



St. John's RC Primary School

Inspired by the Holy Spirit and guided by the teaching of Jesus
Love one another, as I have loved you

Newsletter: Issue 12
Friday 1st December 2023

Head's News...

The children have been practising for our Christmas Service and the performances have now begun for the Early Years and Key Stage One performance. So, although life in school is very busy at this time of year, and some staff appear a little frazzled when rehearsals don't quite go to plan, Christmas in school is always magical. I absolutely love hearing the festive songs echoing down corridors matched with the tangible excitement of children trying on costumes, enjoying Christmas crafts and decorating classrooms.

Staff and parents have been busy helping our children learn their lines although practices at times have seemed a little challenging with a few fidgety sheep, some restless kings and a forgetful shepherd! At St John's we provide a positive environment where talents are nurtured and celebrated. Allowing the children to perform on stage can help them to grow in confidence and develop their speaking and listening skills. School productions can provide something special, whether it be being a narrator, playing an instrument, acting, singing, dancing or simply being a back-stage helper. It is a unique experience that is integral to a good quality education and wonderful preparation for future life. For parents and grandparents who have or are yet to join us for all of these wonderful events I'm sure you will feel very proud and uplifted by all the different performances and many of our parents will no doubt be moved by their child's very first school performance. I'm sure there will be tears of joy and laughter as you see the children simply be children at their very best, even if lines are forgotten, the shepherds lose their way and someone drops baby Jesus, we will all love seeing the children perform. I do hope you can come along and enjoy; I can guarantee the school nativity and Christmas carol concert will be a joy to behold!

Attendance

Our overall attendance this week as a school is **96.1%, (we are nearly there!)** our target is a minimum of **97.5%** - please do send children in for every learning opportunity. Our attendance is beginning to dip, every child should be in school for every learning opportunity.

Attendance to 17 th November 2023 (we always report a week behind)			
EYFS	96.5%	Year One	96.4%
Year Two	97%	Year Three	98.7%
Year Four	92.9%	Year Five	96.3%
Year Six	95.7%	Whole School	96.1%

Stars of the Week

Congratulations to the following pupils who received awards this week:

EYFS: Miriam and Ava

Year 1: Heron, Anliya, Nela

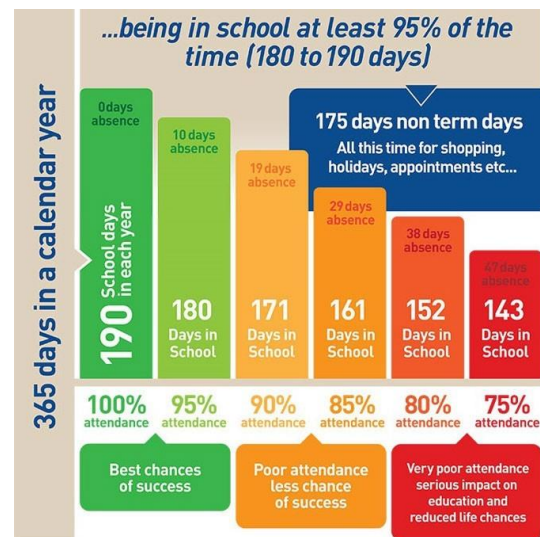
Year 2: Jackson, Zahfyr, Evelyn

Year 3: Ummayah, Sienna, Ryan

Year 4: Zion, Darcey, Rebeka

Year 5: Artur, Olivier, Musa

Year 6: Ilona, Omer, Benjamin



House Points

Earth: 242(2085)

Water: 267(2186)

Air: 269 (2136)

