

Dear Parents and Carers

I continue to be astounded by the amazing generosity of our school community. Thank you so much for contributing in so many ways.

We have had a great week with the first of our Christmas performances by our Reception and Nursery children.

In worship this week we have been looking at different people in the Bible who were waiting for that first Christmas – Isaiah, John the Baptist, Simeon and Mary. We have been saying this prayer together, which you may wish to use at home too:

Lord God,
We thank you for the excitement of starting to get ready for Christmas.
In all of our Advent preparations, stir up our hearts,
and help us to be more ready to show the Fruit of the Spirit,
and to enrich the lives of others
and make a better world.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen

A Message from our Growing Together in Spirit Team

The Growing Together in Spirit Team have had a wonderful experience helping to collect and store the toys that have been so generously donated to the HOTS Christmas present drive. The children were delighted to see such a huge pile of presents and we spent time celebrating the fact that no local child should be without a present on Christmas morning, whatever their circumstances. We talked about how one person can make a difference but when many people come together they can make a significant difference. We often talk about the concepts of giving and charity, so to see those words in action was a powerful message for us all. Thank you especially to Amber who helped every day this week ferrying bags to the office and to the whole team for helping whenever they were able to. The children wanted me to pass on their thanks to all of you for your generosity and thoughtfulness.

Our other Christmas project was to design and make our own Christmas cards. Each one has been carefully drawn and coloured by one of the children and we will send them on behalf of the whole school community to St. George's Hospital, local emergency and utility services, our neighbouring cluster schools, and members of our school community including absent or recently retired staff and their families. Our message is simple. Once you are a part of the Holy Trinity Family you are always in our hearts and our thoughts and we are thankful for you all. On behalf of our fabulous junior team, Miss Panners and I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

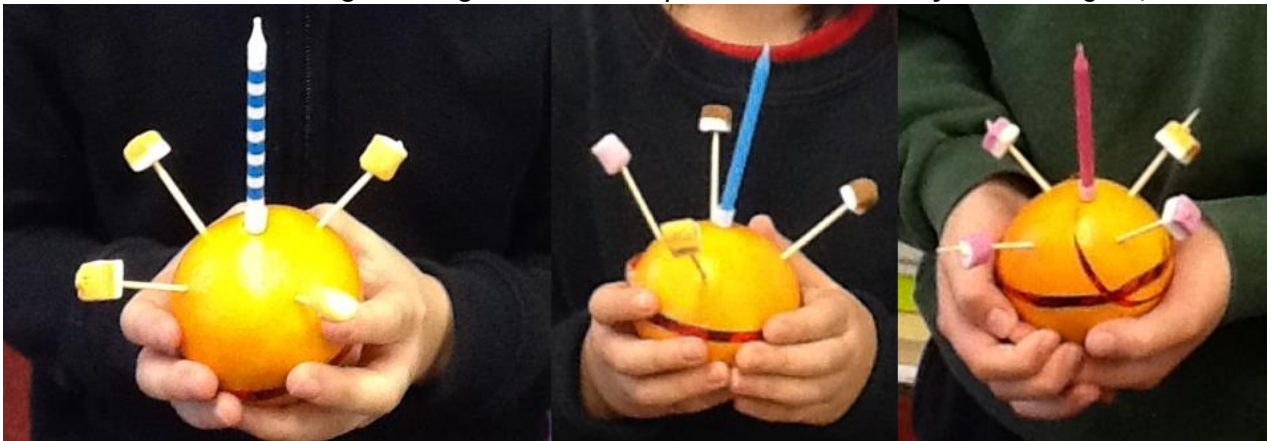




Year 1 wrote letters to Santa, and went to the post box to post them.



