



ST CLEMENT'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Tuesday 19th December 2023

We have come to the end of a very busy and successful term and Christmas will soon be upon us. We should be very proud of what we have achieved together as a community; staff, pupils, parents/carers and governors.

It has also been wonderful to be able to welcome so many parents, carers, and visitors to the school and to St Clement's Church, especially in the recent weeks as we entered into the spirit of Christmas. Particular highlights for me has been the Nativities and the Advent Service; watching our pupils perform with such confidence was a real privilege. Well done to all involved! These productions really started the festivities and reminded us of the true meaning of Christmas.

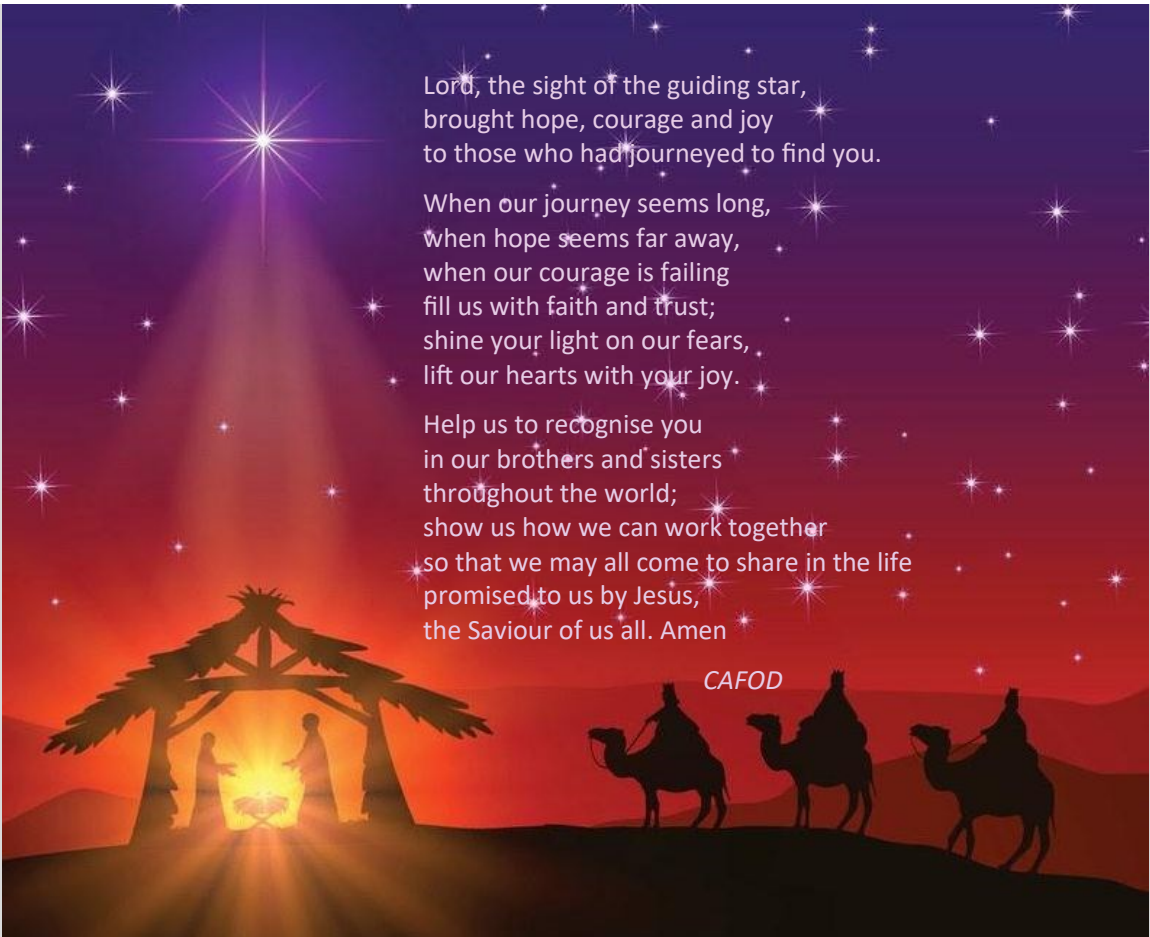
The recent Christmas Fair was another special event that allowed us to bring so many families and friends in our community together. I was delighted to see such overwhelming support for this. To everyone that made this happen, thank you.

The staff who enable our school to operate on a daily basis also deserve huge credit. I am very grateful and appreciative of all the hard work and commitment of the staff at St Clement's to our school community.