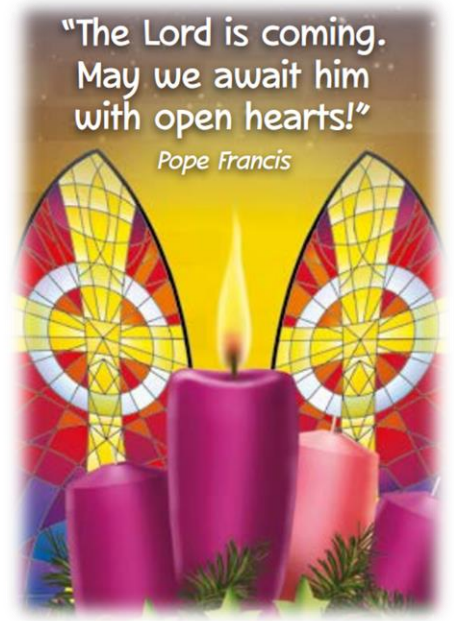
Fire: 201 (2178)

Prayer

This Sunday we begin to celebrate the season of Advent, a time of waiting and prayer. It's a special time to pause and reflect on the real reason and true meaning of Christmas and give thanks to God for the gift of Jesus to the world.

In this Sunday's Gospel, the Master represents Jesus and the servants represent us. The message from the Gospel is very clear: we are to 'stay awake!'.

A little extra daily prayer throughout Advent is a great way to do this – to be alert to Jesus' presence around us. Prayer brings us not only closer to God but also closer to one another.



Birthdays

An important message about birthdays!!!

Children can come into school in non-uniform on their birthday. This is so wonderful as everybody within our school community who sees them will know that it is their special day. If their birthday falls on a weekend, on PE day or within a school holiday the child may come in non-uniform on the Friday before or the Monday afterwards.

This week we celebrate:

No birthdays this week so instead we wish you
all a



Sunday is the beginning of the liturgical new
year.

Safeguarding

If you have concerns that a child may be in immediate danger, call the police on 999 or MASH on 0345 050 7666.

If you have safeguarding concerns about a child or family, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01295 263740 and ask to speak to a member of the safeguarding team. Alternatively, you can email our DSL directly:

office.3350@st-johns-banbury.oxon.sch.uk

Early Years Class News

Early Years have been so busy rehearsing our play in the hall. The children have done an amazing job of learning the words and the songs and when the hall is empty, they are performing with confidence and joy. We will start to add props and costumes next week!





Year One Class News

In Art this term we have been learning about portraits and portrait artists. This week we used our computer skills to 'drag and drop' features onto a face to create funny portraits!

Year Two Class News



Advent is a few sleeps away 😊

Year Two have been busy rehearsing their nativity play with Year One, and signs of the coming of Jesus are showing up around the classroom.

Costumes, tinsel, scripts... it's all go.

In between rehearsing and assessments for the end of term, we found some time to look at the symbolism of the Advent wreath and the meaning of each candle. We have had a fantastic day today with our volunteer's joining us to help with our Advent art activities.

Year Three Class News



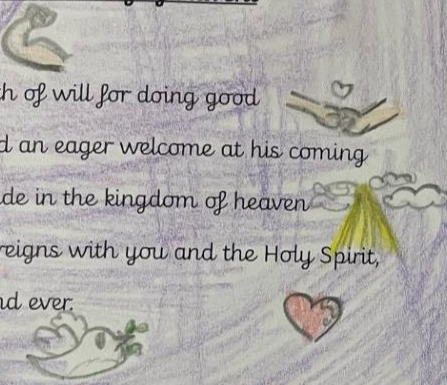
Year Three have been using drama to help understand the actions of a character in their new story 'The Black Hat'. The children loved exploring the emotions and actions of the lonely little boy and the beautiful birds.

Tuesday 28th November 2023

I.O: To know that Advent is the beginning of a new church year and explore the opening prayers

Opening Prayer - 1st Sunday of Advent

All powerful God,
increase our strength of will for doing good
that Christ may find an eager welcome at his coming
and call us to his side in the kingdom of heaven
where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.



