

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 11th December 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MISS CHOMA

Wow, what a busy and fun filled week in school – I am exhausted! Christmas Dinner; games afternoons; Santa Dash; Christmas crafts and Maths, English, History, Geography etc. I need a rest. There are some amazing decorations this year – reindeers, Christmas trees, winter animals, snowmen, rainbow calendars and lots more. The Christmas tree looks lovely and festive.

Thank you to everyone, especially Mrs Brylov and her brilliant team, for making Christmas Dinner a wonderful time together. We had fun, crackers, singing and dancing. Watching the children eat with moustaches was hilarious!

This Sunday, we light the rose candle – Gaudete Sunday, which means rejoice. Fr Lawrie will wear his rose vestments. This reminds us of the joy of the birth of Jesus. Have a peaceful and restful weekend.

End of Term:

The Department for Education announced on Tuesday that it would be possible for schools to use Friday, 18th December as a Training Day, therefore ending the term one day earlier on Thursday, 17 December. However, this day would need to be reinstated later in the academic year. St Joseph's **will not** be taking a Training Day; school will finish as normal on the 18th of December.

Please note:

In line with Department for Education guidelines, our advice for the Christmas period is as follows:

Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for Covid-19, and has developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, **you should contact school**. School will then help to identify contacts who will be advised to self-isolate

If symptoms develop more than 48 hours after last being in school, in the case of a positive Covid-19 test, **you should not contact school**, but should follow instructions given by NHS Test and Trace

School staff will be on-call to carry out contact tracing until 4pm on 24 December; after this time, you should not contact school, but should follow instructions given by NHS Test and Trace

We ask therefore that parents continue to use office@stjosephsotley.org to inform school of any positive cases that fit the criteria highlighted above. The address will be monitored by senior staff who will then take appropriate action following the national advice issued to schools.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD, HARRY DALTON!

Congratulations to Mrs Dalton and her husband, Stuart on the safe arrival of their baby boy on Saturday 5th December.

They have chosen the beautiful name Harry and he weighed a very healthy 8lb 7oz.

Thank you to everyone for your kind well-wishes.

The proud new family are happy and healthy, and enjoying sharing special moments together.



SANTA DASH

On Friday, we joined thousands of other children around the country as we took part in the Santa Dash. Children ran at least 1 mile, however some ran up to 3 miles in less than 30 minutes! Despite the rain, the children had a great time.

Thank you to those who have donated—we are so grateful for your incredibly generous contributions!

Please can you make sure that any further donations are brought into school by Tuesday. Thank you!



CHRISTMAS PARTY

- Tuesday 15th December— KS1 Christmas Party Afternoon
- Thursday 17th December (**REARRANGED**) — Y3 and Y4 Christmas Party Afternoon
- Thursday 17th December—Y5 and Y6 Christmas Party Afternoon



Despite Covid-19, we are excited to announce that we will be doing our Christmas Parties this year - just within our bubbles! Children will have a party in their classrooms, followed by a party in the hall.

FOOD

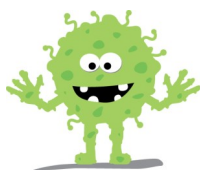
In order to facilitate this, we ask for parents and carers to contribute to the food for this event. We will send out letters on Monday 7th December detailing what we would like the children to bring.

WHAT TO WEAR

Children are invited to wear their best party clothes for the day! We would also like children to bring a festive hat if possible. Please ensure that footwear is appropriate, and that children bring a jumper and coat for playtimes.

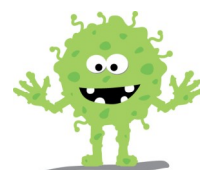


IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE NOTE



There has been more sickness and diarrhoea in school this week.

Please ensure that your child is **symptom free for 48 hours** before returning to school as this greatly reduces the risk of spreading infection.



We will continue to encourage children to wash their hands frequently especially before eating.

REPORTING ABSENCES

If your child will be absent from school, please contact the office in the morning to report the absence. If your child is absent for more than one day, the office need to be contacted on every day that your child is off school.

CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

Thank you to Mrs Brylov and her wonderful team for a fantastic Christmas Dinner. We had a lovely time listening to festive tunes as we tucked into our food and pulled our crackers!



DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Throughout Christmas Craft Week, we created 2 decorations—one for our Christmas Tree, and one for the children to take home at the end of term.

