



**GOOD SHEPHERD CATHOLIC
PRIMARY & NURSERY SCHOOL**

NEWSLETTER

11th December 2017

Jesus was a Refugee?

Dear Parents/Carers

As we move into the second week of Advent, please continue to talk to your child about how to prepare for Christmas. During our school assemblies and in class we will be thinking about the homeless and those forced to leave their homes and seek refuge. We will make links between current day refugees and Jesus as a refugee. As Christians we should see Christ in everyone and know that respect, compassion and forgiveness are qualities we need to nurture in our children.

Congratulations to our choir and indoor athletics team for representing the school this week. Please see photographs and comments in this newsletter.

FORTHCOMING WEEKS

It's been another busy and productive week with children busy preparing for Advent services whilst still continuing with their learning. Staff will be focusing on continued assessments of children's learning this week and will carry out pupil conferencing over the next two weeks. Pupils discuss their progress and future targets and what they need to do to ensure they continue to make progress and achieve their potential. Therefore, it is important for you to continue to do this at home with them. Please do talk to them about their learning and areas they find difficult. At Good Shepherd we always 'Strive for excellence' and this means school and home working closely together.

We will be holding another parent/teacher meeting in the spring term where you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and attainment. However, if you have any questions please do see your child's teacher at a mutually convenient time.

NUT FREE ZONE

I would like to remind you that we have a school policy of :

NO NUTS ON SCHOOL PREMISES .- because we have a number of children who have severe allergies to nuts.

Please do abide by this rule in the interest of the health and safety of all our pupils. Thank you.

YEAR 5 MEETING

Thank you to all the parents who attended this meeting last Wednesday and I am delighted with the positive comments received regarding the children's learning. It was a good opportunity for you to look at books with your child and discuss progress and attainment to date. My thanks to Ms Anderson for teaching the class in Ms. Townsley's absence.

.ADVENT SERVICES

I look forward to seeing you at the Advent services this week. The pupils and staff have worked hard and all services are going to be wonderful and remind us all of the true meaning of Christmas. If anyone has any objections to photographs and videos being taken if your child is involved in any of the services , I ask you to please notify me in writing before the day of the event.

Nursery Nativity Play—Tuesday, 12th December at 9.15 a.m.

Reception & KS1 Nativity Play—Thursday, 14th at 9.15 a.m.

KS2 Advent Service—At Good Shepherd Church , Friday, 15th December 2017 at 1.45 p.m.

Mrs Fernandes - Headteacher

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE TOGETHER AS ONE

Second Sunday of Advent

Sunday
10 December



Mark 1:1-8

Today we hear about John the Baptist and how he was a messenger for God, preparing people for the coming of Jesus. How do we prepare during Advent?

Have you ever been to another country during Advent or for Christmas? Find out how people prepare during Advent in other countries around the world.

Pray for refugees

Tuesday
12 December

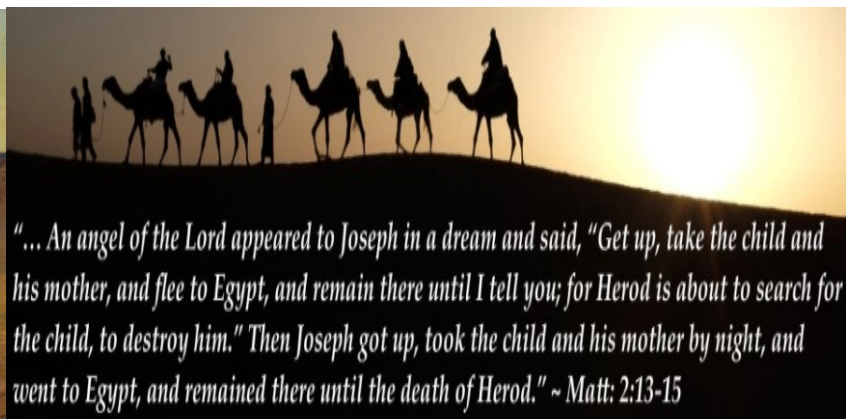


Halima is eight years old. At the moment, she lives in a refugee camp in Bangladesh. Her family fled violence in Myanmar, along with more than 500,000 other people.