I would finally like to thank you as parents and carers for all you have done to support your child in school this term. I am very grateful for your continued support to me in my first term as Head of School and I wish you and your loved ones God's blessing this Christmas.

I wish you good health and happiness for the New Year.

Mrs Irma Chappell



Lord, the sight of the guiding star,
brought hope, courage and joy
to those who had journeyed to find you.

When our journey seems long,
when hope seems far away,
when our courage is failing
fill us with faith and trust;
shine your light on our fears,
lift our hearts with your joy.

Help us to recognise you
in our brothers and sisters
throughout the world;
show us how we can work together
so that we may all come to share in the life
promised to us by Jesus,
the Saviour of us all. Amen

CAFOD

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

On Wednesday 13th December the children sat down to a delicious Christmas lunch with all of the trimmings. A huge thankyou to Miss Bickerstaff, Miss Gilyan and Miss Zaira for cooking such a wonderful Christmas lunch which was enjoyed by all of our pupils and staff. The pupils wore their fabulous Christmas hats which they had made at home.



KS2 ADVENT SERVICE

Last Thursday evening, Christmas truly began in West Ewell thanks to the hard work of our Key Stage 2 children as we joined together to celebrate our Advent Service at St Clement's Church. All the children had been working extremely hard to learn songs and words over the past few weeks and joyfully journeyed to and from the church to practice without complaint!

Year 6 did a magnificent job of leading us in the story of the Nativity with prayers to reinforce the true meaning of Christmas. Year 5 acted out the story of the birth of Jesus beautifully and all classes sang spectacularly from the heart. This is always such a special event, so we were delighted that the evening was so well attended by our KS2 families! Everyone was thoroughly overjoyed by the children's dedication and enthusiasm to share this special time of year with our whole school community.

Our final collection was for 'Children with Cancer UK' and the Diocesan Children's Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Thanks to your generosity (and hopefully as a sign of how much you enjoyed the service), we collected the incredible amount of £578.15!

Thank you and a very merry and peaceful Christmas from Key Stage 2 staff and children!



ASHLEY CENTRE

Year 6 enthralled Epsom town centre when they sang a selection of Christmas Carols in the Market Place on Monday, 4th December! Despite the cold, the wind and the early time slot, the children excelled themselves - possibly thanks to the wonderful fan club of parents and grandparents who were there ready and waiting to support and applaud – thank you to all of you!

We received a delightful letter from one of the organisers:

... Thank you for bringing your choir to the Market this morning. They sounded lovely and I particularly thought Peace was beautifully sung and represented what is going on in the world today. They raised the sum of £145.19 which is a fantastic sum. Someone happened to say, it was a shame you were not later in the morning when more people were around to enjoy the singing. It was their loss and they missed some truly beautiful singing.

Thanks again

Bess

Well done Year 6 – we are so very proud of you!



EWELL YULE

On Friday, 8th December, most of Year 6 braved the cold weather and sang their hearts out at Ewell Yule! They threw themselves in to this with their usual vigour and enthusiasm and, no doubt warmed the hearts of all those who were watching them from the Ewell community. Once again, we were so proud of our children and are so very grateful to them and their parents for attending. There were many past St Clement's pupils who came to watch their performance, which was a wonderful reminder to us of how much they hold St Clement's dear to their hearts – it was certainly starting to feel 'a bit like Christmas' after Ewell Yule!



VETERANS

Once again, Year 6 had the opportunity to sing for the veterans at the TA centre in Ewell last week. The children gained so much from this and loved sharing Christmas joy with other members of our community. We were so proud of them all!

Some of our Year 6 pupils were actually moved to tears by the reaction of the Veterans who were visibly emotional when listening to the children sing.

We would like to share with you a beautiful letter that Hannah in our class wrote having been inspired by our visit. This, alongside our Advent service, prompted Hannah to think about just how lucky we are. She truly encapsulates the values that we hold so dearly at St Clement's around this time of year.



Dear Mrs Kelly and Mrs Flaherty,

Merry Christmas. Thank you for choosing peace for this advent service. It reminds me how lucky we are to be alive in a calm environment. Some can't even go to bed without worrying that they won't wake up again. It makes me sad that some people have the nerve to go around killing innocent people. Like the football match on Christmas day in World War 1. If only people could just solve their problems with a football match. We are all human beings and were made in God's image. War is definitely NOT what God wanted for us.

Merry Christmas! Thank you!