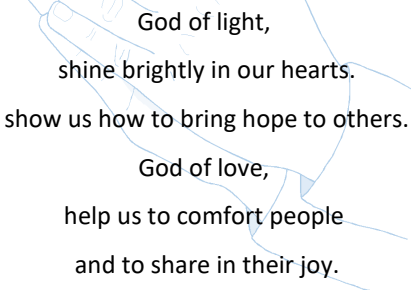
Look at our amazing Christmas Tree filled with our spectacular handmade creations.



CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

PRAYER

(Taken from the CAFOD national Collective Worship)



God of light,
shine brightly in our hearts.
show us how to bring hope to others.
God of love,
help us to comfort people
and to share in their joy.
God of hope,
help us this Advent
to share your light with others. Amen

OUR LADY & ALL SAINTS CHURCH

MASS TIMES

Mass will be celebrated:
Wednesdays 10.00am
Saturday 6.30pm
Sunday 9.30am

Please see bulletin for changes to Mass times for week beginning Monday 31st August.

The daily Mass schedule will resume on 21st September 2020

Please book a place for Saturday evening or Sunday morning Mass - [book here](#)

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

On Monday, Steve O'Neil (who is the Chair of the OLAS SVP group) joined our virtual meeting to tell the children about the work he does for the St. Vincent de Paul Charity. He told us about the SVP centre in Leeds and how it helps the poorest people in our city. He also told us about how the Otley SVP group help people in our Parish who may be feeling lonely. Steve wanted to pass on his thanks for all of your very kind donations to our Advent Appeal. He will be collecting them next week.

On Thursday, there was a special national CAFOD Collective Worship for Primary Schools. The theme was "The Light of The World" and it started with a quote from John's Gospel, "The light shines in darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." The Worship thought about how we can share Jesus' light with others this Christmas. It talked about CAFOD's work in Colombia, Lebanon and Bangladesh. It also included this quote from Pope Francis,

"Choose Kindness. Those who do so become shining stars in the midst of darkness."



TRAVELLING CRIBS

Unfortunately, we have not been able to send home the Travelling Cribs this year. So, instead we are sending home today to each family a little booklet telling the story of the first Nativity, an A3 Crib background and the pictures of the people in the story for the children to cut out and stick onto the background. Hopefully, this will help you to take a moment to think about the story of Christmas as a family. We would love to see any photos of the children's Crib scenes or of families looking at the booklet together. Please send photos to: homelearning@stjosephsotley.org



MINI VINNIES WANT YOUR USED STAMPS

Thank you to those who have donated stamps this week for Kickscount and Macmillan charity organisations. Please send your used stamps into school with your child and they can be collected in each classroom so we can see which class collects the most stamps. Please try to ensure your used stamps have a 2cm border around them.

Thank you in advance, The Mini Vinnie Team



RECONCILIATION

Year 3 children should have received a letter with a form to complete about Reconciliation last week. If you have not returned the form yet, please try to do so ASAP as we need to order the resources. Thank you.





CLASS NEWS



YEAR R NEWS

This week in Reception, we have had another festive week! On Monday, the children did a fantastic job when filming our Christmas Nativity. On Tuesday, we went on a walk to post the letters that the children had written to Santa Claus; we are eagerly awaiting his reply! On Wednesday, we added the baubles we had made on to the tree in the hall. On Thursday, the children enjoyed a games morning and Christmas dinner, and on Friday, the children took part in the Santa Dash!



In RE this week, we have been thinking more about the Nativity Story. The children enjoyed making links between the part they played in the Nativity and the story. After discussing the different characters in the story, the children were asked to choose one to draw and describe.

In English this week, the children have been doing an independent piece of writing about what they enjoy the most about coming to St Joseph's. Piper wrote about how much she enjoys writing and Phonics; Seb enjoys the construction area and Lillie loves playing with her friends at school.



YEAR 1 NEWS

We began the week with our Christmas performance: Lights Camel Action. We sang, acted and danced the day away. The children were fantastic! Thank you to all parents and carers for providing costumes and helping children to learn their lines.

In Maths this week, we have been focusing on subtraction. We have used lots of practical resources to help us, and practised different calculation strategies to help with our understanding.

In English, we listened to the story of *Harvey Slumfenburger's Christmas Present*. On Christmas Eve, Father Christmas has had a long night of delivering presents and his one, last present to deliver becomes a major challenge. We used actions and story mapping to help us orally rehearse a sentence and write it.

In RE we have been learning about Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem. We thought about why they had to travel such a long way and reflected on how they must have been feeling.

In Science we have continued to learn about the properties of materials and this week we carried out an investigation to find out which materials were waterproof. We came to the conclusion that we wouldn't want a paper, shower curtain or an umbrella made from tissue...