Halima's family have been surviving on rice and potatoes. Halima's mother says her children are malnourished. CAFOD's partner is providing emergency aid to many families like Halima's.

Mary and Joseph became refugees in Egypt soon after Jesus was born. They probably faced many difficulties, just like refugees today.

Mary, mother of Jesus, help us to welcome all those who are away from their homes this Christmas. Amen



"... An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod." ~ Matt: 2:13-15

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE TOGETHER AS ONE

CAROL SINGING AT WHITGIFT CENTRE

The children sang beautifully at the centre and my thanks to Mrs Saunders, Mrs Jenkins and our parent helpers Mrs Joseph and Mrs Iweze for accompanying the children. I am not only continually impressed with the quality of our pupils' singing but with the enthusiasm and enjoyment they display.

The choir raised £151.33 for HCPT (Handicapped Children's Pilgrim Trust).

Please do read the following email from a member of the general public. Our children continue to do us proud.

Dear Good Shepherd

I saw the children perform in the choir at the Whitgift centre, Croydon today. Just wanted to say how beautifully they sang. I don't know anyone at the school but I was moved to tears by their performance. Absolutely wonderful job.

Sure you are very proud of them.

Best wishes Ruth



STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE TOGETHER AS ONE

CROYDON INDOOR ATHLETICS TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to all our pupils who took part in the above tournament. The children worked brilliantly as a team and came second overall qualifying for the next round. My thanks to Miss Hart, Mrs Whitmarsh and Mr Oke for accompanying and training the children and accompanying them to the tournament. And to Mr Conneely for driving the minibus. An excellent all round team effort.

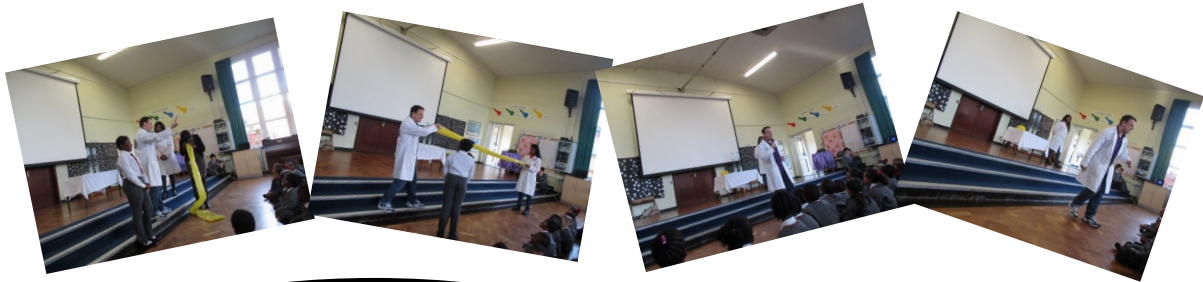


SCIENCE WORKSHOP

The children participated enthusiastically and science was brought to life through use of simple experiments and questioning which encouraged the pupils to think, predict and explain their reasoning.

SCIENCE ASSEMBLY

The whole school participated in a science assembly on Friday led by a company called Mad Science. It gave pupils a chance to test scientific ideas out and apply their knowledge. Pupil voice indicates they enjoyed the experience and learning new information. This science company will be running an afterschool science club, for Years 1 to 6, starting in January but we will need a minimum of fifteen pupils. A letter was sent out on Friday with details. Please do return it to register your interest and to secure a place please register and make payment online at www.madscience.org/east and click AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS.



Reah

I learnt scientific facts that I never knew before.

Tia

It was exciting and we learnt new concepts of Science.

