



R.E. NEWSLETTER for PARENTS and CARERS

November 2021

"Pray, hope, and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer." St. Padre Pio

Dear Parents and Carers

November has been a very busy month in the catholic life of our school. We have continue to work at developing your children's awareness of their role in the future of our world and the very special part they will have to play in protecting God's wonderful creation and those living on it. We have celebrated many class saint liturgies and have continued to develop opportunities for the children to speak to God through prayer. From our very youngest, to our Year 6 children we have been focusing on how we treat each other and how we see God in everyone we meet, treating them with kindness and respect. We have established a rota for weekly mass at St Chad's Church and are working closely with Fr Ambrose to ensure that our school and parish are supporting the development of our children. Year 6 have even had tea and cake with Fr Ambrose at the Presbytery - which they enjoyed greatly!

God Bless *Mrs Mitchener*

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - LOVING

(15th November – 17th December)

Early Years	BIRTHDAY - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Year 1	WAITING - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Year 2	PREPARATIONS - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
Year 3	VISITORS - waiting for the coming of Jesus
Year 4	GIFT - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
Year 5	HOPE - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one
Year 6	EXPECTATIONS - Jesus born to show God to the world

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.

Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.

Use the CAFOD or [Missio](#) websites to get a religious Advent calendar.

Pope Francis Prayer Request for November

People Who Suffer from Depression

We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.



Act of Hope



My God,
I put my hope in you,
because I am sure of your promises.
Deliver us Lord from every evil
and grant us peace in our day
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming of Our Saviour
Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Grow in Love, Live in Peace

Remembrance Assembly



On Thursday 11th November, Year 6 led a special assembly, which reminded the school of the importance of remembering those who have suffered or died as a consequence of conflict. We remembered those who gave their lives to ensure we can live in freedom and peace today.



We have a Mission

As part of our awareness of how we should be Christ's hands, feet and voice on earth, we know that we have to live a life of service to others. We recognise that this is important, because it is part of our mission to carry out and continue the work of Jesus Christ, to help to build a world of justice, peace and love. The children learn that Gospel values need to be lived out, which means helping people in need.



As Year 6 are currently studying World War 1, 'Fallen Fields', they decided that they could recognise the sacrifice made by service people, to secure their right to live in peace and freedom. Therefore on Thursday 11th November, they baked biscuits and cakes to sell after school, on the playground.



Together they raise **£204.00**, to support those who need our help.

A big thank you to all the Year 6 parents who contributed to making this successful and to all the families who supported the children by purchasing the cakes.

Advent Breakfast

We will be hosting our annual Advent Breakfast on **Wednesday 8th December, between 8:15 and 8:45**, in the school hall. This is a lovely tradition, which allows you to sit and eat breakfast together with your children, before they begin the school day and provides us, working in partnership, the opportunity to raise funds for those in need.

The CAFOD Club children have asked that the money raised this year goes to purchasing 'World Gifts' for people in vulnerable situations this Christmas season.

We will be providing bacon rolls, croissants, brioche rolls, toast and cereal, along with tea/coffee or juice.

The hall will be decorated with your children's festive displays, to make it extra special.

Please be reassured, that due to Covid precautions, the tables will be spaced out and the doors will remain open.

I hope that you can join us in enjoying a special Advent breakfast, whilst raising money for a good cause.



Caring for God's Creation



We have been talking to the children about Pope Francis' letter 'Laudato Si', which encourages all people in the world to live simply, so that we do not use more than our fair share of the world resource. We are encouraging the children to recognise the need to protect God creation and to 'Live wisely, think deeply and Love generously' (Pope Francis).

With this in mind, we are suggesting that the children do not bring in individual Christmas cards for their whole class this year, instead there will be one large card in each class, where all the children can write their Christmas wishes to each other.

This is only a suggestion, so if your son/daughter really wants to bring in cards, then they can continue to do so.



Like Pope Francis, we hope that we can work together to create a better world for future generations, by making the necessary changes in our lives in order to take care of, respect and value our 'common home'.



ONE KIND WORD

Anti-bullying Week 2021



CAFOD Club led Anti-bullying Week this year (15th– 19th November), by reminding the children of the power of kindness and the affect kind words can have on those to whom they are spoken. The children shared the knowledge that little acts of consideration can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around them and that one kind word leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness.

As one kind word can provide a moment of hope, the children then recorded their kind words and displayed them around the school. The Year 3/4 corridor, looks particularly beautiful, with kindness butterflies, displaying the kind words. In Upper KS2 the children wrote their kind word/act on a strip of blue paper, which were then joined together in a paper chain, demonstrating how one act of kindness, can lead to more.



Thank you to Mrs Gallagher and the CAFOD Club for leading the school in this important message.



