



## Autumn Term 1b Newsletter



# A Message from Miss Elliott

As we come to the end of this term, it is lovely to look back on what; for the first time in 2 years, was what we used to call a 'normal year'. The restrictions were gone (just about) and we could welcome everyone back into school without having to completed a Risk Assessment!

Our Curriculum Night was very well attended, and I hope you enjoyed meeting your child's teacher face to face and being able to see their classroom. Thank you to all who completed the questionnaire and we will share the findings with you in the new year.

We have had another busy and exciting term and as you can see from our newsletter, a fun filled Advent/Christmas season. Our children have had the opportunity for memorable experiences, sharing our Catholic Life and Mission.

At the heart of our teaching and learning, preparations for Advent, Carol Services, Nativity performances and Christmas activities, we are mindful of the need to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. People all over the world will be celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ and sharing in the joy that this brings.

As always, I am so proud of how we have all worked together; staff, governors, pupils and families, to ensure that our children have the best experiences at English Martyrs'.

After a very long term, we are all looking forward to the Christmas break and our whole staff team would like to wish you all a very happy, holy and joy filled Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Miss Elliott





# Christmas Mass



Wednesday 21st December

# Preparing for Advent

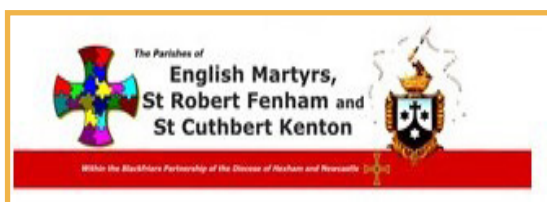
In school, we have been preparing for Christmas. Advent is a special season and in our classrooms the children have been focusing on the key messages at this time of year. These have been reflected in our collective worship and our class focal areas.



As part of our Faith in Action, the children in Year 6 chose to lead our Advent weekly Whole School Worship. They helped in the preparation, readings and hymn choices. A special thank you to our choir for leading our final Advent worship on the theme of Love.



## Reminder...



Christmas Mass @ English Martyr's Church  
4.15pm - Carols before Mass  
5pm - Christmas Vigil Mass



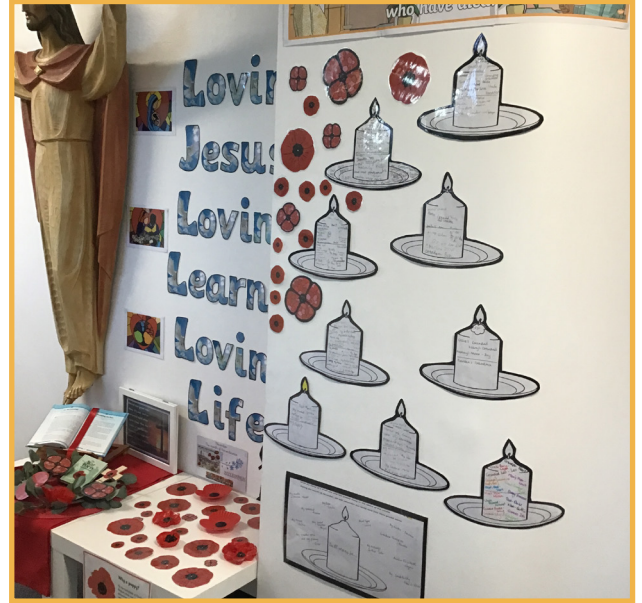
# Mini Vinnie's

Our Mini Vinnies have led a reverse advent calendar in school over advent and they have collected toiletries and chocolate to donate to St Vincent De Paul to support families in need this Christmas.

Thank you to the Mini Vinnie's and thank you to all of our families for your generosity during this time.



# Faith in Action



Every Friday, as part of our Faith in Action, the Year 6 children have led prayer in the prayer room. In November they chose to remember all of the people who are no longer with us. All classes created a reflection candle for people who they would like to pray for and the Y6 children created a prayer wall in the prayer room.





# World Religion Week

World Religion week was a real success this term as the whole school celebrated diversity. Some of our pupils led assemblies, brought in artefacts and gave talks to other classes about their faith. Some children stood up in the KS2 assembly and talked to the children about the importance of their faith and what it means to them. World Religion week is celebrated in schools all over the country and it is a fantastic opportunity to come together to learn about one another's faith.





# Key Stage 1 Nativity

Key Stage 1 were real stars of the show performing their Nativity with a twist - The Innkeepers Breakfast. Excellent singing, acting and reading. Maybe one day we will see some of them in a West End Show!

