R.E. NEWSLETTER for PARENTS and CARERS

November 2022

"Kindness is firm and persevering intention to always will the good of others, even the unfriendly." "We must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love." Pope Francis

Dear Parents and Carers

November has been a wonderfully busy month at St Chad's. It has been a month where the children not only learnt more about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, but they also put them into practice on many occasions, thinking about how we can stand in solidarity with our global brothers and sisters around the world and how we can work for the common good of all, so as to make the world a fairer and happier place. We began by dressing as a fruit or vegetable to raise funds for CAFOD's campaign to support children affected by the world food crisis, before raising money to support the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. The children then celebrated Kindness and Anti-bullying week, thinking about how kindness is contagious and why we should celebrate and welcome diversity and difference. We have celebrated several class and whole school liturgies and have begun the season of Advent and preparation for the coming of our Saviour.

God Bless Mrs Mitchener

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - LOVING

(13th November – 12th 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

Children Who Suffer

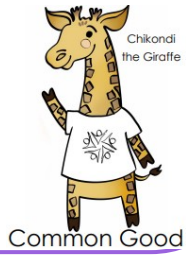
We pray for children who are suffering, especially those who are homeless, orphans, and victims of war; may they be guaranteed access to education and the opportunity to experience family affection.

Catholic Social Teaching at St Chad's

St Chad's want all staff and pupils to follow Jesus' example of ensuring that quieter voices are heard, so that a better world is achieved together; where each and every one of us, including our mother earth, may flourish. Therefore we teach to respect the rights and responsibilities of all people, leaving no one behind.

Key Statement

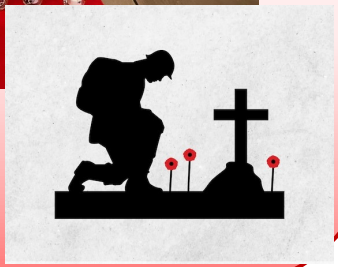
Our actions have an impact on everyone. We are called to work for the good of each and of all.



Remembrance Day

On Friday 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. Each class made a wreath and brought it up in assembly, to represent Commonwealth Nations, who fought in WW I and WWII.

The school held a two minute silence at 11:00 to remember those killed and affected by war and conflict. The children stood perfectly, demonstrating both respect and compassion for others.



We though also of those countries experiencing war today and prayed for a quick and peaceful resolution to all conflict.

Poppy Cupake Sale

The children at St Chad's have been learning about the principles of Catholic Social Teaching and have been thinking about how they can put their faith into action to help others. Year 6 decided to continue the tradition of selling Poppy Cupcakes, as a way of raising funds to support the Royal British Legion. They recognised that this is important, because it is part of all our missions to carry out and continue the work of Jesus Christ, to help to build a world of justice, solidarity and love.

Together Year 6 raised £225.00, to support those who need our help.

The Catholic Social Teaching animal used to represent this principle is Shristi the Sun Bear, who reminds us that we are all called to help our brothers and sisters , throughout the world.

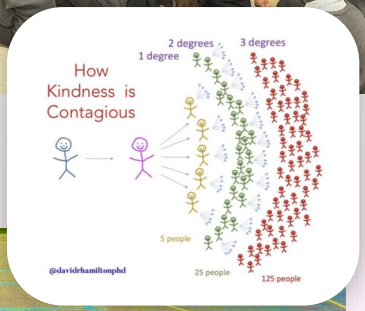
Key Statement

God created us as one global family called to support our brothers and sisters.

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.

Kindness Week

To begin our Kindness and Anti-bullying Week, the whole school enjoyed being part of live virtual assembly on Monday 14th November, to celebrate World Kindness day. They enjoyed listening to why kindness is so important and could not wait to get back to class to fill out the 'Reaching Out' cards, so that they could tell others how amazing they are.



Year 5 and 6 recreated the diagram to show how kindness is contagious and how it is spread out to others, growing ever greater.

Year 1 then made some fantastic kindness rainbows, to say how they can be kind.

On Tuesday, we celebrated our diversity and love of difference by wearing odd socks to school.

Christ the King Liturgy

St James's Class led us in a inspiring Liturgy to celebrate the feast of Christ the King on Monday 21st November. The children reminded the school of the importance of Jesus, as the king of our hearts and how we are called to service in His name. The children were asked to consider how they love others, as Jesus did and how they live their 'mission' daily.

Judaism

As part of the RE curriculum, twice a year the children study another world religion. The children are encouraged to: Look, Discover and Respect - other religions, as well as drawing comparisons with the Catholic faith. As part of Judaism Week, Year 5 invited a Jewish guest speaker, David into school to talk to them about the Jewish faith and Judaism. While year 6 focused on the Jewish holy days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Year 6 particularly enjoyed eating the apples dipped in honey, which represent a sweet new year at Rosh Hashanah!

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 will our lives and the liturgical season of Advent, when we wait in hope for the coming of our Messiah.

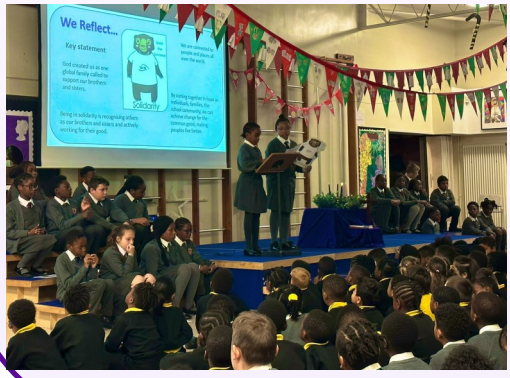
The Christian hope is hope in God, in Jesus Christ. It is to know that God is faithful, that He will complete what He has begun. It is also, therefore, a confidence and trust, which waits patiently for God's purposes to be fulfilled.

