



**Bolton on Swale St Mary's Church of England Aided Primary School**

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Headteacher Mrs Nicola Dobson

*'To love, live and learn together'*

Newsletter Friday 27th November 2020 Our Christian value this half term is 'Peace'

**Advent—a time of preparation** We have been busy this week preparing for the first Sunday of Advent. We lit the first candle on our Advent wreath and talked about getting ready to welcome Jesus as the light of the world at Christmas. In our Collective worship we are following a programme for schools in the **Diocese of Leeds** called the '**Rhythm of Life**'. It is helping us to think about good habits for living and sets us daily challenges to help us live well together. We have focussed on challenges linked to sharing this week: sharing a book; sharing your time with others and sharing a festive picture we have created. There are resources for adults too and more information on:

<https://learning.leeds.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Invitation-Leaflet.pdf>



**We lit the first candle on our Advent Wreath and made Christingles**

**Celebrating Christingle** Children in Classes 1 and 2 made Christingles this week and discussed the meaning of this tradition. Rev Yvonne invites us to join her in the Worship for All Christingle Service this Sunday. This is available to watch at any time from 10.30am on Sunday morning (you can watch at any time after this). This service is suitable for children and all the family and will include photos of our children with their Christingles. <https://esbb.co.uk/page/145/online-services>

**Virtual Christmas Nativity** We are planning to film and record our Christmas Nativity which will involve children from all classes. We hope this will help you to share the good news of hope at Christmas with your families and friends. It will be available to watch through our school website in the last week of term. We have made a good start this week - you might have spotted the wise men crossing the plains of Scorton!

### Special Mentions this week from Class 1

Mrs Reynolds says: 'This week we have really enjoyed starting our Advent activities. We made Christingle oranges and discussed what this represented. In Maths we have continued to focus on counting forwards and backwards from any given number. The children have also started work on subtraction. In English we have focused on writing sentences with key words. Everyone has worked very hard again this week and I am very proud of you all.'

**Star of the Week is Maisie** for being a good friend; for being very kind and helpful and for great work in PE.

**Special Mentions this week are for Sidney, Betsy and Caeden** for thoughtful reflections in our discussions in RE.

**For Evie** for excellent writing.

**For Charlotte and Henry** for great doubling work in Maths.

**For Kit and Edward G** for imaginative use of materials in their art work.

Pictured below are Class 1 making their Christingles.



### Special Mentions this week from Class 2

Mrs Smith says: 'This week in Maths, we have developed strategies for addition, with Year 2 particularly focusing on column addition.

We have started learning about the life of Florence Nightingale and why we remember her today.

In RE sessions, we have particularly enjoyed learning about what a Christingle is and we made one of our own to take home. We look forward to practising our virtual Nativity next week.'

**Star of the Week is for Ettie** for a fantastic week of hard work in all areas and for being a good friend.

**Special Mentions this week are for Ettie, Eleanor, Grace and Hattie** for great progress with column addition in Maths.

**For Sophie** for good progress in phonics lessons and excellent reading.

Pictured below are Class 2 with their finished Christingles and working cooperatively to make them.



### Special Mentions this week from Class 3

Mrs Jones says: 'What another good week for Class Three! We have enjoyed learning more about William Shakespeare, Macbeth and the theatre in Tudor times; we have started to look at how to write a playscript and enjoyed discussions in our new R.E. unit, 'What are the deeper meanings of festivals?'. We tasted apples dipped in honey to celebrate the Jewish Festival of Rosh Hashanah and made comparisons to other festivals enjoyed at this time of year. Our Tri-Golf Tournament was great fun too!'

**Special mentions this week are for: Sophia, Abigail and Poppy** for very good singing in our Christmas Nativity practices; **Isabelle and Stan** for thoughtful ideas in R.E. when talking about hopes for the Advent season; **Leila and Beau** for great work in Tri-Golf -Mr Layfield and I were impressed with your excellent teamwork! ;**Darcie** for all your hard work and resilience setting up a fundraising task for the Whale and Dolphin Conservation Society; **Ben** for very good progress in reading comprehension.

Pictured below are Class 3 during their Tri-Golf Tournament and fundraising for charity



### Special Mentions this week from Class 4

Mr Ramsbottom says: 'This week in Class 4 we have been adding, subtracting, and multiplying fractions in Maths; we produced a job advertisement for a Messiah in R.E and English looking at his or her role on God's Earth; we researched facts about the Armed Forces (Army, RAF, and Royal Navy) and how and when they were founded; we followed shape and movement in pieces of Music and participated in an inter-school Tri-Golf competition.

**Special Mentions this week are for: Oliver** for marvellous maths!; **Aidan** for having the ability to add, subtract and multiply fractions; **Freddie** for a well written job advertisement and for showing great resilience to finish his work; **Alex** for working hard in all areas of the curriculum; **Emma** for working extremely hard to reach her targets; **Jack** for a demonstrating great research skills; **Sam and Theo** for showing great skill in Golf.

Pictured below are Class 4 enjoying their Tri-Golf



### Friends of the School Christmas Raffle

FoS sent home raffle tickets in book bags on Friday. Please support us if your can. **If you are able to donate a raffle prize please send this into the office by Friday 4th December. Food or drink on a Christmas theme would be appreciated!** The raffle will be drawn and winners announced before the end of term.

## Diary Dates till the end of term

### Christmas Parties and visit from Father Christmas

**Classes 1 and 2 will have their party on the afternoon of Tuesday 15th December** (the classes will not mix).

**Father Christmas** will also visit school that afternoon and bring gifts for all the children. He will not be able to come inside this year so we would like to decorate our Peace Garden as a special 'Santa's grotto'. **If you have any Christmas decorations you no longer need please bring them into school and they will help us to decorate.** They can be left at the office or sent with your child. A huge thank you to Shelly and Ann who are co coordinating this for us and have made a start by donating a potted Christmas Tree for our Peace Garden.

**Classes 3 and 4 will have their party on the afternoon of Wednesday 16th December** (the classes will not mix).

**Party Food** Normally this is donated by each parent. This year our party food will be made by our wonderful cook Danielle, who has offered to do this in her own time. Funds raised by you as parents through FoS will pay for the food.

**Party Clothes** Normally our children change into party clothes after lunch on their party day. This year we ask you to come dressed in the morning for your party. This means you may need to adapt your party clothes to ensure you can spend the whole day in them and still play out at break and lunch times.

**School Christmas Lunch** will take place on **Thursday 17th December.**

All our children will eat in their class groups at staggered times. Children who normally have packed lunch are invited to have a Christmas lunch that day. **Please let the office know by this Tuesday 1st December if your child would like a Christmas lunch.**

### **School Christmas Tree Donation**

A huge thank you Kathleen at **The Green Frog Garden Shop, Ellerton** who is once again donating our school Christmas Tree. Please do thank her if you visit the Garden Centre.

**Parish News** Work is being completed on St Mary's Church and we will keep you updated on possible Christmas services and times.

**The Parish Christingle Service** will take place virtually this Sunday 29th November. Rev Yvonne invites you to join this service online from 10.30am on Sunday morning through the Parish website. <https://esbb.co.uk/page/145/online-services>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

With my very best wishes,

Nicola Dobson