St Elizabeth Class Liturgy

St Elizabeth class celebrated their feast day at the beginning of the month, with a lovely class liturgy. Lots of parents were there to share in the celebration, and the end of the liturgy, two children gave out small candles, whilst another child told the parents that Elizabeth meant 'worshipper of God' and asked them to 'as you light the candle think about how you can be like St Elizabeth and shine like the light of Christ' . Thank you to Mrs Campbell for leading this liturgy.



St Cecilia's Feast Day Liturgy

On Monday 22nd November St Cecilia's class celebrated their saints Feast Day. In their class liturgy they reflected on the message which Saint Cecilia gave to us about being soldiers of Christ, by defending our faith and spreading the love and word of God to all.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to attend this class liturgy and to Mrs Gant for supporting the children in planning this.

Your talent is Gods
gift to you
What you do with it is
your gift back to God



*"Arise, soldiers of Christ,
throw away the works of darkness
and put on the armour of light."*

St Cecilia



Living Our Mission



Recently, Year 6 have been considering how they can serve as a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ and to the Catholic faith, by recognising that they can live a Christian Mission. They each wrote their personal mission statement, based on the gifts, virtues and qualities they have been given by God. They are now going to work hard to find ways in which they can put their desires and beliefs into practice.

Please support your children in their missions.



My Personal Mission Statement

It is my mission to live a life of love, gentleness and compassion.

To look out for others who are vulnerable in the world and those who suffer most in other places.

To love others, as I would want to be loved,
to see God in everybody
and to be a steward of God's wonderful world.

Daniel Year 6

My Personal Mission Statement

It is my mission to live a life of hope, compassion and justice.

Where our world has enough resources for generations beyond me,

Where trees can grow and flowers can blossom, and fresh air can be breathed in, by all.

I want to live where children know that God is their friend.

Where people feel welcome in their community and where all are appreciated for their hard work.

Where gifts are of pure kindness.

I will use generosity, of my words and actions to make this happen,

And will help all to feel my compassion.

So people feel fairly treated and judge equally,

I will be a peacemaker and make only fair decisions.

Mathias Year 6

RSE

Gospel Value - Hope

Hope, resilience, perseverance



"Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh." (24:52)

For the next six weeks we will be focussing on the Gospel Value of Hope.

We will be looking at the Christian understanding of Hope, and will be linking it with our lives and the liturgical season of Advent, when we wait in hope for the coming of our Messiah.

The Christian hope is hope in God, in Jesus Christ. It is to know that God is faithful, that He will complete what He has begun. It is also, therefore, a confidence and trust, which waits patiently for God's purposes to be fulfilled.

We will be sharing with the children, that a way to have hope in our hearts is to bring hope to the lives of others—the share hope and to build hope.

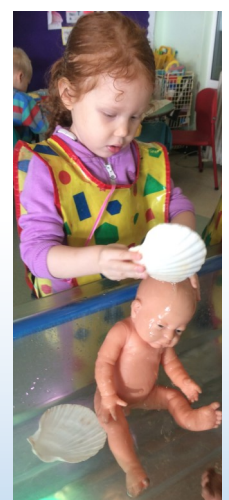
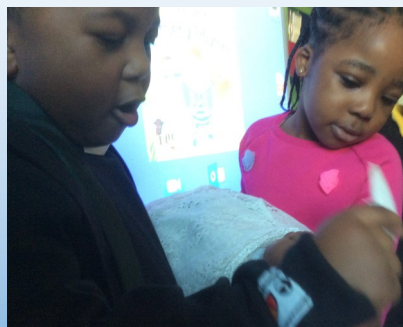


God created us to be blessings to one another.

Nursery

We have been learning about Baptism. After watching a video we role played what happens at the church to welcome someone into God's family. Father Nathan baptised "Baby Mary" with Leah and Ryeden as her parents. Sarah and Elain promised to teach her about God's love as her God parents. Later on the children were able to baptise their own babies in the water tray.

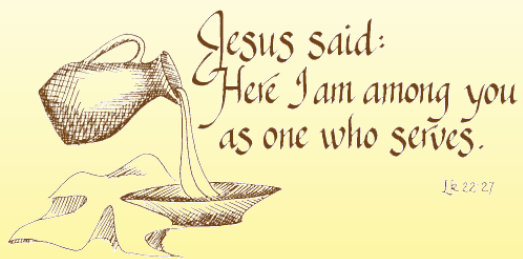
Mrs Flavin



Christ the King

On Monday 22nd November Year 3 led a liturgy for the Feast of Christ the King. They reminded us that Christ's kingship is one of humility and service.

Jesus said: 'whoever wishes to become great among you will be your servant; whoever wishes to be first among you will be the servant of all. For the Son of man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life for the ransom for many...' Mark 10: 42-45



An Ordination

As part of our Vocation and Commitment topic, we learnt about the sacrament of Ordination. After watching a video on parts of an ordination, we acted it out. Obinna and Andrew, made excellent priests and Daniel, a wonderful Archbishop. The children really enjoyed learning about the parts of the service and symbolism of the actions, words and objects.