Hannah

RECEPTION NATIVITY

On Friday 1st December, Hedgehog Class performed their nativity, A Bundle of Joy. The children sang all the songs beautifully and spoke their lines clearly and confidently. We are so proud of them, as it was their very first performance at St Clement's School. What a wonderful way to celebrate how far how the children have progressed over their first term.



KS1 NATIVITY

On the 5th and 7th of December delivered a fantastic performance of the Nativity play 'The Nativity'. The children told the story of the birth of Jesus and all the joy and wonder of this event. The Year 1 children performed brilliantly with articulate, clear speaking, wonderful acting and great singing and dancing. The Year 2 children delighted us with their musical accompaniments with percussion instruments and glockenspiels as well their wonderful singing and dancing. We were extremely proud of all the children and they all rose to the occasion in front of a live audience. Thank you Year 1 and Year 2, not only for a fantastic performance but for reminding us of the true meaning of Christmas, the birth of Jesus, the light of the world.



CHRIS GRAYLING CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

Well done to Daniella in Year 5 who won the Chris Grayling Christmas Card competition. Daniella's beautiful design was reproduced onto the front of Chris' Christmas card and sent out to community groups, public services organisations, local charities and to the Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet. Congratulations also to Ania Wac who won the runner up prize in the 4-7 years category for her lovely Christmas card design. Chris visited St Clement's on Tuesday 19th December to present Daniella with her trophy and Ania with her certificate. He also recognised Orlando and Georgia's excellent effort to their chosen categories.



ST CLEMENT'S DAY

OPENING OF THE SCIENCE GARDEN

On St Clement's Day, on Thursday 23rd November 2023, we celebrated the official opening of the Science Garden. All the children were in attendance, as well as staff, parents, carers and family members. Michael Davies, our previous chair of Governors, officially opened the Science Garden, in recognition of his time and dedication to the school and there is a plaque to commemorate this. Also the eco-council delivered a speech about the features and benefits of the Science Garden and, later in the day, Father Graham blessed the Science Garden. Thank you to all those who joined us and thank you to the Friends of St Clement's for their support with this project. We know that the Science Garden will be a beneficial resource and learning tool for many years to come.



ST CLEMENTS DAY MASS

On Thursday 23rd November, we celebrated our special feast day for our patron saint, St Clement. We started the day with the opening of the Science Garden. In the afternoon, we celebrated Mass to remember our patron saint St Clement. Children from each class led the Mass and they read readings and prayers confidently and clearly. Every child participated with great reverence and thoughtfulness, and we were very proud of them. We reflected on how St Clement put others before himself and we thought of ways in which we could emulate his kindness and compassion for others. It was a real joy to celebrate mass alongside Father Graham and we are very grateful to him for being part of our worship. It was wonderful to see so many parents join with the school in celebrating this very special Mass.

ECO SCHOOL

The Eco-Schools team would like to say a **big thank you** to everyone who took part in Cut Your Carbon month in November. Your efforts in reducing emissions and raising awareness have created a national spotlight on carbon footprints, energising thousands of families to take action. You're inspiring!

The fundraising event at the Christmas Fair had been a great success, raising a whopping £200.76! This will greatly help fund our new gardening club in the spring term so watch this space! A huge thank you to the following children who worked tirelessly preparing for the fair and encouraging others to visit our stall:

Year 4: Lily W, Jack, Daniel, Emily HS

Year 5: Annabelle

Year 6: Jocelyn, Hannah, Aaliyah, Clara, Lizzie

THE TOWER OF LONDON



Year 5 class had an informative (and dry) day out at this historic location. We met Henry VIII's 6th wife, Catherine Parr, and impressed her with our knowledge of Tudor times. In the white tower, we saw many artefacts and we saw the crown jewels in another part of the castle. Members of the public commented on how well all of the children behaved. A great day was had by all!

YEAR 5 RETREAT DAY

On Wednesday the 29th of November, the Year 5 class planned and experienced a day of contemplation, prayer and fun. We spent the morning learning how to build each other up during team and trust games. In the afternoon, in different groups, the children shared their Liturgy, dance, prayer, poetry and art work. It was all planned and executed by the children themselves and they performed wonderfully. We would like to thank Mrs Charge and Fr Graham for sharing the day with us. We were blessed to have Fr Graham say a prayer over a plant donated to us by a parent. We grew together in love and learning!



