

Newsletter

Autumn Term: 5th December 2025



We work together, we play together, we laugh together, we pray together.

Dear Parents,

The school is certainly abuzz with endless productivity and joy at this special time. With the Christmas Fair, focused rehearsing for Christmas events and excellent endeavour and learning on top of all this, the children certainly deserve a rest this weekend! It was lovely to see so many of you at our wonderful Christmas Fair on Tuesday. Huge thanks as ever to you all as these special events for the children wouldn't be possible without your help and support. Please read on for lots of important information about special events over the next few weeks. In the meantime, have a lovely weekend and happy Feast of St Nicholas for tomorrow!

With my very best wishes, Mrs Steinart

Upcoming dates

December

- 11 & 12 Dec** Infant Nativity 2pm
- 16 Dec** Junior Carol Service 7pm
- 18 Dec** Children's Day (Christmas party)
- 19 Dec** End of term 1.30pm

January 2026

- 5 Jan** Inset Day (no children)
- 6 Jan** Children return
- 9 Jan** House of the term mufti day
- 12 Jan** Winter Week
- 13 Jan** Y3 Mass & First Communion meeting 2.15pm
- 16 Jan** Winter mufti day
- 16 Jan** Year 4 Cake Sale

Please note: these dates do not include school trips. Please check on classlist, and in your child's bag, for other letters and announcements

January 2026 (cont.)

- 19 Jan** Coffee Morning & Uniform Sale
- 19 Jan** Parent & Child Book share 3.45-5.30pm
- 26 Jan** STEM Week
- 26 Jan** Y2 & Y4 Family Mass 2.15pm
- 28 Jan** Parent Forum 10am
- 30 Jan** PTA Gala Breakfast! (8.30am)

February

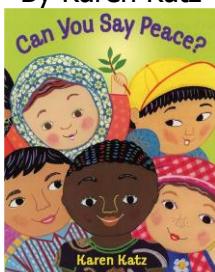
- 6 Feb** Year 3 Class Assembly 9.15am
- 9 Feb** Children's Mental Health Week
- 10 Feb** Safer Internet Day
- 13 Feb** Pupil Chaplaincy Team Lent Assembly
- 13 Feb** Year 3 Pancake Sale
- 13 Feb** Half Term 3.30pm
- 23 Feb** Children return
- 24 Feb** Individual & sibling photos
- 25 Feb** Y6 SATs & School Journey Meeting 3.45pm

This week's theme: ADVENT – PEACE

In assemblies this week we have looked at the theme of Peace during Advent. We remembered that Advent is a time when we wait patiently for the coming of Jesus - the Prince of Peace. We talked about how Jesus didn't come with noise, or rushing, or flashing lights. He came into the world quietly, in a stable, in the calm of the night. And yet His presence brought hope, kindness, and peace to the whole world. The children thought about ways in which they can bring peace to others, for example, a kind word, a patient choice, a helping hand or even just a moment to breathe and remember God is with us. We even learnt how to say 'peace' in languages from all around the world!

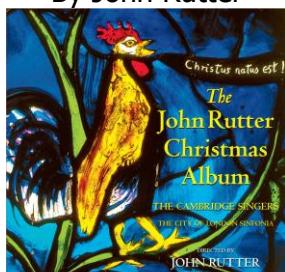
Story of the Week

Can you say Peace?
By Karen Katz



Music of the Week

Angels' Carol
By John Rutter



Art of the Week

Trust in Jesus
By Yongsung Kim, 2019



Advent and Christmas at Oratory



What is advent and how do we prepare at our school?

As a Catholic school, we will be using this opportunity to encourage the pupils to remain focused on this period of the Liturgical Year and not to jump ahead to Christmas. Advent is about preparation and waiting and it is important we do not skip past this important time in the Church's calendar.

We will be preparing in several ways:

- ★ Using purple cloths on our prayer areas in each class. Purple is the colour of Advent.
- ★ Lighting our Advent Wreath and learning about its meaning.
- ★ Making Advent calendars to encourage us to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus.
- ★ Set up our crib in the hall with Mary and Joseph in at first- to remember that we wait for Jesus to arrive.
- ★ Making Advent stars for the tree with our advent promises on.

How do we celebrate Christmas at our school?

