share their lives together in peace. Onlookers cried out in astonishment: "See how these Christians love one another!"

And the Spirit watched over the dawning of a new creation, a whole new way of living.

