

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 18th December 2020

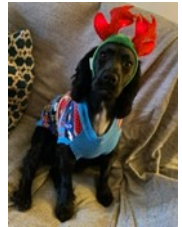
MISS CHOMA'S SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SPEECH 2020

What a wonderful week in school – I cannot think of a better way to end the term with: parties; Christmas quizzes, a pantomime and lots more fun activities. There was a great atmosphere at all the parties. Thank you to all the children for making the Christmas parties enjoyable – we sang and danced to the Macarena, A Pizza Hut and Superman. I have to say I was somewhat achy the next day! Maybe I need to dance a bit more.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first term as Acting Headteacher at St Joseph's. I feel blessed and privileged to lead an amazing team of staff entrusted to care for and nurture each child. Though we have had our challenges, we have had a super term and the children have been wonderful.

This week is the fourth week of Advent; we light the final purple candle to mark the final week of prayer and preparation as we wait for the birth of Jesus. This final candle, the "Angel's Candle," symbolizes peace. It reminds us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Below is a beautiful poem to remind us of the true gifts in our lives, the gift of the people we meet.



PEOPLE ARE GIFTS

People are gifts that God sends to us... wrapped!

Some are wrapped very beautifully. Some come in very ordinary wrapping paper. Others get mishandled in the post.

Once in a while there's a special delivery.

Some people are gifts which come very loosely wrapped, others very tightly.

I must never mistake the wrapping for the gift. It's what's inside the wrapping that counts.

Sometimes the gift is very easy to open, sometimes it is not. Is it because they are afraid? Does it hurt?

Maybe they have been opened before, then forgotten or even thrown away.

Is this how I treat the gifts that are sent to me?

I am a person. Therefore, I, too, am a gift.

Perhaps I have never accepted the gift that I am: A gift full of promise and beauty...

A gift that can only be opened when I am handled with love.

Am I a gift to other people?

Someone who cares? Someone who loves? Someone who shares just as Jesus did?

Then every meeting of people becomes an exchange of gifts. Gifts from God to be given to others.

I would like to thank you for your generosity—I have been overwhelmed by the donations of food and gifts for the Reverse Advent Appeal. Secondly, for the amazing amount of money we have raised for school—a whopping £2500! We are so excited to purchase new resources for our curriculum in the new year. Finally, for your cards, presents and Christmas well-wishes. We are so lucky to be part of the St Joseph's family.

The staff, Governors and of course Molly wish you a happy and holy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 4th January—Back to school
- 28th January—Class Photographs
- 5th February—NSPCC Number Day
- 8th February—Y6 Bikeability Training



CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY

On Tuesday and Thursday, we had our wonderful Christmas Party Days! The children took part in a range of games and attended a quiz hosted by Miss Wilkinson via zoom.

In the afternoon, children gathered in their bubbles in the hall for food, singing and dancing. A special thank you to all the families who donated food items for the party!

Finally, Miss Choma and Miss Wilkinson had a wonderful time dressing up and handing out a small gift for each child. Miss Choma reported, "It is very tiring pretending to be Father Christmas for the day, I don't know how he finds the energy!"



ST JOSEPH'S ONLINE CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

Sadly, Covid-19 has taken away some of our favourite activities in the school year including our annual Christmas Carol Concert. Normally, we would come together in Church to read the story of the Nativity and sing some beautiful songs.

This year, we are happy to reveal that we have filmed a KS2 Carol Concert for you to watch over the Christmas holidays.

Thank you to Y3 for performing the nativity, and the other children for reading and singing.

This will be available on the school website from Monday 21st December until January 4th 2021.



REVERSE ADVENT APPEAL

Wow! Thank you to everyone for the fantastic response to our Reverse Advent Appeal.

We are overwhelmed by your generosity and kindness during these hard times. As a school, we will bring many smiles to faces of families throughout Leeds this Christmas.

This year, we donated to SVP and Catholic Care.

We have managed to create an amazing 10 food hampers, and collected over 150 toys for all ages.

Thank you to all those who donated gifts!



ACHIEVEMENT ASSEMBLY

Well done to all the children who received an award during Friday morning assembly.

Some children have earned their bronze or silver award, some have even got their **GOLD CERTIFICATES!**

These certificates are awarded to children for earning a certain amount of merit points.

Additionally, we gave out the Good to be Green postcards. These are given to children who have remained on green, silver or gold for the whole of the Autumn Term. We also randomly selected two 'Good to be Green' children from each class who won a £5 Argos voucher!

We are so proud of all our children and their achievements. We look forward to seeing what Spring term will bring!



