

St Vincent's Catholic Primary School



Newsletter
18th December 2020

Gospel Reflection

John 1:6-8

Today we are going to hear about how a very special messenger came to visit Mary to tell her that she was going to have a baby. Let's think how we can be God's messengers in the world too. The angel Gabriel came to tell Mary that she would have a very special baby, that he would be the Son of God and would be called Jesus.

Mary was frightened at first. Her life was going to change forever. But she trusted in God and said "yes" to all that God asked of her. The angel Gabriel was God's messenger to Mary and he brought some very important news.

God wants us all to be his messengers in the world, to share the message that God loves everyone and that we are all part of one global family.

This is especially important at this time of year with Christmas coming so soon. Even though we are very busy and excited, we should take time to think about the true meaning of Christmas - that God loves all of us, rich or poor, happy or sad, big or little. This week, could you be a messenger of good news to someone in your family, local community or around the world? Will you share God's message of love by loving others?

Christmas is nearly here. Spend some time this week remembering why Christmas is so special, that we are celebrating God's love for us which he showed by sending his Son Jesus to live among us.

And let's remember all our brothers and sisters around the world in our prayers this week, because we are all part of one global family.

Extracted from Cafod's Website

Wednesday Word – MARY

The Wednesday word this week is **Mary**. "Let us learn from the Virgin Mary how to be bolder in obeying the word of God." Pope Francis

We've got to the end of term and I finish this week with a smile on my face and warmth in my heart. After a couple of really difficult weeks, when the school felt very empty, finally we have all year groups back. This week, our school recovered and got back to feeling its happy and bubbly self.

The sounds of Christmas ringing in my ears and through the school indicated that no matter what, children make it all worth it. They make us forget, for a while, any other tensions we may have.

The team is so proud of the children and the way they represented their classes throughout their performances; they looked so beautiful in their Shepherd, Angel, Star, Mary and Joseph outfits, to name but a few! They sang confidently and used lots of actions to enhance the singing on stage and even found the energy and enthusiasm to continue the celebrations back in class!

"Tis the season to be jolly" and so jolly we are!!!!!!

But as well as celebrating, we need time for reflection. This Christmas, let us think about the real meaning of the festivities. It is not the presents, it is not large family gatherings and indulgent dinners, but to remember that God so loved us that He gave His only begotten Son.

So as we get closer to Christmas let's look forward to not just that well-deserved rest, but also to the faith that this Christmas season will bring to each of us: "**news of great joy...a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord**".

I would like to wish each and every one a very happy Christmas. May we all create beautiful memories this holiday season and may we all grow closer to God in 2021.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Juliana Gonzalez

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**Head teacher
Juliana Gonzalez**

**Chair of Governors
Christine Fisher**

**SENCo
Catherine Badawi**

Star of the Week!

Our Star of the Week 14th – 18th December has been awarded to the following children for all their hard work, good behaviour and excellent learning. Well done!!



Year 6 - Vincenzo



Year 5 – Olivia



Year 4 – Grace



Year 3 – Zachary



Year 2 – Lainey



Year 1 – Elena



Reception – Lillie



Thank you!

We would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs Lyas for providing Christmas trees in school and to Mrs Toth for providing us with table decorations for the Christmas Dinner.



Attendance

2nd Sep – 18 th Dec 2020	Attendance	Unauthorised sessions
Reception	97.9%	2
Year 1	96.4%	9
Year 2	96.1%	47
Year 3	95.4%	80
Year 4	90.6%	157
Year 5	96.5%	58
Year 6	94.8%	61
Whole school	95.4%	414

Our target for attendance this academic year is

96.5%

Attendance for the last academic year was 93.4%

★ **Well done Year 6** ★

– best attendance for last week with 92.8%

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Internet Safety

With the support of industry partners BT, Sky, TalkTalk, Virgin, Google and BBC, to name a few, and the help of leading child online safety experts, www.internetmatters.org offer advice and information available on tackling online safety issues.



Bethlehem Star

The Great Conjunction of our solar system's two biggest planets promises to be a truly extraordinary sight. Saturn and Jupiter will appear to come within touching distance of one another on Monday, December 21 - a so-called Great Conjunction that has not occurred for nearly 800 years. And if that is not reason enough to be excited, it is believed that the planets might even appear to merge into one bright light resembling the Biblical Bethlehem Christmas Star.

Dinner Money

The cost of school meals for the first half of next term (4th January to 12th February) is £72.00 and for the second half of next term (22nd February to 31st March) £67.20. If possible, please make your payment directly into the school bank account.

Year 6

The Year 6 children enjoyed their Christmas party this week. They also took part in the Primary School Maths Challenge and are through to the next round, which will take place in February 2021.



Nativities and Christmas Concert

The children in Years 1 and 2 and the Reception class enjoyed their class nativities and all performed very well. These have been filmed and are now available to view on Google Classrooms and the school website.

Individual School Photographs

The school photographer will return to school on Tuesday 12th January to take photographs of those children who were not in school on 11th December.

Applications for Admission to Reception Class September 2021

The deadline for Applications for Admission to the Reception class in September 2021 for children born between 1st September 2016 and 31st August 2017 is 15th January 2021. Please return your Supplementary Information Form, with a copy of your child's Baptism Certificate and Full Birth Certificate, to the school office. In addition, please remember to complete the online application on the website of the borough in which you live. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary

School re-opens for Spring Term	Monday 4 th January 2021
Individual photographs catch-up	Tuesday 12 th January 2021