[https://www.emcps.co.uk/web/key\\_stage\\_1\\_nativity/635436](https://www.emcps.co.uk/web/key_stage_1_nativity/635436)





# Reception Nativity



Reception children have been working hard over the last few weeks to learn the Nativity Story. During Talk 4 Writing sessions they used actions and story mapping to help them remember the story of the Very First Christmas which they then shared with families during their performance. They did a fabulous job! If you missed it - please follow the link below:

[https://www.emcps.co.uk/web/reception\\_nativity/635189](https://www.emcps.co.uk/web/reception_nativity/635189)

## Nursery



Nursery had fun learning some Christmas songs and performing them to their grown-ups. They even dressed up as Santas and reindeer and wore their Christmas Jumpers.



# Key Stage 2 Carol Concerts





# Christmas Lunch



A huge thank you to Carole and all of her team for the delicious Christmas lunch that was enjoyed by the children.





# Year 5 - Visit to the Cathedral



Pupils in Year 5 took part in the Newcastle Catholic Primary School Carol Service held at St Mary's Cathedral.

## Year 2 - Birds of Prey Visit



Year 2 enjoyed a spectacular show from Kielder Bird's of Prey Sanctuary. We learnt all about different owls; what they eat and how they survive. Some of us were very fortunate to hold some of the birds.



# Willow - Upkeep



Ruth Thompson our Willow expert worked alongside children in Year 5 to maintain our living willow. She also taught them how to make Christmas decorations using the cuttings.

## Year 6 - Science



Year 6 dissected a heart as part of their science topic. They were joined by Mr Lawson our Chair of Governors who was extremely impressed with their scientific knowledge and skills.

# Instrumental Performance



The whole school was treated to a musical performance by some of the children who have instrumental lessons. It helped to build their confidence performing in front of an audience and was enjoyed by all who watched.

## Choir



Some children from the school choir performed a selection of carols at Fenham Library. They sang beautifully and received lovely comments from the people who were lucky enough to hear them sing.



# Family Art

Family Art - After School Club  
17th January to 14th February  
(Tuesday 3.30-4.30pm)



Work with your family and visual artist Louise Bradley to create colourful, detailed textile wall pieces. Learn new skills and techniques, such as printmaking onto fabric, sewing, embroidery and appliqué\*. All materials will be provided and you can also bring your own textile additions from home if you like!

\*Appliqué is ornamental needlework in which pieces or patches of fabric in different shapes and patterns are sewn or stuck onto a larger piece to form a picture or pattern.

[https://www.emcps.co.uk/web/family\\_art\\_club/635196](https://www.emcps.co.uk/web/family_art_club/635196)



# SEND Update

We were delighted to welcome parents back for face to face Review meetings in November and want to thank parents for the excellent attendance at these meetings.

As many of you will be aware we currently work closely with an Educational Psychologist as well as having an in-school Occupational Therapist one day each week.

We are pleased to share that we have a School Nurse who works in our school one day each week also. The nurse is able to support school, parents and children with anything that stops them learning, attending, developing or feeling safe. If you feel this is a service your child may benefit please contact Mr Young (SENCo) or Mrs Atkinson (Family Support) as they will be able to discuss this with you further.

## Parent Phonic Sessions

Thank you to all those who attended our Phonics Sessions. It was fantastic to see so many families attend. For anyone who was unable to come, more information can be found by following the link below.

[https://www.emcps.co.uk/web/phonics - essential letters and sounds/591904](https://www.emcps.co.uk/web/phonics-essential-letters-and-sounds/591904)





# Welcome



Mr King - School Caretaker

## Looking forward...

Monday 9th January - INSET Day

Tuesday 10th January - Pupils Return to School

Monday 16th January - First Holy Communion Session 2 (3.20pm)

Tuesday 17th January - Reception Balance Bike Training

Monday 23rd January - Year 1 Educational Visit - Discovery Museum

Monday 6th February - First Holy Communion Session 3 (3.20pm)

Thursday 16th February - Year 4 Educational Visit - Vindolanda Roman Army Museum

**Monday 20th February - Friday 24th February - SCHOOL HOLIDAY**

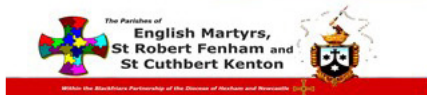
More dates will follow when confirmed...

# Happy Christmas!!



Wishing you  
the gladness of Christmas,  
which is Hope,  
the spirit of Christmas,  
which is Peace,  
the essence of Christmas,  
which is Love!

*Happy Christmas  
from the children and staff of  
English Martyrs'  
Catholic Primary*



Christmas Mass @ English Martyrs' Church  
4.15 – Carols before Mass and 5pm Christmas Vigil Mass



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