STATIONERY AND UNIFORM

For January, we would request that each child brings a stationery set to school which will be kept inside their personal wallet.

Please could this include 2 pencils, a sharpener, a small set of colouring pens and a small set of colouring pencils in a clear, max 20cm by 15cm pencil case. KS2 children need a **BLUE** handwriting pen. Additionally, glue sticks are appreciated in KS2!



Water bottles will remain with your child all day. Please ensure they are washed thoroughly at home and refilled with fresh drinking water ready for the next day. Children **MUST** bring a water bottle with them as we do not have the resources to provide children with a bottle in school.



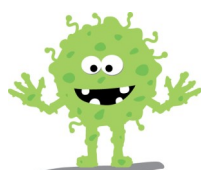
As we approach the end of Autumn term, please check your children's uniform is labelled as we are trying hard to minimise lost property. Children should continue to come to school in the PE kit on PE days. Please make sure your child wears green jogging bottoms, not leggings or alternative clothing.



Thank you!

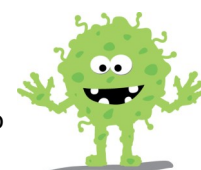


IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE NOTE



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.

CATHOLIC LIFE OF THE SCHOOL

PRAYER

God grant us the light of Christmas,
which is hope;
the warmth of Christmas,
which is joy;
the belief in Christmas,
which is faith;
the gift of Christmas,
which is love;
the all of Christmas,
which is Christ.
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

Over the past few weeks, we have been reading about John the Baptist in our Monday collective worships. We have read about how he prepared the way for Jesus by calling people to be baptised and to repent. We have continued to learn about the virtue of patience. This week, the reading was taken from Romans 12:12, "Let your hope keep you joyful, be patient in your troubles, and pray at all times."



RECONCILIATION

On Wednesday morning, Year 4, 5 and 6 visited OLAS Church to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation in readiness for Christmas. All of the children behaved impeccably and acted reverently whilst in Church. Reconciliation gives us opportunity to say sorry to God and turn over a new leaf ready for a new and better year. Thank you to Father Lawrie for giving up his time to enable us to do this.



MINI VINNIES WANT YOUR USED STAMPS

Please keep sending your stamps into school! 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



TRAVELLING CRIBS

We hope you have all enjoyed sharing the Christmas Story and making your own Christmas scene at home. Please continue to send in your photos to homelearning@stjosephsotley.org.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thank you to all those who have returned their letter and money. If you have not paid for the Reconciliation resource, please do so as soon as possible when we return to school.

Classes will start in the first week of January during the school day. Please encourage your child to reflect on the sessions and share their experience with you.





CLASS NEWS



YEAR R NEWS

Reception have had a great final week of term, with lots of festive fun! We have done some writing about popular Christmas items and lots of Christmas counting. In Phonics this week, we learnt the z sound and three new tricky words.

Tuesday was a very exciting day, we joined a quiz held by Miss Wilkinson and then had our Christmas party! We enjoyed lots of party games such as pass the parcel and musical statues and then ate lots of yummy party food. Thank you all for your contributions. On Wednesday, we were very lucky to be able to watch 'Rapunzel the Lockdown Pantomime', the children really enjoyed joining in with the songs and the chants. On Thursday, we got to watch the KS1 Nativity! The children were very pleased to see themselves on the screen and sung along to the songs we worked so hard to learn. Mrs Hart and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas, we look forward to seeing you again in the New Year!



YEAR 1 NEWS

We've had a fun-filled, festive last week of term and have completed lots of Christmas related activities. In PE we were the three kings following the star to give our gifts to baby Jesus.

In Maths, we have been looking at subtraction as finding the difference. We have been comparing two numbers and using lots of practical resources to help us.

In English, we have been writing about all the different ways that Santa's elves have been helping him. Our naughty class elf, Elvis has been keeping us entertained with his mischievous antics.

Christmas Party Day was enormous fun, we played pass the parcel and musical statues. We had a delicious feast in the hall and ended our day with some very energetic dancing which included the Macarena and the Cha Cha Slide.

In Music, Mrs Shakespeare helped us learn some of the songs to enable us to sing along to our pantomime: Rapunzel, which we really enjoyed watching. It was filled with lots of fantastic 80s hits such as the Final Countdown and Girls Just Want to Have Fun.

In Art, we enjoyed making Christmas cards and some Rudolph paper chain crafts. We also made some magic reindeer dust to remind Father Christmas to come to our house.

We have sent home some interactive Christmas activities for the children to complete if they find themselves at a loose end over the holidays. Well done Y1 for a fantastic term. We have loved teaching you and would like to wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas.



