



11th December 2020

Worship and Liturgy – 3rd Sunday of Advent



In this Sunday's Gospel we are again told about John the Baptist, 'preparing the way' for his cousin Jesus. He was asked lots of questions. The children were asked today to reflect on what questions

they would ask John the Baptist.

Witnesses of Christ – this half term we ask the children to be witnesses of Christ by sharing things equally, praying for solutions to inequality, feeling grateful for what we have.



Covid Update

For the Christmas break the government have issued guidance on the situation if there is a positive test, for pupils or staff members, following symptoms developed within 48 hours of attending school.

*"For the first 6 days after teaching ends, if a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), **having developed symptoms within 48 hours of being in school**, (ie before 3.30pm on Sunday 20th) contact the school either on the school mobile number 07422938855 or email to giilbest-josephs.plymouth.sch.uk. The school will need to assist in identifying close contacts and advising self-isolation, as the individual may have been infectious whilst in school."*

*"Where a pupil or staff member tests positive for coronavirus (COVID-19), having developed symptoms **more than 48 hours since being in school**, (later than 3.30pm on Sunday) the school **should not be contacted**. Parents and carers should follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace."*

Please be especially vigilant over Covid safety measures during this next week. One person's infection could ruin Christmas for a whole class who could be asked to self-isolate. If you do need to inform me of a positive case please entitle the email **Positive Covid Case** and it will get my attention as I won't be opening all of the multitudes of other emails I am likely to get during the Christmas holidays. The government has offered schools the opportunity to close a day early this term so that staff would not be required to monitor emails and texts and deal with Test and Trace on Christmas Eve. We have decided that the disruption that an early closure would cause to parents would be greater than the potential risk of dealing with a positive case on Christmas Eve so we will be open on Friday 18th December. The first day back in the new year is Monday 4th January.

Christmas Dinner / Muffin Day

Each class was recorded singing today so once the editing is done we will make the recording available to you. Please remember that on the 17th December the children can wear Christmas related clothing into school.



Celebrations this week

Whole School Attendance 93.6%	Top Class Attendance Class 1 96.7 %
Crew Member of the Week 1 Layton-Admiral Ann- For creativity on how we can show our love 2 Aston- Sailor Sam - Perseverance power with his handwriting. 3 Nikola - Sailor Sam- Perseverance and independence in writing. 4 Mollie and Marlee - Commodore Chris - Excellent team work 5 Giulio - Admiral Ann - Great creativity with his solo singing for the carol concert. 6. Daria - Lieutenant Louise for acting on her feedback	
Witness of Peace 1 Marina, Finley P, Nakita, Vanessa. 2 Kayla, Lois, Jaylen, Lavaine 3 Ellie 4 Ella-rose, Maja, Lacey Reeves 5 Gracie, Otylia, Inayah and Anthony 6 Omar, Sienna, Evie	



Agents for Change – Road Safety



Key stage 2 children got a real feel for being campaigners on Thursday.

Class 3 were film makers teaching children how to cross the road safely.

(Who remembers the Green Cross Code Man before he became Darth Vader ?) Class 6 turned to song and adapted lyrics of well known tunes , including Baby Shark , to pass on their message. Class 5 were outraged when they saw how poor the signs that are in place are positioned . Luke Pollard MP is about to get a lot of mail from disgruntled nine and ten year olds. Class 4 took to the streets and carried placards over the Zebra crossing on Chapel St and got overwhelming support from drivers, cyclists and residents. Their message was about speed so close to a school and the poor signage letting drivers know that a school is nearby. We would really like to have the same level of signage (Flashing lights and a 20mph limit at the beginning and end of the school day) as the young adults get 600m down the road at City College. Lobbying politicians is another form of campaigning. The three councillors for the Devonport Ward can be contacted at these emails if you want to ask them if they can use their influence to achieve our aims.

kate.taylor@plymouth.gov.uk

mark.coker@plymouth.gov.uk

william.stevens@plymouth.gov.uk

I have already spoken with Kate Taylor and she was supportive of the children's actions so, if that is followed up with constituents making the same argument, we could achieve our aims.





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Agents for Change – Hearts for Homes



KS1 took part in a project to send hearts to those people who are in care homes. They spent the day thinking about how they can be agents of change in those people's lives. They learnt about what care

homes are, who lives there and how they might feel about not seeing people this Christmas because of the Covid 19 regulations. Then they wrote cards, made hearts and sent messages



to people in three local Care Homes. These are being delivered and they hope it will bring Christmas cheer and let them know that we are thinking about them.

Brass Monkeys

I am sorry that everybody in school was a bit chilly early in the week. Our boilers chose the coldest days of the year to stop working. An engineer diagnosed the fault on Monday but he did not get the part he needed as soon as he expected and it was not until Wednesday afternoon that the warmth began to seep through the school once more.



Local Trips

As part of our Agents for Change Day some of the classes walked out into the local area as part of their learning. In the past we used to ask parents for their consent for any local trip. This consent lasted for all the time their child was at St. Joseph's. The latest advice from our Outdoor Education advisers is *"Schools are not required to obtain consent from parents for pupils to participate in off-site activities that take place during school hours and which are a normal part of a child's education, such as local studies and visits to a library or museum etc.... While parents do not have the right to withdraw their child from the school curriculum, it remains good practice to inform parents that a trip or activity is to take place."* We will no longer ask for consent for local trips but will inform parents that a trip is going to take place. If any trip involves greater risk of any kind, or is for a residential trip, parents will be given more information and asked to give informed consent for that one off trip.



Welcome

A new member of staff joined us this week. Miss Woffenden will be a teaching assistant in Class 2. She will be working mornings until the end of term and then full days for the rest of the academic year. The children have already made her feel welcome.

Road Safety Part 2

We were informed of a near miss incident this morning where a car reversed out of the Chapel St Ope road onto the main Chapel St. A mum with a child in a buggy was narrowly missed. Please take extra care when driving near any school.

Christmas Riddles Answers

Q: What Christmas carol is a favourite of parents of new born babies? **Silent Night**

Q: What do you get when you eat Christmas decorations?

Tinselitis

Q: What do you call a Christmas jumper in Spain ? **Fleece Navidad**

Q: What do you call a Duck on the 25th December ? **Christmas**

Quackers

Q: Why is this the Christmas alphabet ?

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ Noel !