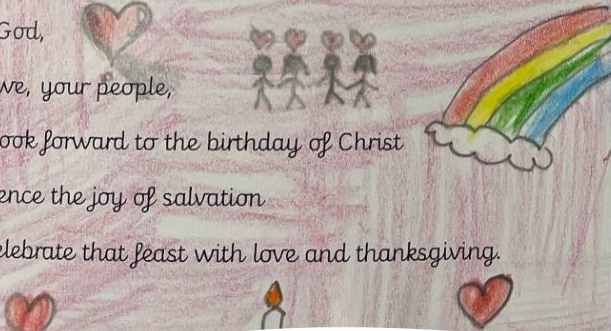
Opening Prayer - 2nd Sunday in Advent

God of power and mercy,
open our hearts in welcome.
Remove the things that hinder us from receiving Christ
with joy,
so that we may share his wisdom
and become one with him
when he comes in glory,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.



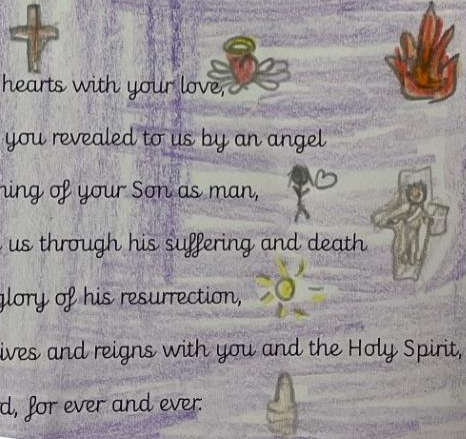
Opening Prayer - 3rd Sunday

Lord God,
may we, your people,
who look forward to the birthday of Christ
experience the joy of salvation
and celebrate that feast with love and thanksgiving.



Opening Prayer - 4th Sunday

Lord,
fill our hearts with your love,
and as you revealed to us by an angel
the coming of your Son as man,
so lead us through his suffering and death
to the glory of his resurrection,
for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.