YR 4 FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

On Thursday 9th November, 8 children from year 4 took part in a 7-side football tournament at Glyn playing fields. The children were all very excited and delighted to be taking part. There were 9 schools altogether and the children played in a league format. They played 8 matches in all and played so brilliantly as a team. They showed fantastic skills from passing and shooting to tackling and goal keeping. It was so lovely to see how supportive they were of each other. We won a match, lost a match and drew all the others! The end result didn't reflect how brilliantly they all played. Next time we'll aim for more in the back of the net! Thank you to Glyn for organising and to all the parents who gave their support and encouragement from the side lines. There are definitely some budding footballers amongst them. Well played St Clement's!



YR 3 PREHISTORY WORKSHOP

This half term, Year 3 were treated to a visit by Mortimer Wheeler who came in to school to complete a History Workshop on prehistory. They were transported back in time with a range of artefacts and costumes and reviewed their learning about the Stone Age (Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic), Bronze Age and Iron Age. They discussed what an archaeologist was, looked at timelines and even had a go at creating their own version of Stonehenge. The children thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and everyone had a chance to take part even Miss Eggitt! It was a lovely way to consolidate their History topic.



YR 4 EGYPTIAN WORKSHOP

On the 15 November, the children in Year 4 enjoyed celebrating Ancient Egypt Day. They met Mortimer Wheeler, an Egyptian Archaeologist. Mortimer introduced them to the fascinating history of the Ancient Egyptians including the Pharaohs, the god Rameses, mummification and the famous battles of the day. This knowledgeable archaeologist invited Year 4 to become Egyptian explorers with him, to search for artefacts, to re-create a battle and to act out the roles of the Pharaohs.

The children then learned that the Ancient Egyptians had gods for everything, from dangers to chores, and each had different responsibilities and needed to be worshipped so that life could be kept in balance.

All the children thoroughly enjoyed what proved to be an amazing day of learning.



GARDEN OF REMEMBRANCE

On Wednesday the 8th November, Year 2 went to the opening of the Remembrance Garden at Bourne Hall. The Mayor, Chris Grayling MP and pupils from a number of other local schools also attended. The class recited a remembrance poem "Poppies for remembrance" by Moira Andrews excellently, speaking clearly and reciting it with actions. They then placed crosses in the Remembrance Garden as a mark of respect to those that had suffered or died in conflict. Also to commemorate the day, Year 2 created pieces of artwork for the Epsom and Ewell display.



FIREFIGHTER VISIT

On Tuesday 7th November, Hedgehog Class received a very exciting visit from Epsom Fire Station. Three firefighters came in their fire engine and taught us all about how firefighters help people. The firefighters showed us the special equipment that they use and we explored the fire engine. We all got to use the hose with the help of firefighter Sammy - what a special day!



POLICE VISIT



On Tuesday 21st November, Hedgehog Class had another very exciting visit, this time from the police! Two very kind St. Clement's parents, Sergeant Pilkington and PC Pilkington, came to teach the children all about how the police help us, keep us safe and help people to follow the law. The children even got to sit in the front of a police car!

ANTI BULLYING WEEK

St Clement's took part in The Anti-Bullying Alliance's themed week for 2023: Make a Noise About Bullying. We marked the start of the week with Odd Socks Day and the children and staff were emblazoned with colourful odd socks for the day! Throughout the week, each class participated in many different Anti-Bullying activities. We all talked about always being kind and considerate to each other using kind words. Year 2 composed a special poem to go with the theme of the week. Well done to all the children at St Clement's for supporting such a worthwhile cause.

Make a noise for bullying poem Year 2 2023

It is time to take a stand against bullying,

And focus on everyone's wellbeing.

Bullying is not nice,

Bullying is not good,

Bullying hurts,

Bullying is bad.

If you see bullying, help make it stop,

Don't just stand around and hop.

Stand up and say that it's not right,

Together we can put up a fight.

If you see bullying, tell an adult,

Then you will see a result.

Speak up, shout out,

Bullying is something we can live without.

Help stop bullying, make the right choice,

You can make a difference, even just one voice.

So listen to our message and take up the call,

We can stop bullying together, once and for all.



OVER AND ABOVE

On Friday 15th December, Mrs Chappell shared afternoon tea with children who had been chosen from each class who have gone 'over and above' in terms of showing good behaviour, a positive attitude to learning, showing perseverance when finding activities challenging, being a really good friend, being helpful, actively living out the Gospel values or consistently being "the best they can be" this term. The chosen children this half-term were Avanika (Reception), Millie (Year 1), Oliver (Year 2), Boe (Year 3), Sophia (Year 4), Malachi (Year 5) and Joseph (Year 6). During the afternoon, they tucked into some cupcakes, chocolate minirolls and a glass of squash. They made for delightful company, with the discussion around the table revolving around their plans for Christmas, their favourite Christmas movie, what they have enjoyed about school this half term, and a Christmas quiz. These children should feel very proud of themselves!