Although Advent ends on Christmas Eve, we also want the children to be able to celebrate the wonder of the Christmas season together, and so in the last week and a half of term we will:

- ★ Share cards through our 'school post box'.
- ★ Add joyous decorations to the Christmas Tree made by all of the children.
- ★ Add all the figures to the crib.
- ★ Celebrate together through our Carol Services, Nativity Plays and Christmas Lunch.
- ★ In January we will return to school and celebrate our Feast of the Epiphany Mass with Fr James.

What are the particular arrangements for special events at this time of year?

Infant Nativity Plays

These will be performed on two consecutive days in the hall, on Thursday 11th and Friday 12th December at 2pm. Parents can choose **ONE performance only** to come and watch - this ensures that there is space for everyone to come and enjoy the very special performance. Year 2, Year 1 and Reception all perform together. They have been rehearsing brilliantly and are so excited to share their wonderful performance with you.

After the performance, the PTA will kindly provide refreshments and mince pies while you wait for your child to get changed into uniform again.

Christmas Fair – Tuesday 2nd December – 3.30-5.00pm in the school hall

Arts & Crafts made by the children, second hand toys & books, Christmas wreaths, lucky dip, hot chocolates and much more! It will be great fun and a perfect opportunity to raise precious funds for our wonderful school!

Junior Carol Service

On Tuesday 16th December our Junior Carol Service will take place at the Oratory Church. The service will start at 7pm, however, all children must arrive at **St Joseph's hall at 6.40pm**. Children should arrive quietly, as there will be a Mass in progress in the Little Oratory chapel opposite. The pupils must be clean and tidy in appearance, *wearing full school uniform with white shirts, cardigans/jumpers and blazers*. Duffle coats and hats must be left with parents as they cannot be left in St Joseph's hall. At the end of the service, the children will process down the aisle, and wait with their teacher outside where you can collect them. Please let the teacher know that you are taking your child. This is a religious service, and **NO PHOTOGRAPHY IS ALLOWED**. Please ask your friends and relatives too, as unfortunately every year there are a handful of people who sadly do not respect this request and need to be reminded during the service. We would be grateful if some parents could volunteer to carry the heavy benches back to their original positions at the end of the service, please let your rep know if you can help.

Children's Day

Thursday 18th December is Children's Day. Children attend school wearing their own clothes (as Christmas themed as they like) and enjoy lunch that the Parents' Association will very kindly provide. The infants will have an entertainer in the morning and the juniors will have a disco in the afternoon. The children always have a wonderful day with lots of fun and laughter, plus Father Christmas will also be visiting us again this year! We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover the cost of the entertainment – please log onto [ParentPay](#) to give your donation.

Pupil Chaplaincy Team News

Our Pupil Chaplaincy Team had a wonderful morning on Wednesday when they attended the Catholic Children's Society Carol Service at Westminster Cathedral. It was a beautiful service and with real animals as part of the retelling of the Nativity story, they returned to school beaming with how much they had enjoyed the service. They've also been busy decorating our Christmas tree with all of the children's beautiful Advent Promise stars. Well done, Pupil Chaplaincy Team!



Year 6 Carol Singing at Ellesmere House

We were immensely proud of our Year 6 children who took part in a special trip with the TimeGivers charity to Ellesmere House care home to sing carols. They were so thoughtful, polite and caring toward the residents, showing the Oratory way in a truly wonderful light. The residents (and staff!) were delighted by their visit and are already looking forward to welcoming the children back again soon.



Christmas Fair

Our Christmas Fair on Tuesday was yet another wonderful example of our school community coming together in the wonderful Oratory Way. With toys, wreaths, books, snowball lucky dip, chocolate fountain and candy floss... the children had a fantastic time from start to finish. The total amount raised was an amazing £2,500! As ever, a huge thank you to all those that helped so brilliantly from setting up, to selling and of course the big clear up at the end. Thank you all!



Chaplain's Corner – Fr James

On Monday we keep the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This celebrates the sinlessness of Our Lady, who by a special privilege granted to her by God in light of her role as the Mother of the Second Person of the Holy Trinity made man, was preserved from contracting original sin and therefore personal sin too. Her heart was always immaculate, and by cultivating our devotion to her, especially through the Rosary, she obtains for us the grace of purity of heart, which is our way to seeing God face to face in Heaven: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God (Matthew 5:8).

