



4th December 2020

Worship and Liturgy – 2nd Sunday of Advent



In this Sunday's Gospel John the Baptist prepares the way for the coming of Jesus. He tells his own devoted followers, "Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am,

and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals."

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

We mentioned the Catholic Children's Society last week. One of the services they offer is the Patchwork parenting programme. They have devised a survey to look at the feelings of parents in response to the pandemic and what they at Patchwork can offer in terms of support. The link to the survey is

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/QVFB3V2>.

Cards

This news may make me seem like The Grinch but due to Covid safety measures we have decided that we will not be able to allow



Christmas cards to be brought in or sent home this year. The children will get the chance to make a card in school for their classmates. This may be a real card or a self designed e-card. Staff will also not be able to accept gifts from children this year or to give out little treats as many have done for many years. We are suggesting that money that would have been spent on cards and presents could be given to one of the charities we have publicised recently, or one of your own choice. One good choice could be [Mary's meals](#) as every pound given to them is doubled by UK Aid. Mary's meals provide school meals in countries where it is difficult for children to go to school. The promise of a meal at school has the double benefit of feeding needy children and allowing them to access education which is key to breaking the cycle of poverty.

Christmas Dinner / Muffi Day

It has been lovely to walk around the school this week and hear children singing Christmas Carols. We will record each class singing and make it available to you. On the 17th



December we will do our best to celebrate Christmas in school with the children. You should have had a text message about ordering Christmas lunch for that day. The children can wear Christmas clothing into school on the 17th. Unfortunately we will not be able to gather together for our traditional Talent Show but fun activities will be taking place in each bubble (or maybe they should be baubles for that day).



PGL

After their September trip was cancelled we had rebooked the year 6 trip to PGL for March but that too has been cancelled. Fortunately we have been able to rebook again for the week beginning 14th June. To go at that time of year would normally cost £139 per child more than the price in September but fortunately we have been able to make this booking at NO EXTRA COST. Fingers crossed that we will be closer to 'normal' by June and the trip will eventually go ahead. If parents could restart making payments towards the trip we will know that we can finance the trip when we get the go ahead. No money will be sent to PGL until we get that go ahead so your money will be safe if the trip is cancelled. However if there is not enough money in the bank to make the payment (in March) we will have to cancel the trip ourselves.

DELT Half Marathon

Traditionally children have been able to run a mile on the Hoe on the same day as the Plymouth Half Marathon after completing 12 miles while at school. This will not happen in 2021 but the half marathon challenge will still go ahead with all of the miles being completed in school. You can register for the event at [runplymouth](#). Entry costs £8 and each runner who completes their 13miles will get a medal and a drinks bottle. The closing date for entries is Feb 7th. We will allow all children to run the distance in school but only those who officially enter through runplymouth will get a medal and a drink bottle.



Military Kids Club (MKC) Heroes

MKC Heroes have asked us to publicise their Real Stories project. 'Real Stories' is a new online gallery of images submitted by military-connected families to reflect family life today. We're inviting members of the UK Armed Forces Community

(anybody who is related or in a partnership with somebody who is serving or has served in the Armed Forces) to submit an image and take part in the virtual exhibition.

Details can be found here:

<https://kcmhr.org/real-stories/>

We hope this virtual gallery will be educational and informative, to help raise awareness and understanding within the public perception of the Armed Forces community. There's also an opportunity to include a written contribution to go alongside your submission about what the image represents or means to you, which will be presented in our Reflections booklet (these comments can remain anonymous if you wish).





4th December 2020

(These aren't our children)

Celebrations this week

Whole School Attendance 95.7%	Top Class Attendance Class Foundation & 4 97.8%
Crew Member of the Week	
1 Isaac- Admiral Anne writing really creative ideas in English 2 Isabella - Lieutenant Louise reflective learning in English and Reading 3 Stas. Captain Cain excellent effort in learning about Money 4 Connie - Commander Kim for excellent methodical problem solving 5 Imogen and Anthony - Commodore Chris for excellent teamwork 6. Harry - Admiral Anne for excellent persuasive writing	
Witness of Humility	
 1 Marina, Martyna, Ayla, Alivia. 2 Max P 3 Lena S 4 Mollie, Marlee and Lamara 5 Drake and Olivia Cheadle 6 Josh	

Agents for Change - Hearts for Homes

The younger children are attempting to make Christmas better for people who will really be missing out on the traditional family Christmas this year. That is Care residents and their carers. My mum spent the last years of her life in a care home but she was able to spend Christmas with one of her sons each year. That will not be the case for care residents this year. The Foundation Stage children, and those in classes 1 & 2, are joining in with a national project [Hearts for Homes](#) which aims to spread a little Christmas cheer to those who will miss out so badly this year.



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First Holy Communion

Saturday 12th December will be a special day in the lives of some of our children. They will be making their First Holy Communion in St Joseph's Church on that day. Theirs has probably been the longest ever period of preparation for this sacrament. Unfortunately only family will be able to join the children at Mass on this special day but please do include them in your prayers.



Agents for Change - Road Safety

One goal Ofsted sets for schools is "to develop children as responsible, respectful and active citizens." This matches our



Mission Statement aim

'To develop self esteem through making a positive contribution to family life and the lives of the school, parish, local and wider global community. Feel good about helping others'

Each term this year we will spend a day dedicated to making things better. On Thursday 10th Key Stage 2 children will be trying to ensure that our children are safer when crossing roads near our school. Aims that they hope to achieve are

- Children know how to cross roads safely
- Parents and residents know not to park on zig zag lines
- Fewer car journeys
- Better signage informing drivers that a school is nearby



Christmas Riddles

- Q: What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents of new born babies?
 Q: What do you get when you eat Christmas decorations?
 Q: What do you call a Christmas jumper in Spain ?
 Q: What do you call a Duck on the 25th December ?
 Q: Why is this the Christmas alphabet ?
 ABCDEFGHIJKMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