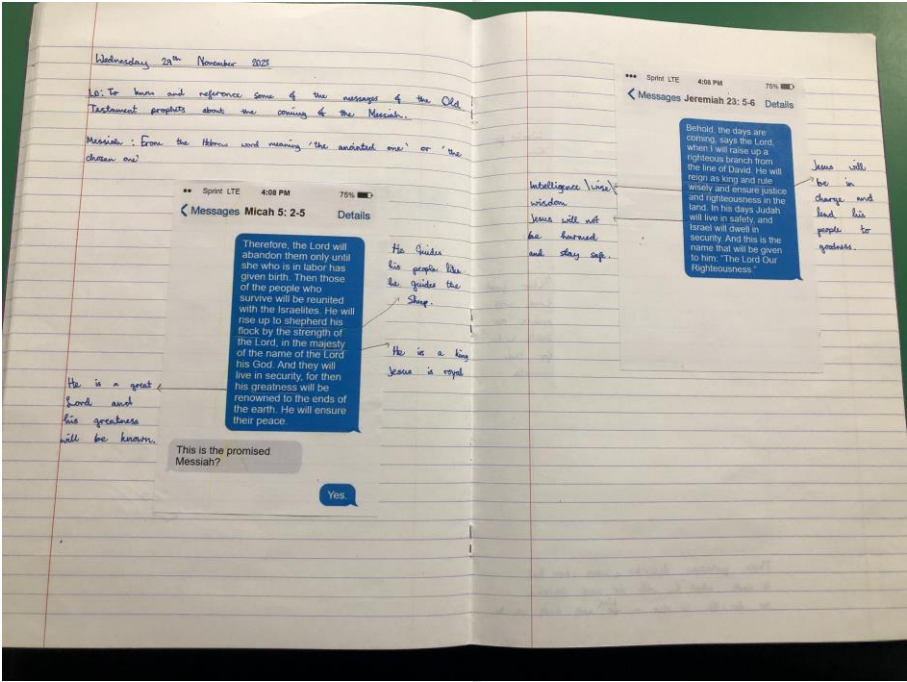
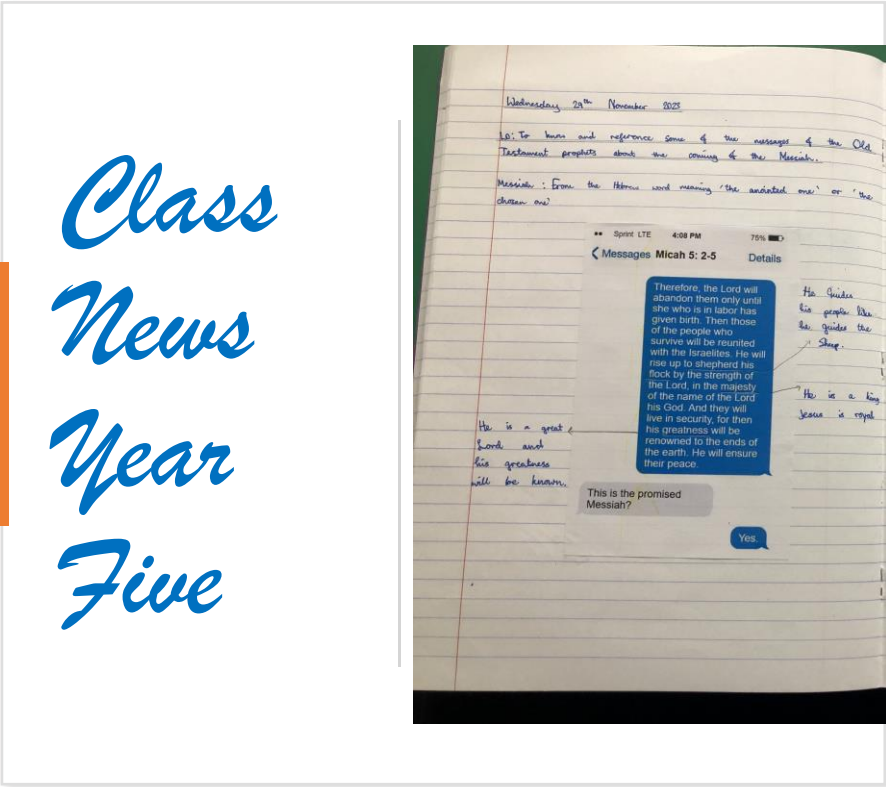
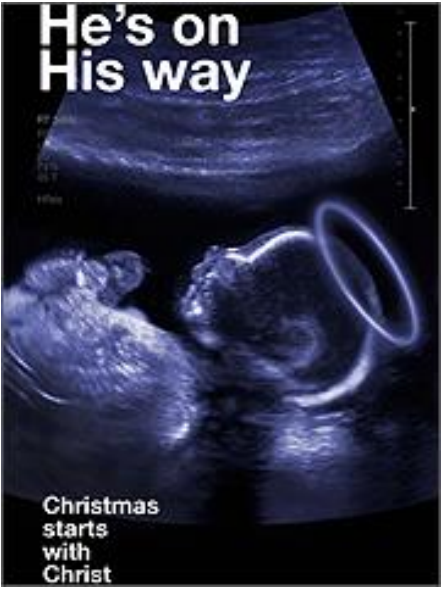
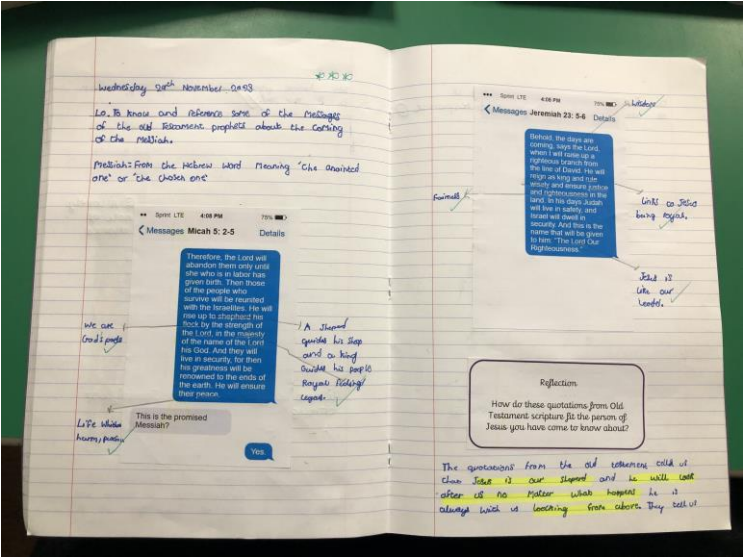
🕯️❤️ Advent Opening Prayers ❤️🕯️