Wednesday Word

[Wednesday 3rd December 2025](#)



PINES AND NEEDLES

WE'RE EXCITED TO SHARE THAT OUR SCHOOL HAS AGAIN BEEN DONATED A BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS TREE BY PINES AND NEEDLES

AS PART OF THEIR GIFT, THEY ARE ALSO OFFERING PARENTS
10% OFF CHRISTMAS TREES
FROM THEIR LONDON POP-UP STORES AND ONLINE SHOP

FOLLOW @PINESANDNEEDLES FOR FESTIVE ACTIVITIES AT LOCAL STORES
AND VISIT WWW.PINESANDNEEDLES.COM FOR FULL DETAILS
AND ALL STORE LOCATIONS ACROSS LONDON

Christmas Tree Discount Code SCHOOL10



Year 3 Class Mass & First Holy Communion Meeting Tuesday 13th January 2.15pm



On Tuesday 13th January at 2.15pm, we will be celebrating the Year 3 Class Mass which will then be followed by a meeting about First Holy Communion arrangements.

School Choir News

The School Choir are incredibly excited to be singing Carols in Peter Jones, Sloane Square this Monday 8th December at 2pm.

So, if you happen to be doing a spot of Christmas shopping at this time you will be sweetly serenaded as you shop!

Children's Day Biscuits



Calling all bakers! We need lots of lovely volunteers to bake some biscuits for Children's Day. Please let your parent rep know if you are able to provide some biscuits. Thank you in advance!

- We need each class to provide at least 30 biscuits (but the more the merrier!)
- They can be any Christmas shape.
- Simple dough recipe with only a delicate flavouring if you wish (vanilla, cinnamon etc)
- You can leave them plain or add icing
- No nuts or any nut derivatives (nut milk/ almond flour etc). That includes macarons!
- No chocolate
- Homemade only please

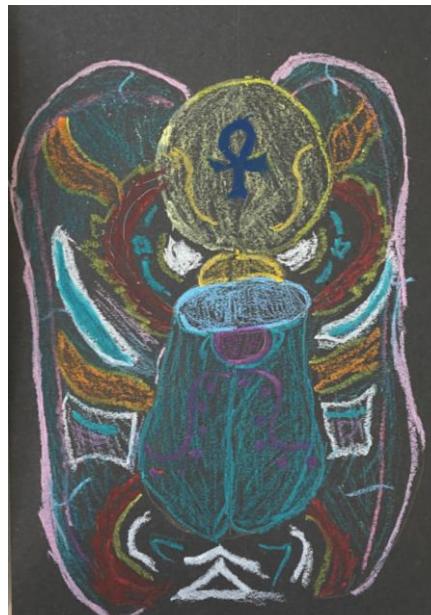
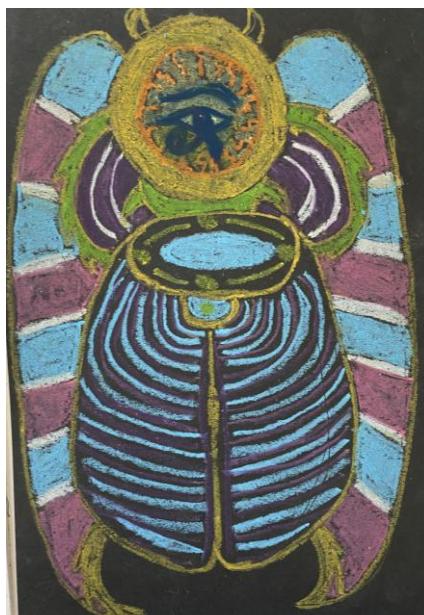
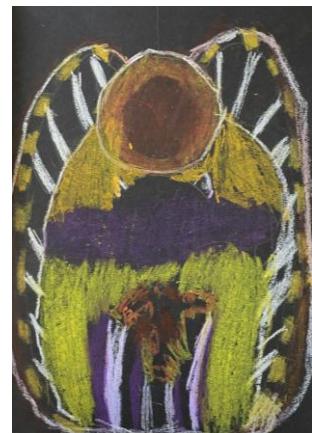
Auction Movie Night in School!

Some of our Year 3 children were treated to a night at the movies (in school!) last night with Miss Oswald and Miss Cornes. With VIP style seating, pizza, pick n mix and even party bags...a lot of fun was had by all!