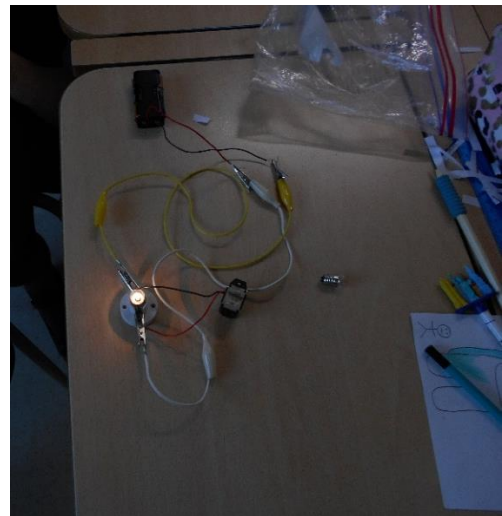
Year 2 had a lot of fun making Christingles this week as part of our RE unit on *Jesus is the Light of the World!*



Year 6 enjoying their 'Hour of Code' for Computer Science Week. They participated in The Hour of Code by completing Coding activities online and creating their own algorithms for dances.



Year 6 had great fun this week in their Science days focusing on electricity.



Parent Governor Election

I am so grateful for the parents who were willing to stand for election as parent governor. The election ended today and I'm pleased to announce that Shipra Gupta has been elected as Parent Governor.

End of Term Arrangements

You may have heard in the news that the Government/DfE have said that schools might want to consider having Friday 18th December as an INSET day (and make the day up another time). The reason for their suggestion is that school leaders are being asked to be 'on call/available' for 6 days after the last day of term, in case a pupil or staff member tests positive for COVID and others have to be contacted to self-isolate. The DfE did not want school leaders to have to be available on Christmas Eve, hence the suggestion of the INSET day on the 18th Dec!

I wanted to confirm that we will be sticking to our original term dates, **and term will end on Friday 18th December as planned.**

Each year group will finish an hour earlier on that day, and children will be dismissed from their usual places:

Nursery - 2.00-2.30pm

Reception - 2.00pm

Year 1 - 2.05pm

Year 2 & 3 – 2.10pm

Year 4 – 2.15pm

Year 5 – 2.20pm

Year 6 – 2.25pm

Christmas Lunches

Chartwells, our catering company, will be cooking a delicious Christmas lunch on **Tuesday 15th December** for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and **Thursday 17th December** for children in Years 3, 4, 5, 6. Children are very welcome to bring a Christmas hat to wear whilst they eat their Christmas lunch.

Please note that on 15th December all children in KS2 will need to bring in a packed lunch, and children in Reception and KS1 will need a packed lunch on 17th December.

Christmas Jumper day

It has been wonderful seeing the children in their Christmas jumpers. If you would still like to make a donation to Save the Children Fund, follow this link <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/cjd200003184>

Covid Christmas Carols

On Thursday 17th December at 6pm, HOTS are hosting our Covid Christmas Carols event. The whole school all singing together on zoom - what could possibly go wrong!?! **It is free to join**; we just ask that you register on the HOTS website. Anyone who registers by midnight on Monday 14th will receive a family Christmas gift bag. Please register here: www.pta-events.co.uk/hots

Festive Face Masks

Festive Face Masks are here! Made by school parents and available in various sizes and patterns, they look good and do good (all proceeds go to HOTS.) [Pick one up here.](#) Last orders by midnight on Monday.

Christmas chat and coffee

Sunday will mark the start of Advent. This year the parent prayer group wanted to do something a bit different, so we are planning a series of 4 coffee mornings over the period of Advent to look at and talk about 4 key themes of Advent: Peace, Hope, Joy and Love. If you are interested we will be meeting each Friday morning at 9.15 - 10.15am over Zoom with a cup of coffee (and if you've got one, a mince pie), for some reflections and discussion. Whether you would consider yourself a believer or not, you are really welcome to share in some seasonal joy and tradition with us at this time of year

Meeting ID: 899 8542 2522

Passcode: 618287

Families in need

As a school community, we would like to support any families for whom Christmas will be difficult this year. If you need financial support, or you know a family in need, please email me confidentially on headteacher@holyltrinity.merton.sch.uk

Might you be eligible for Free School Meals and extra funding for school?

To make the application process easier school can now check eligibility on your behalf. All you need to do is email your name and National Insurance number to sbm@holyltrinity.merton.sch.uk giving your consent, and we can check your eligibility and let you know.

