



Chaplaincy Team Newsletter Autumn

It has been a busy term for the Chaplaincy Team who are made up of Year 6 Liturgy leaders and Years 1-6 Followers. We started the school year with our St Michael's Feast Day Mass with Father Sidon.

We wanted to share with you why St Michael is important to us.

St Michael is important to us because.....

- He protects us
- He guides us
- We can pray to him
- We know he is always with us.



Travelling Rosary – October

During October, for the Month of the Rosary each class had a bag with how to pray the Rosary, rosary beads and a candle in. We took it home and prayed the Rosary with our family.

It was time to reflect and be calm and to think about Mary and Jesus.

One of the children was very excited that he had received the Travelling Rosary and couldn't wait to show his family the prayer bag with the Rosary beads and prayer card inside.

We chose to say our prayers before bedtime and really enjoyed carefully holding the beads. It was a lovely, calm way for us to spend some quiet and quality time together. He was proud to take part in this special experience.'



Harvest Festival - October

4B led a special Celebration of the Word for their parents and carers all about Harvest Festival. Harvest Festival is when we give thanks to God for the food he has given us. We are also reminded to take care of God's creation and to share with others.

We know that Jesus' teaches us to take care of others in the Bible. This is one way in which we think about the Catholic Social Teaching Principle Option for the Poor.

Thank you for your generous donations of food to Manna Food Bank. The Liturgy Leaders and Followers helped pack up all the items. We know that this food will go a long way to help others in our community.



Remembrance Day – November

On Tuesday 11th November we gathered together as a whole school to remember those who have died fighting in war. The Liturgy Leaders and Followers led the school in a reflective liturgy.

At 11 o'clock we marked a 2- minute silence. It was peaceful and sombre. We also prayed for peace around our world.

Year 1 made poppies to decorate our prayer space.

Lest we forget

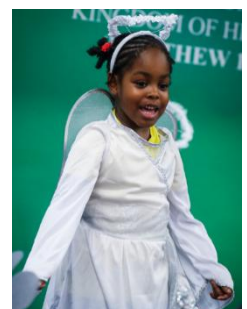


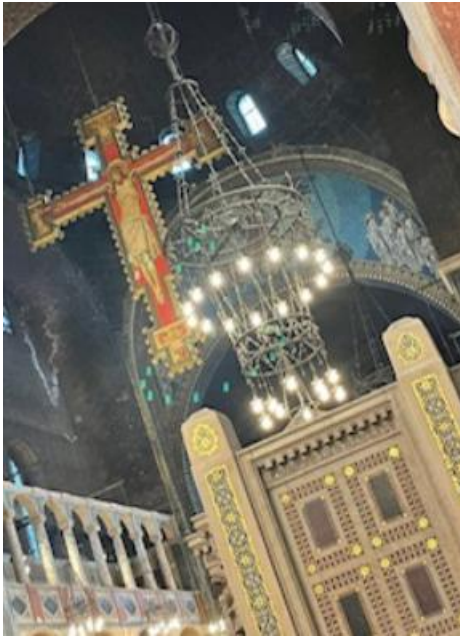
Advent

Travelling Nativity

Nursery, Reception and Year 1 have been able to take home a Travelling Nativity bag during Advent. We have had the opportunity to share the Christmas story with our families.

EYFS and KS1 have also retold this very important Nativity story to their parents and carers. They were very excited to share that baby Jesus had been born.





The Liturgy leaders journeyed to Westminster Cathedral on the mini-bus for the annual Advent Service. For some of us it was the first time we had been to the Cathedral. We celebrated the story of the Nativity with fellow schools from the Diocese.

Angel Penelope and Angel Gabriel told us the Nativity story. We sang carols and heard from Bishop Curry about the importance of thinking of others this Christmas.

We supported the Catholic Children's Society by donating £50 from our school community.

One of our favourite parts was meeting the real-life animals.