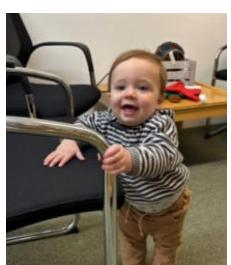
Spectacular Scarab Beetles by Year 5

Look at the beautiful oil pastel drawings of Scarab Beetles Year 5 have created as part of their Ancient Egyptian learning.



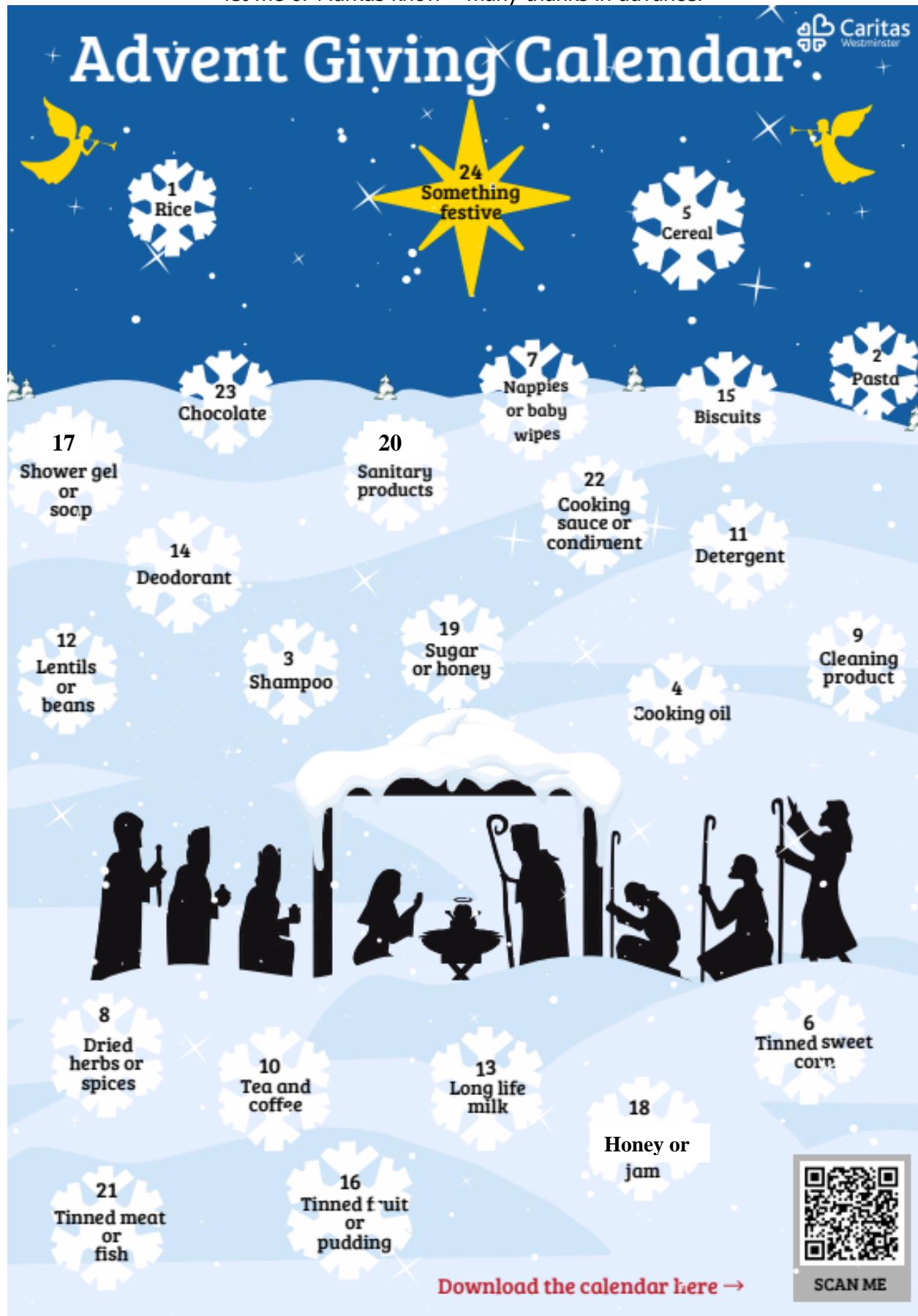
A very special visitor!