Lets hope that one day
we will have a priest
from St Chads school!

Spiritual Survey Results

Thank you to all those 117 parents, who returned their Parental survey and for all the lovely comments you included on them. Below you will find the results.

The percentages look very encouraging, especially when Strongly agree and Agree are combined.

I think that it is important to mention that several parents referred to Covid restrictions for the reason they felt, they were not welcomed to the Catholic life of the school'. Now that Class Liturgies have begun again, and the nativity season is upon us, I hope that families will feel more welcomed to share in the Catholic life of the school.

Fr Ambrose and I are also working closely on developing school and parish links, and we have now begun a weekly Friday Mass rota for Year 2-6. Please feel welcomed to join us at 9:30 Mass at St Chad's Church, each Friday. Fr is also meeting with each class for a 'getting to know you session' and he has been very generous with his time.

Results of the Spirituality Survey October 2021

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Disagree Strongly	Strongly Agree/ Agree Combined
The school offers a distinctly Catholic education	64%	33%	2%	0%	0%	98%
The staff care effectively for the children	62%	36%	2%	0%	0%	98%
Parents are kept well informed about religious education and worship	55%	40%	4%	0%	0%	96%
Parents are welcomed to events in the schools' 'Catholic Life'	52%	38%	9%	1%	0%	90%
There are good opportunities for the children to serve others	44%	48%	8%	0%	0%	92%
There are good links between the school and nearby parishes	46%	40%	13%	1%	0%	86%
The children gain a clear sense of right and wrong	55%	44%	1%	0%	0%	99%
The children build up good personal relationships	55%	44%	1%	0%	0%	99%
The children show responsible attitudes towards society	52%	45%	3%	0%	0%	97%
The children develop well in their spiritual life	53%	45%	2%	0%	0%	98%
The children make good progress in religious education	62%	36%	2%	0%	0%	98%

Mission Together Advent Calendar 2021

mission

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Advent What is the promise the prophet Jeremiah speaks of in today's first reading? <i>Jeremiah 33:14-16+</i>  28	Advent wreaths help us prepare for Christmas. Find out why they are round and made of evergreen leaves.*  29	As a class, learn our Advent Carol <i>We are Waiting,*</i> and think carefully about what the words mean.  30	An Advent wreath's candles are a symbol of Christ's light. Think of ways you can be a light for others today.*  1	Write an Advent prayer or poem. Try to include the words: God, promise, wait, hope, light, world, Jesus.  2	Today is the feast of St Francis Xavier, to share the light of Jesus, where and how did he travel?*  3	Say the Mission Together Prayer: May all children in the world, share love, share friendship and live in the peace of God's love. Now and forever. Amen.  4
2nd Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel reading, John the Baptist told the people to prepare for Jesus. How can we prepare for Jesus? <i>Luke 3:1-6+</i>  5	Today is the feast of St Nicholas. What did he do to bring hope to the poor?*  6	Make a Peace Paper Chain and think about how you can be a peace-maker in school this week.*  7	We can prepare for the coming of Jesus by being peace builders. Say the Mission Together prayer today for children living in war zones.  8	The prophet Isaiah told us to expect a child called 'Immanuel'. Find out what the name 'Immanuel' means.  9	As a class sing, <i>Go Tell it on the Mountain*</i> Listen carefully to the words and think about what they mean.  10	Draw or make a Christmas crib. If you can, use recycled materials.  11
3rd Sunday of Advent The prophet Zephaniah shares God's joy in today's first reading. How can we share God's joy this week? <i>Zephaniah 3:14-18+</i>  12	Find out why the candle for the third Sunday of Advent is pink and not purple.  13	Be an Advent light today; look out for someone who is sad and invite them to play.  14	Find out how Christmas is celebrated in another country.  15	Create a Gift for the World decoration and think about the gifts God has given you to share.*  16	As a class sing <i>Joy to the World.*</i> Listen carefully to the words and think about what they mean.  17	Say a prayer for children who will not have enough food to eat today. Ask God to help us share more.  18
4th Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel, Mary visits Elizabeth. How can you make visitors feel welcome this Christmas? <i>Luke 1:39-45+</i>  19	Find a way to help at home today, to prepare for Christmas.  20	Be an Advent light today, make a special Christmas card for an elderly relative or neighbour.*  21	Sing your favourite carol. Think about the words. Tell someone what they mean.  22	Pray for children who have no home. Ask God to keep them safe, and for us to find ways to help them.  23	Rejoice! Jesus is born! Remember to thank God and your family for all the gifts their love brings. 24 & 25	

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Cross symbol* refers to abridged scriptures found in our accompanying liturgical prayers. Asterisks refer to activities, assemblies, or carols. Download all for free from the Advent page of the Mission Together website.

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