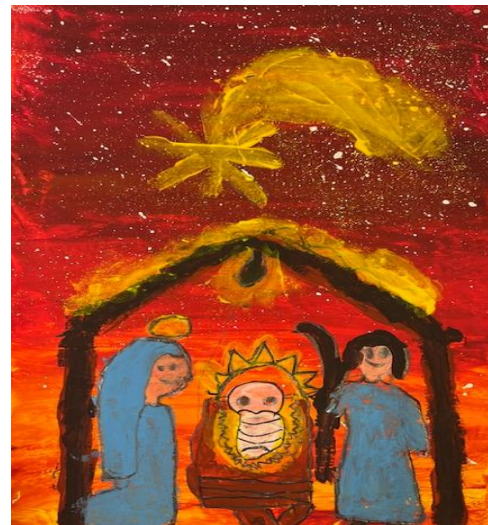
The whole school had an opportunity to enter the Diocesan Christmas Card competition. The theme was: Our Hope is in the Child of Bethlehem

'Hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts.' (Romans 5:5)

Congratulations to all the children on their beautiful and thoughtful artworks. Here are the finalists who each received a certificate for their design.



EYFS Finalist



KS1 Finalist



Lower KS2
Finalist



Upper KS2
Finalist



At the Christmas Fayre, the big teddy tombola raised £191 for charity. We gave £50 to the Catholic Children's Society at their Advent Service this week and £141 to Caritas Westminster. Thank you to all the children who took part in the raffle. They all went home happy with cuddly toys of all shapes and sizes and a new best friend.

Mr Lane received a letter of thanks from the Catholic Children's Society.

*Dear Mr Lane,
hope to families facing real hardship this winter.
until they were at a discounted price.
vouchers whilst Sam's mum looked for a new job and home. Sam's mum
said:
pressure and helping me focus on supporting my child. Thank you for your
kindness."
are not alone and that there are people who care and want to help.
vital work and for bringing light and hope to children in need this Christmas.
With thanks and best wishes,
The Catholic Children's Society*



CARITAS NEWS

This term we have learnt about two of the Catholic Social Teaching Principles; Care for Creation and Option for the Poor. Across the school, each year group has thought about what they can do to make a difference to caring for God's world and taking care of the poor.

Our Green Team that is made up of parent's helpers continue to come in to keep our green spaces clean.

Our Eco Team are encouraging the children to take part in the WOW Walk to School Challenge run by Living Streets. It lasts all year and the children have the opportunity to earn special badges for getting to school in a sustainable way that helps the world and our environment. How will you get to school?



We continue to keep our close relationship with Echelforde Care home. Mr Lane and Mrs Porter attended a Captains of Industry Lunch at the care home. The children enjoyed talking to and entertaining the residents. What a wonderful way to show our love in action and participating in our community.

'8 of us went with Mr Lane and Mrs Porter to visit the Echelforde Care Home in Ashford for lunch on Wednesday. We walked there and met 6 elderly ladies who live in the home. We sat and ate lunch with them. We had pizza and delicious ice cream desert. It was interesting to learn about their lives. For example, Jean lived most of her life in Singapore as her father was in the army. We were very entertained with one lady's singing! It was a lovely experience.'

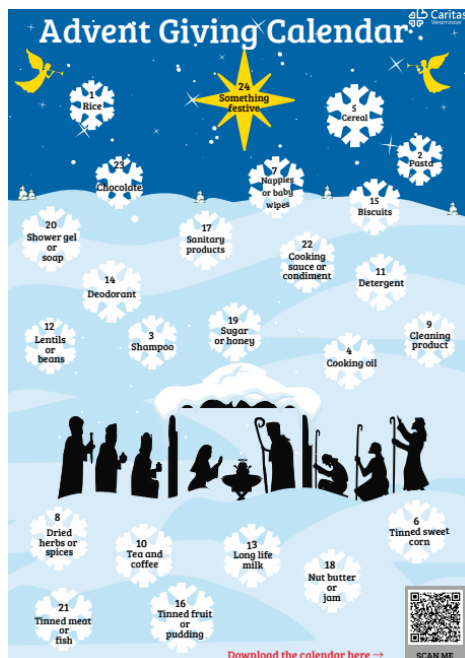


CARITAS Advent Giving Calendar

We asked our school community to support the Caritas **Advent Giving Calendar** this year. We sorted and organised a number of items to be given to Manna Food Bank. We are putting love into action by helping those who are less fortunate than ourselves and loving our neighbours like Jesus asked us to do.

Our Liturgy Leaders and Followers packed up the items and delivered them to Manna Food Bank on the mini-bus to be distributed over the Christmas holidays to those in needs.

Thank you for all your generous and kind donations.



MANNA
foodbank
The Foodbank in Staines Serving Spelthorne



Wishing you all a very Happy and peaceful Christmas!