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE TOGETHER AS ONE

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2017-2018

Our school development plan is an ongoing document which is reviewed regularly and objectives set are based on progress and attainment across the school. Our children continue to make strong progress each year and results at the end of each key stage (EYFS, KS1 & KS2) are at least in line with national averages and in some areas above. Our maths results were disappointing at the end of Year 6 in the summer 2017 and strategies put into place this year have already seen positive results. Staff meet with senior leaders to look at progress in each class and identify pupils who would benefit from support to enable them to meet required standards or to exceed.

We are very fortunate to have a highly committed staff who know their children well and this supports the school's high expectations for all pupils. Thank you for supporting your child as this makes all the difference to outcomes.

The main areas of development for the school are:

- 1. To further develop mathematical reasoning skills so that pupils confidently apply their knowledge to solving problems (to include word problems) and can explain their reasoning.*

How can you help?

- * Help your child to learn their number bonds, tables and other number rules/facts*
- * Support their learning by using practical equipment if necessary*
- * Use word problems to enable them to apply their skills (e.g. working with money, time etc)*
- * Encourage them to explain their ideas - this will help them to think through steps and identify errors*

- 2. To extend the range of texts children read to develop use of rich vocabulary - this will also benefit their writing and further develop general knowledge*

How can you help?

- * Read with your child regularly (daily would be ideal) and talk about the text*
- * Develop their comprehension skills through questioning (e.g. Why does the author use certain words?)*
- * Encourage them to use a dictionary/thesaurus to look up definition of unfamiliar words and synonyms*
- * Share different texts with them e.g. fiction, non-fiction, newspaper articles etc)*
- To extend the range of challenging texts and read regularly at home - with a focus on*

We will be sending out further detailed information over this term and suggestions on how to support your child.

Head Teacher Award

NURSERY: Jaden & Erin

RECEPTION: Eden, Isabel & Daniel T

YEAR 1: Aviah & Chevaro

YEAR 2: Amisha, Edwin & Aparna

YEAR 3: Desika & Ethan

YEAR 4: Princess & Victor

YEAR 5: Jordan, Toyosi, Amrutha & Isaac

YEAR 6: Savio, Becky, Chimwe, Andrew & Blessing

ATTENDANCE & PUNCTUALITY

We are striving for 100% attendance and punctuality.

Remember classroom doors are open at 8.40 a.m

WEEK ENDING: 15th December 2017:

WINNING CLASS FOR ATTENDANCE: Year 2 & 5

WINNING CLASS FOR PUNCTUALITY: Year 1 & 2

OVERALL ATTENDANCE: 97.6%

Father Con's reflection

The Blessed Virgin Mary was preserved immaculate from the very moment of conception in her own mother's womb.

God preserved her thus so that He would be able to become human in the person of His Only Begotten Son.

God becoming human is the event we know as the Incarnation. It is the greatest imaginable event ever, since God is absolute spirit. He became human for our salvation.

This is what we celebrate every Christmas. For this, we need to spiritually prepare ourselves, amidst all the rush of social preparations.

Diary Dates

2nd Half of Autumn Term

- 12th December Nursery Nativity 9.15am
- 14th December Reception and KS1 Nativity 9.15am
- 15th December Reception to Bromley Theatre
KS2 Advent Service 1.45 pm
at GS Church
- 20th December Christmas Lunch and Panto
- 21st December School Closes at 1.15pm for
the Christmas Holiday

Spring Term

- 3rd January INSET DAY—School closed to pupils
- 4th January School Opens to Pupils
- 9th January 8:30 am meeting in the Junior
Hall to sign up for clubs
- 22nd January Clubs start
- 5th February Book Week
- 8th February Year 6 SATs meeting
- 8th February School Closes (Half Term)
- 9th February INSET DAY—School closed to pupils

Parents and Carers of pupils in the Early Years and Years 1 and 2 are encouraged to come into class daily to work with your child from 8.45 to 9.00 a.m.

Please do support your child but I ask that you leave the classroom by 8.55 am, at the latest before the school gate is closed.

