

St Ethelwold's VA School Newsletter

25th November 2020

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the latest edition of our school newsletter with a round-up of news and forthcoming events.

Class 1

This week Class 1 started to think about Advent and made some Advent Wreaths. We learned about the significance of each of the candles on the wreath. We also enjoyed hearing the story of Refuge about Mary and Joseph's journeys to Bethlehem and Egypt. We will be spending lots of time over the next few weeks learning about the Christmas story.

Class 2

This week Class 2 wrote letters to Firefighter Frank who bravely saved a school from burning down and saved Gerald the guinea pig from the school library. We have also started thinking about advent and made some advent wreaths. We also wrote some class rules and have all agreed to try our best to follow them and keep our class a safe, happy place.

Class 3

Children have planted their beans in the school garden planters. They have created anti bullying reports.

Class 4

Class 4 have this week interviewed Phoenix House manager Emma and care assistant Ashley. Somewhat sneakily, but for ALL the right reasons, the class pretended to be studying their care home for a project but in actual fact, the pupils were secretly gathering information to help with a Christmas Treat for the staff.



The Class Birthday parties have been enjoyed by all and you can find pictures & video on our [Facebook](#) page.



Special Mentions

Ambitious, Capable Learners

Class 1

Oli Moon for super effort to learn and write his sounds.

Imogen Keane for coming up with excellent ideas as Class 1 decided on their rules.

Class 2

Layla Pugh for working independently on her thank you letter to Firefighter Frank.

Luke Joyce for showing a much more positive attitude to work

Class 3

Katie-Leigh for using skills learnt in phonics sessions to write about anti-bullying.

Dean Glachan for working hard to improve his handwriting this week.

Class 4

Hannah Jones for some serious balloon modelling skills

Kimberley Altmann for making her teacher cry with a fantastic letter to the care home.

Taith Adfent/Advent Journey

Starting last Monday and continuing over the next three weeks, the whole school community is looking at the Christmas Journey made by Mary and Joseph and relating that to the plight of those less fortunate than ourselves today.

We start each week with Father Steve who, after lighting the Advent Candle (via video link), tells us the Bible story of Advent and follows that with a special prayer.

All of our pupils are learning about:

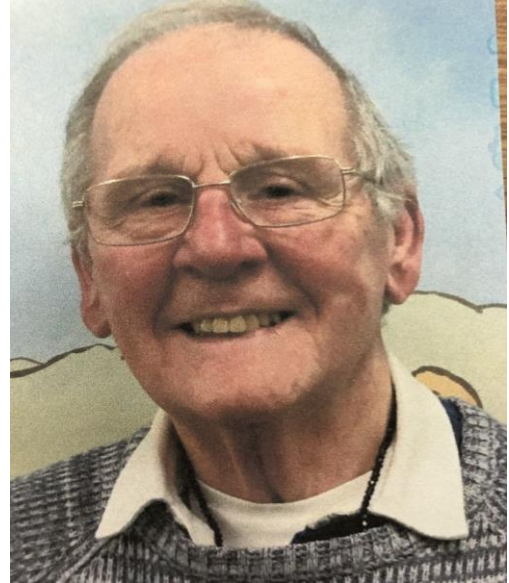
- Hope & Journeys
- Faith & Refuge
- Joy & Welcome
- Peace & Belonging

We will be providing the children with a wealth of stories, arts and crafts over the coming weeks as we discover the true meaning of Christmas.

On the last day of term, we will all join the St Asaph Christmas Service via video link.



Governors News



School Governors' meetings this year are very different in that they are all now conducted remotely using Microsoft Teams. We are slowly getting used to dogs barking and camera malfunctions and Governors' business is progressing as smoothly as it was when we were face to face. Governors are responsible for overseeing the management side of a school: strategy, policy, budgeting and staffing. They enable their school to run as effectively as possible, working alongside senior leaders and supporting teachers to provide excellent education to children.

We welcome Councilor Gary Cooper as the new Chair of Governors. Gary is a Shotton man to the bottom of his heart and has put public service at the forefront of his labours – serving as a Governor at St Ethelwold's for more than 20 years and for Shotton Town Council for a similar period, 5 years as Chair. Councilor Cooper always puts the interests of Shotton and the children within this school first and we look forward to working with him.

Friday Prayer

My little Lord Jesus, I love You and thank You for this Advent season. Please help me to understand all that You have done for me. Your loving mother held You in her heart and brought You into this world. Help me to do the same.
Amen.