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.

Advent Liturgy

St Therese Class led the Advent Liturgy, reminding the school about the importance of this time of preparation. They focused on how we can prepare our heart for the coming of Jesus. They linked the season with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of solidarity and asked that at the end of the Liturgy all the staff and children make a Christmas card to be given to older or lonely parishioners in St Chad's parish, as well as in several Old people Homes in the area. Year 6 wanted all people to feel God's love this Advent Season and to know that they are valued and loved equally.



Christmas Displays

Our Christmas decorations this year are based on the beautiful 2022 postage stamps by the Royal Mail. They feature the account of the nativity and illustrate each part of this well known Bible story. You can compare them to the original artwork on the stamps below.

Year 5

Year 1

Nursery & Reception

"When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy; and going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh."

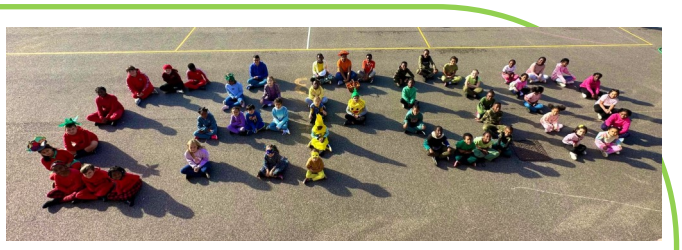
Matthew 2:10

Year 2

Year 6

Year 3 and 4

CAFOD Club



CAFOD Club led the school in our assembly to celebrate our 'Brighten Up' Day, in support of CAFOD and their Harvest appeal. The children looked fantastic and the staff made a brilliant effort to! The children reminded us that around the world, one in three people have gone hungry in the last year, and that we can all help to brighten up the world by fundraising for the CAFOD World Food Crisis appeal and supporting our global family. We joined then National Assembly and learnt about how our donation will reach those most in need and help them to support themselves.

CAFOD
Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

We were pleased to receive several replies to our tweets, including one from the Director of CAFOD - Christine Allen Dench.

St Chad's Catholic Primary School Retweeted
Christine Allen Dench
@CDenchN21

Replying to @StChads_Croydon @CAFOD and @CAFODSchools

Love this!! Well done to @StChads_Croydon Brilliant way to educate about healthy eating too.

St Chad's Catholic Primary School Retweeted
CAFOD Schools
@CAFODSchools

Replying to @StChads_Croydon @CAFOD and @CAFODSouthwark

Thank you Mrs Gallagher and the CAFOD club for putting your faith into action and supporting our global family.

CAFOD in Southwark
@CAFODSouthwark

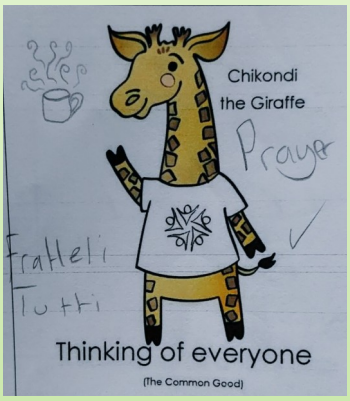
Replying to @CAFODSchools @StChads_Croydon and @CAFOD

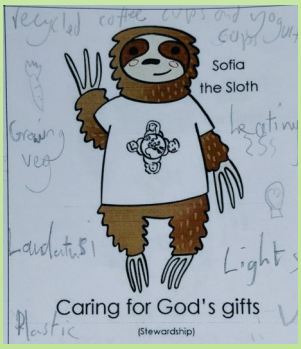
Thank you to @StChads_Croydon's amazing CAFOD club for standing in solidarity with our brothers and sisters affected by the food crisis🎉👏

A fantastic well done and thank you to the CAFOD Club and Mrs Gallagher, who have raised almost £400.00 to help our global brothers and sisters.

CAFOD Club

As part of our continued support for CAFOD, our CAFOD Club children were invited to Oscar Romero House - the Head office. They spend the day, learning about how the money raised by the children of St Chad's is spend and how CAFOD is working hard to be environmentally friendly, so as to protect God's wonderful creation. They met with Beth Friery and went on a CST treasure hunt around the building. They learnt more about CAFOD's international work, the life of Oscar Romero and how to put Catholic Social Teaching into practice.





Macmillan

A massive thank you to all the parents, carers and staff, who attended the Macmillan Coffee morning. We have received our final total of £390.85, which is a fantastic achievement.

A particular well done to Mrs Davern, for organising the event and running it so brilliantly. Thank you!

Parish News

The Christmas Fayre was a great success. Many thanks for everyone who donated their time to organise this wonderful event or who gave up time to run a stall. The total raised has not yet, been announced, but I will let you know in the near future.

It was a lovely opportunity for the Church and school community to come together at this important liturgical season.

Advent Reconciliation Service

Our Advent Reconciliation Service/ Confessions comes up on Friday the 16th of December from 6:30pm to 8pm in the Church. Many priests have expressed interest to come to hear confessions in St Chad's for our parishioners. What better way to prepare for the birth of Christ at Christmas than the spiritual Preparation? Please mark it in your diaries and let's utilize this opportunity to prepare well.

Fr Ambrose

CAFOD Nativity Fun Run!

CAFOD Nativity Fun Run—Saturday 10th December 2022 at Clapham Common—CAFOD invites everyone in Southwark to dress up, get festive and come along to join the fun in running or walking 5km with a difference at Clapham Common. It's more than exercise, with activities, music and refreshments to enjoy! Entry is £10 for adults, £5 for children and £20 for a family. If you would like to fundraise for CAFOD's Nativity Fun Run, you can click here or visit http://bit.ly/ CAFODJustGivingPage, or create a page as part of your registration.