We were all thrilled to see Mr. Alton and baby Emmett visit school today. They were greeted with beaming smiles and lots of waves for baby Emmett, who thoroughly enjoyed all the warm attention!



Caritas Westminster Advent Giving Calendar

During this season of Advent, we will be collecting for the Caritas Advent Giving Calendar as a way of supporting those who may need extra support this Christmas. I explained to the children in assembly that you can bring items on any day you wish. There will be boxes in the hall for the children to leave their donations. We then need some kind parent volunteers to do some food bank runs when you can – please let me or Markus know – many thanks in advance!



What's been going on in class this week?

Year 6

What a busy, festive week for Year 6: wreath making; attending and assisting in the School Christmas fair; singing carols at Ellesmere Care home. Well done for your continued focus and effort in lessons, alongside all the fun!

English: we have been closely reading examples of persuasive advertisements to support our writing of a government appeal for War Horses. We have also researched different animals used during the war in readiness to write an appeal for people to rehome animals following the end of World War I, which we will complete next week.

Maths: Adding and subtracting mixed numbers; problem solving with fractions; reviewing tricky questions from our Reasoning assessments

RE: Understanding we are called to help one another: learning about Jean Vanier and how the charity 'L'Arche' helps people with disabilities; Reflecting on ways to prepare for the season of Advent: writing Advent calendars of preparation

History: we examined audio, pictorial, video and written sources to research how Britain 'stood firm' during WWII. We looked at the success of the Battle of Britain, how the efforts put in place during the Blitz helped people living in cities, rationing, shelters and the heroism of civilian boat owners during the Dunkirk rescue mission.

PSHE: this week we completed our Brain buddies project with *Mind*.

PE: we focused on passing the ball in rugby

Latin: To understand that Latin verbs are declined to show who is doing the action

Science: To use understanding of how light travels to explain how objects are seen



Year 5

What a wonderfully busy week in Year 5 from wreath making to carol practices! We have worked our socks off and thoroughly deserve a restful weekend. Here is a snapshot of our learning:

In English, we have written a narrative through a different character's perspective, using our book, 'High Rise Mystery' by Sharna Jackson. We focused on punctuated speech, different sentence types and how a character's thoughts and feelings can impact the reader.

In Maths, we have been converting mixed numbers and improper fractions and vice versa!

In Art, we finished our Ancient Egyptian Scarab Beetles using oil pastels.

In Science, we looked used our knowledge of materials to find the best way to separate mixtures and solutions.

In French, we have been naming school subjects. We have been thinking about which subjects we like and dislike and giving reasons.

In RE, we have continued to reflect on God's covenant with Moses and the Israelites and have been thinking about how God guides and challenges his people. We have also been reflecting on the message of the prophets for us.

In PE, we enjoyed doing gymnastics and used our bodies to create different shapes and positions.

Have a lovely weekend, Miss Cornes, Miss Carmody and Miss FFyon



Year 4:

Year 4 have been working hard as usual across all subject areas. Here's what we have been up to!

English: We started our new text 'Granny Came Here On The Empire Windrush'. We made predictions based on a range of clues and made inferences about characters' thoughts when they were on their journey. We practised using fronted adverbials and conjunctions.

Maths: We continued to work on multiplication and problem-solving using times tables and different representations. We also practised multiplying 3 numbers and represented multiplication equations using different arrays to create our own array city.

R.E: We learned about the Annunciation and discussed Mary's different emotions during this time. We created our own "messages" from Angel Gabriel and Mary summarising the event.

Geography: We continued to learn about tectonic plates. We compared different maps to identify which countries had lots of volcanoes. We then plotted the volcanoes onto our tectonic plate maps and discussed our findings.

French: We learned the names of different school subjects and expressed our opinions on different subjects in our pairs.

Art: We created our own pieces inspired by the work of Sonia Delaunay. We used overlapping figures and focused on colour and shape.

P.E: We learned different gymnastic positions and practised performing them in sequence.



Year 3:

Year 3 have had a fantastic week full of learning!

This week Year 3 have learnt:

-In Maths, we began our topic of 'Multiplication and Division' by looking at equal groups and arrays. We have also consolidated our 2 times table learning from Year 2.