Merton Admission Arrangements Consultation

Merton are consulting on the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools for the 2022/23 academic year. The consultation period commences on **9 December 2020 and closes on 29 January 2021**. The consultation is available via our website on the following page

<https://www.merton.gov.uk/Pages/Education-and-learning/Admission-Arrangements-2022-2023.aspx>

The key changes in the admissions arrangements are:

- Reduce the PAN for West Wimbledon Primary School from 60 to 30
- The sibling definition for secondary applications has been amended
- The wording for the RR6 Sixth Form Policy has been updated for clarification

If you want to give your views, please submit your response during the consultation period which ends on **29 January 2021**. Anyone wishing to submit their views should either email admissions@merton.gov.uk marked for my attention or write to:

Paul Stemp, Admissions Manager, School Admissions, Merton Civic Centre, Morden, Surrey, SM4 5DX

Harris Academy Morden are also consulting on their admissions' arrangements for 2022/2023. Full details can also be found on the school website - <https://www.harrismorden.org.uk/1307/admissions-consultation?preview>
The consultation will run from 10 December 2020 until 28 January 2021.

Any comments should be made to the school directly via Mrs Mandy Francis at m.francis@harrismorden.org.uk

Lockdown Lego Competition

Thank you to everyone who entered our Lego competition last week. The winner was Nora.

Our Lockdown Lego competition is entering its final week! To celebrate **we are inviting parents to join in too!**

The theme is '**Santa's Ultimate Sleigh**' please email your entry to hotsemail@gmail.com by midnight on

Wednesday. If you have not already done so, [you can buy your £2 entry ticket here](#). The winner takes home a new Lego set. Good luck everyone!



Holy Trinity Church Scavenger Hunt

Holy Trinity Church are organising a Christmas Scavenger Hunt to take place between the 4th and 14th December. Follow the clues to find the answers and crack the code to enter into the prize draws. More information on the attached flyer or at <http://bit.ly/ht-hunt>

Attached items/links

- Holy Trinity Church Scavenger Hunt
- Holy Trinity Church Christmas Leaflet
- Digital Newsletter
- Child Anxiety Workbook

The Governors agreed the following Term Dates for 2021-2022

Autumn Term 2021

- First day: Wednesday 1 September 2021
(INSETs Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd so children back Friday 3rd)
- Last day: Friday 17 December 2021
- Half term: Monday 25 October to Friday 29 October 2021

Spring Term 2022

- First day: Tuesday 4 January 2022
(INSET Tuesday 4th so children back Wednesday 5th)
- Last day: Friday 1 April 2022
- Half term: Monday 14 February to Friday 18 February 2022

Summer Term 2022

- First day: Tuesday 19 April 2022
- Last day: Friday 22 July 2022

- Half term: Monday 30 May to Friday 3 June 2022
(INSETs Monday 6th June and Friday 22nd July, so children end Thursday 21st July)

Key Dates for 2020-2021

Autumn Term 2020

Thursday 3rd September - Fri 18th December 2020

*NB Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September INSET days so **children start on Monday 7th September***

Half term Monday 26th October – Friday 30th October 2020

Spring Term 2021

Monday 4th January – Thursday 1st April 2021

*NB Monday 4th January 2021 INSET day so **children start on Tuesday 5th January 2021***

Half term Monday 15th February to Friday 19th February 2021

Summer Term 2021

Monday 19th April – Friday 23rd July 2021

NB Monday 7th June and Friday 23rd July INSET days

Term ends for children on 22nd July 2021

Half term Monday 31st May – Friday 4th June 2021

As further dates are added, these will be highlighted.

Date	Time	Event
15 th December	Lunchtime	Christmas lunch for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 (packed lunch for Years 3-6)
17 th December	Lunchtime	Christmas lunch for Years 3-6 (packed lunch for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2)
18 th December	Staggered ends See above for timings	Break up from 2.00pm
4 th January 2021		INSET Day
5 th January		Children start back

I hope you all have a good weekend.

Izzy Rickards