YEAR 2 NEWS

In English this week, Year 2 have been using their plans to write up their own version of the Snow Queen story. They were all very excited to be writing on fancy Snow Queen themed paper! We put some calming Christmas music on, and the children worked hard to produce some fantastic stories.

In Maths, the children have been subtracting 2-digit numbers from 2-digit numbers not crossing tens. They have learnt how to use the column method. All the children worked hard and enjoyed using tens and ones to help them answer questions.

Tuesday was a very exciting day as it was our Christmas Party Day. The children joined in with a KS1 quiz; we then played party games and went for party food in the hall.

On Wednesday we had lots of fun watching the Rapunzel pantomime. The children were most excited about watching our Lights Camel Action Nativity. They loved watching themselves on the big screen and had a great time singing along to the songs.



YEAR 3 NEWS

Thank you for all the gifts and cards this week - not only for the teachers, but for Advent Angels as well!

We began the week by filming our Nativity scenes for the KS2 Christmas Carol video. The children acted their parts beautifully and made sure to read clearly. In the afternoon we designed our Christmas cards and painted some beautiful watercolour scenes.

We have created two of the gifts for our Christmas gift bags - DIY hot chocolate mix and chocolate bark. The classroom smelled lovely all day! We also watched a Christmas pantomime, Rapunzel, and really enjoyed singing along to Dance Monkey.

On Thursday, it was our Christmas party, starting with a quiz hosted by Miss Wilkinson, and ending with lots of party food!

On Friday, we got to watch the KS1 Nativity, and were amazed at the wonderful singing and dancing!

We hope everyone has a restful and happy Christmas, and look forward to seeing you in 2021!



YEAR 4 NEWS

Year 4 have had an enjoyable and creative week making Christmas decorations, Christmas cards and calendars - we hope you like them! We also finished our Roman shields and tried out some Roman army formations such as 'Wedge', 'Square' and 'Tortoise'. We were very impressive soldiers.

The Christmas fun continued with the Rapunzel Pantomime (we enjoyed singing and dancing along) and our fantastic party. We all looked brilliant in our party clothes, belted out the Christmas songs and ate our fill of the tasty party food. The singing continued when we recorded our Christmas carols. We sounded great and managed to remember all the actions!

In Dance, we finished learning our routine to 'We go Together' and performed it for Miss Earley, who thought we were all fantastic! If you would like to watch it, head to our Google Classroom. We think you'll agree that our hard work and extra practice at break times really paid off.

After a fun-filled week, everyone is ready for the Christmas break - we hope you all have a wonderful and festive holiday. Merry Christmas!



YEAR 5 NEWS

In Year 5 this week, we have been finishing off our work on area and perimeter in Maths. This week, we have found out how to find the area of compound shapes and irregular shapes. In RE, we thought about how we can keep the New Covenant with God by looking at Jesus' teaching and what the New Covenant means to us.

Our focus in History this week, was comparing the Ancient and Modern Olympic Games to try to identify any similarities and differences. The children looked at a picture on an Ancient Greek pot to find out clues about the Ancient Olympics and then then enjoyed watching a short highlights video of the 2012 Olympic Games to gain information about the Modern Olympics.

The children have also had fun this week enjoying all of the different Christmas activities: finishing off Christmas crafts, watching the musical pantomime (Oh no they didn't!!!) and the Christmas party on Thursday afternoon where they enjoyed playing the "After Eight Mint Game". This was preceded by a Christmas Quiz hosted by the wonderful Miss Wilkinson.

We would like to say a big "Thank you" to all of the children in Year 5 for their hard work this term - they have done brilliantly. We would also like to thank all of the parents and families for their support. We wish you a



YEAR 6 NEWS

In Maths, we continued to add and subtract mixed number fractions. We used bar models and number lines to help us; we really saw the benefits to using these.