-In English, we drafted, edited, illustrated and published our own picture books based on the themes found from our class novel 'The Comet'.

-In RE, we reflected on the true meaning of Christmas, thinking carefully at this week's theme of Peace.

-In French, we used our knowledge of numbers and classroom items to say what we have, even with multiples of an item.

-In Science, we explored the which materials are magnetic and non-magnetic. We noticed that not all metals are magnetic.

-In PSHE, we thought about how we can change rules and laws that we think are important. We looked at the wonderful example Greta Thunberg has set for us in standing up for something you believe in.

-In DT, we created our own kaleidoscopes.

-In PE, we worked on throwing backwards, whilst still moving forwards to support our rugby skills.



Year 2:

We have had a great week in Year 2! We have been continuing to rehearse for the Nativity and the children have been working hard. They were very excited to earn Class of the Week this week! Here is what else we have been up to:

- In **English**, as part of our text 'The Lonely Beast', we story mapped and wrote our own part of the story in which our own beasts went on wild journeys to find the Lonely Beast. We focused on sequencing our stories and ensuring that our narratives had a beginning, middle and end.
- In **Maths**, we have been focusing on adding two 2-digit numbers (across 10).
- In **RE**, we have been learning about the birth of Jesus. We discussed the Mystery of the Incarnation and reflected upon why Christmas is so important. We designed our own stained glass windows showing the birth of Jesus.
- In **History**, we have been reflecting on how London has changed since the Great Fire of London.
- In **Science**, we started a new topic – 'Animals, including humans'. We thought about what living things need to survive. We compared two animals and the way in which they get food, water, air and shelter in order to survive.
- In **PSHE**, we learnt about where fruit and vegetables grow. We talked about the benefits of eating food together.



Year 1:

It's been a wonderfully busy and festive week in Year 1, filled with joyful wreath-making, exciting Christmas Fair preparations, and lots of enthusiastic nativity practice! This is what we have been learning in class:

Maths: This week we have been learning how to identify and sort 3D shapes. We have been learning the properties of 2D shapes and have been making images using a range of shapes.

Literacy: In Literacy the week we have been using instructional language to write a recipe for our own version of 'terrible soup'. We used adjectives and learnt about nouns to help us plan what creative ingredients we wanted to add!

History: In History we have been learning about Mary Anning and what made her significant.

Science: In Science, we conducted an experiment to plan, predict and find out what material would be best for a raincoat for Barnaby Bear to keep him dry. We had lots of fun using the scientific equipment.

Phonics: In Phonics this week we have been practicing our tricky words.

Religious Education: In Religious Education we have been learning about the journey Mary and Joseph took to Bethlehem. We retold the story and considered how Mary might be feeling during this long journey. Have a lovely weekend, Year 1 team.



Reception:

Reception have had another brilliant week of learning and have been busy practising for the Nativity!

Phonics: This week, we have continued reading and writing words with double letter digraphs eg: muffin, sniff

Literacy: The children have enjoyed reading the text "The Naughty Bus" where we have discussed illustrations and key vocabulary in the text.

Maths: This week, we focused on using the part part whole model to represent composition of number to 5.

UTW: This week, the children enjoyed learning about famous London Landmarks. They used this knowledge to create a map around London for the Naughty Bus!

PSED: This week, we talked about healthy eating and discussed what we would put in our packed lunch.

PD: The children have been doing a brilliant job at practising their handwriting, both in school and at home. This week, we focused on "One armed robot" letters.

EAD: The children have been busy making props and costumes for our Nativity play using cutting, sticking and gluing skills.

RE: We have continued discussing the story of Christmas. This week, we discussed how the Angels visited the Shepards on the hillside.



PUPIL OF THE WEEK & ACT OF KINDNESS

Congratulations to these children who have had an extra special week and received Pupil of the Week and Act of Kindness awards. Keep up the great work!

	Pupil of the Week	Act of Kindness
Reception	David	Claudia
Year 1	William	Renzo
Year 2	Flora	Alex
Year 3	Ettore	Mattea
Year 4	Luna	Nicolas
Year 5	Marta P	Clara
Year 6	Lola T	Clara
Special Act of Kindness	Luc (Y4)	

House of the Week	Class of the Week
Red House	Year 2 (For leading the Nativity rehearsals so brilliantly)