



18th December 2020

## Worship and Liturgy – 4th Sunday of Advent



The fourth advent candle will be lit this Sunday before the final white candle is lit on Christmas Day. In this Sunday's Gospel we have the story of the Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary. It is such a shame

that we did not see angels and shepherds galore in school this year, fingers crossed for next year.

**Witnesses of Christ – this half term we ask the children to be witnesses of Christ** by sharing things equally, praying for solutions to inequality, feeling grateful for what we have.



## Covid Update

I thought I would repeat the guidance on the situation if there is a positive test, for pupils or staff members, following symptoms developed within 48 hours of attending school.

*"For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school, (ie before 3.30pm on Sunday 20th) contact the school either on the school mobile number 07422938855 or email to [giilb@st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:giilb@st-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk). The school will need to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school."*

*"Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours since being in school**, (later than 3.30pm on Sunday) the school **should not be contacted**. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace."*

Please continue to be vigilant over Covid safety measures. One person's infection could ruin Christmas for a whole class who could be asked to self-isolate. If you do need to inform me of a positive case please entitle the email **Positive Covid Case** and it will get my attention as I won't be opening all of the multitudes of other emails I am likely to get during the Christmas holidays. I will stop monitoring emails at 3.30pm on Christmas Eve.

## Career Opportunity

We have been asked to make parents aware of this opportunity.

STEM Returners programme for returning STEM professionals with Babcock in Plymouth.



Have you taken a career break from an engineering, scientific or technical sector and wish to return? Are you working below your experience in a different sector? Do you have an engineering, science or technical degree that you aren't using? Do you just wish to transfer sectors but don't have any experience? If so this could be the opportunity for you! After running 2 previous returner programmes where 100% of returners were offered permanent roles with Babcock in

Devonport dockyard, we are currently sourcing candidates for their brand new programme starting in April 2021, a 13 week, fully paid and supported return to work programme. All candidates will also have the opportunity to obtain a permanent role at the end of the programme. No career break is too long, register to return to STEM today! For more information please visit [www.stemreturners.com](http://www.stemreturners.com) or email [hello@stemreturners.com](mailto:hello@stemreturners.com). More information on the programme is also available here:

[Babcock Stem Returners](http://www.stemreturners.com)

## Christmas Dinner / Mufti Day

We had a lovely day yesterday. It was great to see so many smiling faces and such a range of Christmas wear. The Christmas dinner prepared by Mr Storey and his team was exceedingly tasty so a great big thank you to the catering team.



## Celebrations this week

| Whole School Attendance<br>95%   | Top Class Attendance<br>Foundation 99% |
|--|--|
| <b>Crew Member of the Term for Progress</b>  |  |
| 1 Grace- Captain Cain for making amazing progress in reading.<br>2 Isabella – Sailor Sam for progress in reading and writing.<br>3 Gabriel- Captain Cain for making amazing progress in Maths<br>4 Ella E – Sailor Sam for progress in reading.<br>5 Alexis – Captain Cane for fantastic progress in all areas!<br>6. Sinitta – Sailor Sam pursuit of high attainment! |  |
| <b>Witness of Compassion</b>   |  |
| 1 The Whole Class !!<br>2 Olivia, Kristina, Skye<br>3 David<br>4 Maja, Josie, Junior<br>5 Thushalan, Charlie and Giulio<br>6 Josh/Roxana   |  |



Whole school attendance since September – 96.3%  
Foundation 97.6%, C1 97.5%, C2 97.1%, C3 93.9%, C4 96.6%,  
C5 96.6%, C6 94.8%

## New Security Arrangements

After a review of our safety measures we have decided to make some changes that will make the children staying for after school clubs, and staff who work after school hours, safer. The vehicle and pedestrian gates will be relocked after parents and children leave the school around 3.30pm. They will remain locked apart from when people are leaving the site. If parents are collecting a child at 4.30pm, after a school club, they can wait outside either the main Chapel St gate or the side Raglan Rd gate and children will be delivered to you there. Please let your child know which gate you will collect them from and please collect them on time.





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## NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe

Early in the new year we will be sharing a slideshow produced by the NSPCC with the children. A summary of the information that will be shared with the children can be seen in the link below.



[NSPCC course content](#)



## Reading Challenge

### Winter Mini Challenge: Everyone is a Hero!

Children can take part in a mini reading challenge from The Reading Agency this winter. It runs throughout December and finishes on Friday 15 January. This year the Winter Mini Challenge is all about discovering heroes big and small, by reading brilliant books! For more information and instructions on how to join, please use this link.

[Reading Agency](#)



## Parent Support Adviser

Lots of families have reasons to be very grateful to our new Parent Support Adviser Susy Putnam. In her short time with us Susy has managed to provide a lot of practical support for many families. All of the families eligible for free school meals received the 'Marcus Rashford' winter grant vouchers however, thanks to Susy's intervention, a number of other families who do not qualify FSM were also given the £30 vouchers this week. About fifteen families were given food parcels last week from Devonport Baptist Church and they will get another hamper in January. A large number of families also benefited from a Christmas goodie bag donated by the Salvation Army. Susy co-ordinated all of these projects. I know many families have expressed their gratitude to Susy who has certainly hit the ground running since her recent appointment.

# Thank you!

The staff of St Joseph's want to thank you for your fantastic support of our Covid restrictions. We are proud that we have had no positive Covid cases in the school population and the parents and families have been a large part in helping that to be the case.

## Christmas Carols and Readings

The children had been working hard over the last two weeks learning new carols, readings and dances! We have missed the opportunity to invite you all into school to share in the Joy of the Advent and Christmas season. We hope you enjoy our 'Alternative Christmas Carol Service'. Please click the link to download;( It is full of beautiful singing and reading so may take a while to download.)



[St Joseph's Carol Service.](#)



It just remains to wish all of the St Joseph's family a very merry Christmas. I believe that Santa has been given permission to pop into every bubble in the country. When enjoying the excitement of presents please do remember the real reason why we are celebrating. We are marking the day that God the Father gave His Son to the world.