Year
Four
Class
News

Year Four have shared wonderful knowledge of what they know already about Advent. They impressed me with what they have remembered! This week, we have explored the four opening prayers of Advent and discussed what the words mean to us.

❤️ We are very excited to prepare our classroom and for Advent Art Day this week! ★

We have been immersing ourselves in all things Advent in R.E this week. We have learnt that the word ‘Advent’ derives from the Latin word ‘Adventus’ which means coming and so Advent = Coming of Christ. We have been reading the Old Testament, looking at some of the messages sent by the prophets about the coming of our Messiah. We unpicked text messages written by the prophets and unpicked the meaning behind their message. We learnt what the word ‘Messiah’ means. A lot of thought-provoking discussion and wonderful reflections have taken place this week. Well done, Year Five!





Year Six Class News

This week, we welcomed Sharon Girling OBE to Year Six to talk about all things online safety. It was a really impactful session and gave us lots to think about for when we are online, both at school and at home. Please do talk with us at home about what we learnt - staying safe online is everyone's responsibility!

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Key Dates

31 st October 2023	Year Four at Banbury Museum
1 st November 2023	Whole School Mass at 10.45am for All Saints
8 th November 2023	Flu Vaccinations
13 th November 2023	Anti-bullying week
15 th November 2023	Nursery Open Morning
24 th November 2023	Break the Rulz Day
28 th November 2023	Online Safety Parent Meeting
29 th November 2023	Parents Phonics Meeting - Reception
5 th December 2023	Years Three and Five trip to Compton Verney
6 th December 2023	Year Four trip from the Dentist
7th December 2023	***DATE CHANGE *** Movies and Munchies Night
12 th December 2023	9.30am – EYFS Nativity Dress Rehearsal – Grandparents 1.30pm – KS1 Nativity Dress Rehearsal - Grandparents
13 th December 2023	Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
13 th December 2023	9.30am – EYFS Nativity – Parents 6.00pm – KS1 Nativity - Parents
18 th December 2023	6.00pm – Bedtime Reading Story Event
19 th December 2023	6.00pm at St John the Evangelist Catholic Church – KS2 Christmas Carol Concert
20 th December 2023	School Closes for Christmas Holiday at 1.30pm
Monday 8 th January 2024	Term Begins at 8.55am

As a Catholic School in the Archdiocese of Birmingham, we have embraced the Catholic Schools' Pupil Profile, which teaches the children a set of eight pairs of virtues to be internalised and cultivated - enabling them to grow in wholeness as fully rounded individuals in the image of God. This half term we are: **Attentive and Discerning**

Attentive: We are attentive when we listen to our calling from God to love and serve one another in all that we do. We are attentive to our experiences and can see where they will take us in our future vocations. **Discerning:** We are discerning when we decide to do the right thing in the interest of the needs of others because we know the positive impact that will have on their lives.

A Prayer for Attentiveness

Lord God, Give us a spirit of attentiveness to turn our attention to those who we can help with the gifts and talents you have given us. Show us how, with your assistance, we can learn to draw them closer to you, day by day, through kind acts of service. **Amen**