SCIENTIST OF THE TERM

Each term, the class teacher nominates a top scientist in their class for that term, 'The Scientist of the term'. It is someone that has demonstrated an enthusiasm for the subject; sharing prior knowledge, taking part in discussions and participating fully. Each child receives a certificate. Then, using a lucky dip, the 'The Scientist of the term' is chosen from the nominees and they will receive a special prize. Here is the overall winner and the nominees:

Reception Logan Ray

Year 1 Laura Maslowska

Year 2 Layla Hall

Year 3 Daniel Stanton

Year 4 Daniela Savage

Year 5 Annabelle Piechocki

Year 6 Joseph Bedford

Overall Winner: Daniel Stanton

BOOK PRIZES

The following children have been awarded book prizes for their hard work and positive attitude this term. Our book prizes are awarded termly by each class teacher to one child who they think has gained confidence, self-esteem and shown resilience and determination to succeed. This award is only given once in your child's career at St Clement's.

Year 6 Hannah

Year 5 Chloe

Year 4 Lily

Year 3 Jagoda

Year 2 Ania

Year 1 Felicity

Reception Ted



ANCHOR AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations to the following children who received awards at our Anchor Assembly this half term;

Year 6 Joe, Austin, Jude, Noah, Oliver, Sylvie, Erin and Frankie
Year 5 Luke, Jemima, Annabelle, Jake, Áine, Isaac, Caitlin and Henry
Year 4 Jan, Nadia, Joseph, Caitlin, Myla, Hanna, Cerys and Daniela
Year 3 Ellie, Joseph, Freyja, Azaliah, Charlie, Zuri, Jacob, and Ted
Year 2 Liliana, Ted, Aidan, Maëlie, Evelyn, Myles, Marlow and Katie
Year 1 Kaia, Cara, Evan, Ella, Alex, Lia, Alessandra and Henry
Reception Renesmee and Leo

Anchor Assembly takes place every two weeks on a Friday morning. Please return Anchor badges to your child's class teacher on the morning of the next Anchor Assembly.

VALUES AND VIRTUES AWARD

This half term we have spent time as a whole school working on being a good role model for others in reflecting on how we have lived the virtues of Thankfulness and Hope. We have thought about how we see these virtues in action in our lives and in the lives of others. We have also thought about how we can work to encapsulate these values in the way we speak to and treat others.

Well done to those children who received our Values and Virtues award at the Anchor Assemblies this half term:

Year 6 Amelia, Frankie and Olivia
Year 5 Harry, Bailey and Daniella
Year 4 Sophia, Orlando and Jan
Year 3 Boe, Eleanor and Eloïse
Year 2 Sophia, Hazel and Niamh
Year 1 Liam, Emily and Orlaith

ATTENDANCE AWARD



The attendance award this half term has gone to Year 2.

Year 2 are also the overall winners for this term.

Well done!

THE FRIENDS OF ST CLEMENTS

A huge thank you to the Friends who have worked incredibly hard this term to raise money for the school. The Christmas Fayre was a fantastic event and it was wonderful to see so many families past and present at the fayre. The fayre raised a fantastic £5,820.00.

I hope that all of our volunteers and reps have a relaxing Christmas with their families.

HOUSE POINTS

This half term the winners are St Francis!

House	Points
St Benedict	2864
St Francis	3070
St Clare	3019
St Margaret	2949

LUNCH COSTS

The cost of school lunches for KS2 next half term will be **£72.90**

Any changes in the new term from packed lunch to school dinners or vice versa requires a week's notice to the School Office.

THANK YOU

This half term we have thought about how we can help others. We have supported three charities and we raised a phenomenal amount for each charity. Well done children and thank you to our parents for your generosity!

The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal - £376.39

Children with cancer UK - £289.00

Diocesan Annual Lourdes Pilgrimage for sick children - £289.00

Thank you for all your kind wishes and gifts that the staff have received, they are very much appreciated. Our new term begins on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 and we look forward to seeing the children return refreshed and eager to learn in the New Year. Finally, I would like to wish all the children and families, from all the staff and governors, a very happy and holy Christmas holiday.