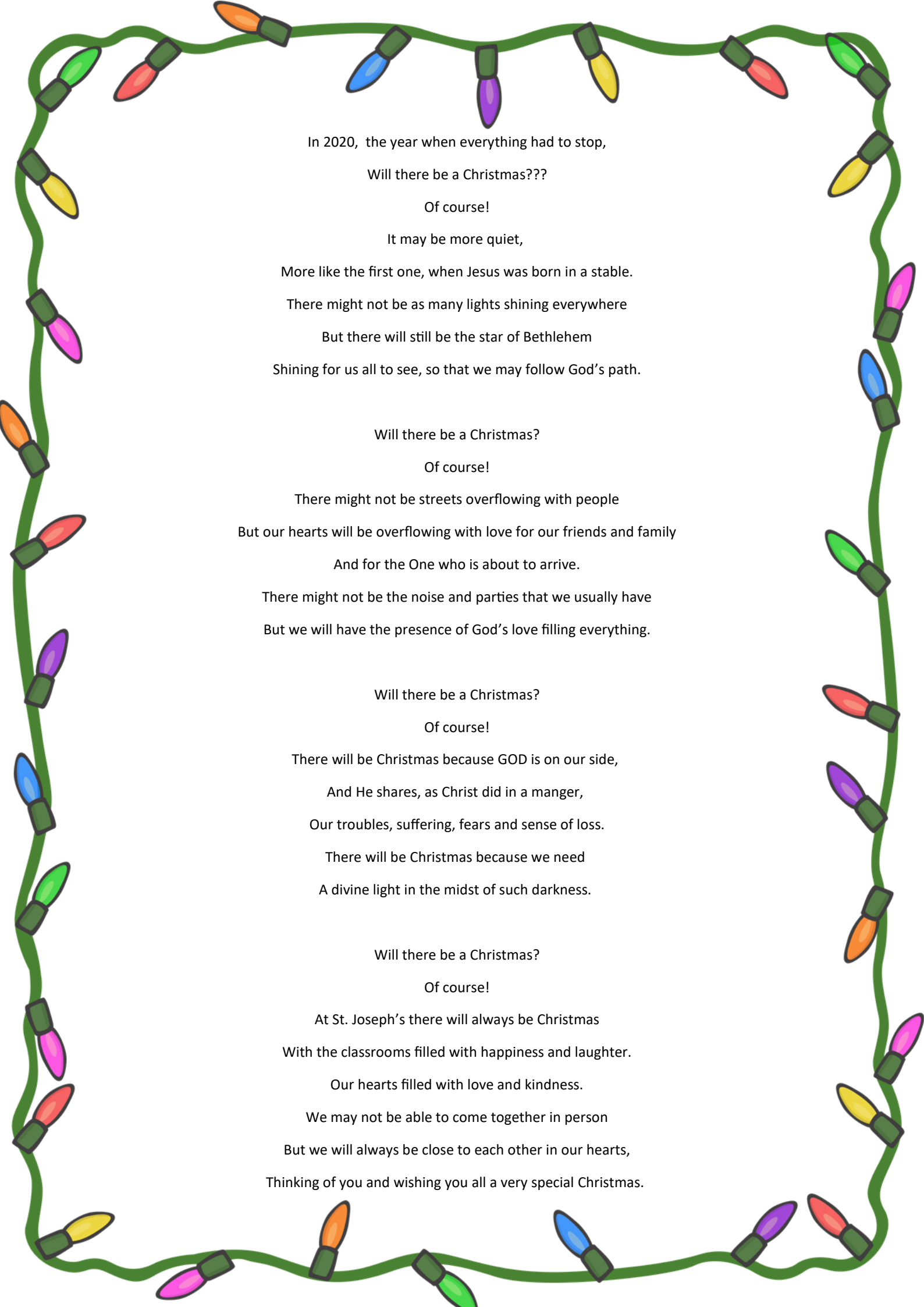
In English, we have planned, written and edited a persuasive speech about saving an endangered animal. We used various persuasive devices to engage the reader.

On Wednesday afternoon, we had a great time watching and singing along to the pantomime. We had so much fun!

On Thursday, we loved our last Christmas Party Day of St Joseph's; we played bingo and had a quiz with the rest of KS2 on zoom - Miss Wilkinson loved hosting! In the afternoon, we celebrated in the hall with lots of yummy food, thank you for bringing in the food.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We can't wait to see everyone in January.





In 2020, the year when everything had to stop,
Will there be a Christmas???

Of course!

It may be more quiet,
More like the first one, when Jesus was born in a stable.
There might not be as many lights shining everywhere
But there will still be the star of Bethlehem
Shining for us all to see, so that we may follow God's path.

Will there be a Christmas?
Of course!

There might not be streets overflowing with people
But our hearts will be overflowing with love for our friends and family
And for the One who is about to arrive.
There might not be the noise and parties that we usually have
But we will have the presence of God's love filling everything.

Will there be a Christmas?
Of course!

There will be Christmas because GOD is on our side,
And He shares, as Christ did in a manger,
Our troubles, suffering, fears and sense of loss.
There will be Christmas because we need
A divine light in the midst of such darkness.

Will there be a Christmas?
Of course!

At St. Joseph's there will always be Christmas
With the classrooms filled with happiness and laughter.
Our hearts filled with love and kindness.
We may not be able to come together in person
But we will always be close to each other in our hearts,
Thinking of you and wishing you all a very special Christmas.