In Art we had fun making some more decorations for the tree. We made a baby Jesus asleep in his manger although at times we were wearing more hay than had been successfully applied to the manger- very sticky fingers!



YEAR 2 NEWS

In English this week, Year 2 have been writing predictions about our new book! After a lot of debating, they discovered it was *The Snow Queen*. They have been sequencing the story and writing character descriptions of the Snow Queen herself.

In Maths, the children have been working really hard adding 10s to 2-digit numbers. I have been very impressed with how well they have got on using the correct vocabulary and being able to explain that when we add 10's to 2-digit numbers the ones digit doesn't change.

Year 2 have also worked hard finishing their Christmas tree decorations. We have learned some tricky DT skills such as a sewing and cutting patterns. They look wonderful!

The children started their week off being videoed for the Nativity. I want to say a big thank you to all the children in Year 2 for being fantastic performers and great role models for the children in Year 1 and Reception. The video is in the process of being edited and we are all super excited to watch it next week!



YEAR 3 NEWS

We have had a really busy week in school with our Christmas Dinner Day, KS2 Christmas Carol Concert led from Leeds Town Hall, and the Santa Dash this morning!

In Maths, we have begun our new topic of multiplication and division. We have been consolidating our knowledge of the 2, 3, 5 and 10 times tables, and are beginning to look at the 4s and 8s. We used arrays to find the factors of 24, and thought about how these could help us with other multiplication and division facts.

We used our English skills in History and Geography this week as the children created their final pieces of work for each topic. In History, they wrote their own argument for whether Skara Brae is significant as a Neolithic settlement, whilst for Geography the children have each been filming their own weather report.

In RE, we have been busy retelling the Nativity story through drama. Well done to Heidi, who explained to the class why exactly the Three Wise Men don't appear in our story - can you remember why?



YEAR 4 NEWS

In Maths, we have been very busy multiplying and dividing by 9 and 7. We have looked at different strategies to help us work out these difficult times tables. We have then been applying these skills to help us solve reasoning problems.

In English, we have been writing sets of instructions about how to be a Roman Gladiator! We have researched and planned out each set carefully. As we were writing our instructions, we used a loyalty card which was stamped by Mrs Holmes when we had included the different features in our writing. It helped us to stay focused and ensure that our writing was detailed and clear.

In RE, we have been thinking about the long journey Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem. We discussed how they must have felt and how they showed true faith and trust in God. We also used the Bible to find out about the shepherds visit from the angels and how they also made the long journey to see the new-born king.



YEAR 5 NEWS

In Maths this week, we have started to look at area and perimeter of different shapes. Some of the children then put their knowledge to good use by measuring the perimeter of KS1 and KS2 playground using a trundle wheel - so that we could work out the distance of one lap for the Santa Dash!

In English, the children looked at the different features of newspaper reports and then they started to write their own newspaper reports about the day when Philippe Petit walked between the Twin Towers in 1974.

Our focus in RE was comparing the Old Covenant with Moses in Exodus with the New Covenant in Jesus found in the Gospels.

On Wednesday, we had a very festive day singing Christmas carols and songs. In the morning, we practised different Christmas songs and then in the afternoon we enjoyed joining in with the LMSA concert. A big "Thank you" to Mrs Shakespeare for organising it all for us.



YEAR 6 NEWS

In Maths, we have added and subtracted fractions with different denominators. We used bar models to help us work out the total. In Maths Catch-Up, we learned how to translate shapes on a coordinate grid with a Christmas theme.

During our spelling lessons, we played a spelling bee game where each child had a say the next letter of the word. We loved playing this game and it really helped us learn our spelling words for this week.

In French, we were learning the French words for Christmas items. We designed a door hanger and wrote Joyeux Noel on them.

In R.E., we retold the Christmas Story from different perspectives; we chose either: Angel Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, King Herod, the shepherds or the Wise Men. We began our stories from the Annunciation and included all the key events until Joseph, Mary and Jesus escaped to Egypt.

On Thursday, we enjoyed our last Christmas dinner here at St Joseph's - thank you to Mrs Brylov and her team in the kitchen. We also loved playing Christmas musical chairs in P.E with a rugby twist.





AWARDS



SUNSHINE AWARDS

Adaline (YR), Frankie (Y1), Kaitlyn (Y2),
Maria (Y3), Evie (Y4), Vuyo (Y5), Niall (Y6)



WRITER OF THE WEEK AWARDS

Scarlett (YR), Albert (Y1), Anna (Y2),
Sam S (Y3), Samuel (Y4), Rhys (Y5), Ava (Y6)