

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

newsletter January 2026

MUCH WOOLTON CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

'WITH JESUS WE LOVE, LEARN AND GROW'

Dear Families

Welcome back! We hope you enjoyed a joyful and restful Christmas season filled with peace, laughter, and God's blessings. As we begin this new term together, we look forward to seeing our classrooms come alive again with the warmth, curiosity, and energy of our children. May the spirit of Christmas continue to guide us in kindness, gratitude, and faith as we learn, grow, and celebrate each day in our school community. We're excited for the wonderful term ahead and are delighted to have everyone back. Guided by our mission statement– 'With Jesus, we love, learn, and grow'–we return ready to support one another, celebrate our faith, and strive to be the very best we can be.

'TO KNOW YOU MORE CLEARLY' OUR NEW RE CURRICULUM - GALILEE TO JERUSALEM AS OUR NEW CURRICULUM IS WELL UNDERWAY SEE WHAT EACH YEAR GROUP WILL BE STUDYING THIS HALF TERM RECEPTION

In Reception, children learn that God is love by listening to and retelling a sequence of Bible stories that help them begin to understand who Jesus is and how he shows God's love for everyone. They will hear about the visit of the Magi and the Feast of the Epiphany, thinking about the star and the gifts and how Jesus came for all people, then they will explore how Jesus grew up in a loving family with Mary and Joseph, known as the Holy Family, making simple links to their own family life. They will also learn how Jesus welcomed and blessed children, and how he cared for people through the feeding of the five thousand, focusing on kindness, sharing, and helping those who are poor or hungry. Throughout the branch, children will experience prayer and worship by hearing the Glory Be and using it as a way to give thanks and praise, and they will respond through play, artwork, role play, and class reflection about how they can welcome and love others in their everyday words and actions.

YEAR 1

In Year 1, children will be learning about Jesus' life and mission through stories from the Gospel of St Luke. They will explore how people such as Simeon, Anna, the disciples, children and Zacchaeus met Jesus and came to recognise that he was special and showed God's love for everyone. Children will learn that Jesus is described as the 'Light of the World', celebrated at 'Candlemas', and that Christians believe they are called to follow Jesus by being kind, forgiving and caring, especially towards those in need. Learning will take place through stories, discussion, artwork, music, role play, prayer and reflection, helping children make simple links between Jesus' actions and how they can live with love and kindness in their own lives.

YEAR 2

In Year 2, children will deepen their understanding of Jesus and what Christians believe about God, with a strong focus on Baptism as a new beginning and belonging to the Church family. They will learn key Gospel stories such as the visit of the Magi at Epiphany, John the Baptist calling people to turn back to God, and the Baptism of Jesus, noticing symbols like water, the dove, and God's voice, and beginning to make simple links to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Children will also explore how people can make good and bad choices (sin), why saying sorry matters, and how Catholics ask for forgiveness through prayer, including the Our Father and simple prayers of sorrow, alongside thinking about how we show we are sorry through kind actions. Through retelling, discussion, artwork, drama, and reflection, pupils will be encouraged to wonder about these stories and apply their learning to everyday life, focusing on God's love, mercy, and forgiveness.

YEAR 3

In Year 3, children will explore key moments and teachings from St Matthew's Gospel to help them understand more about Jesus' mission and what Christians mean by the Kingdom of God. They will study the visit of the Magi and the meaning of Epiphany, thinking about what the gifts reveal about who Jesus is and how the Good News is for everyone. They will also learn about one of Jesus' miracles, such as the healing of the centurion's servant or the paralysed man, focusing on compassion, faith, forgiveness, and how Jesus' actions are signs that God's Kingdom is beginning. Alongside this, children will explore parables such as the Sower and the Yeast, using these stories to think about choices, listening to God's word, and how small acts of kindness can help God's Kingdom to grow. Throughout the unit, pupils will be encouraged to ask questions, reflect on feelings and behaviour, and make simple links to prayer, including the Our Father, and how faith is lived out in daily life and within the Church community.

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YEAR 4

In Year 4, children will study key passages from St Matthew's Gospel and begin to think more carefully about how the Bible was written and how it can be understood today. They will explore why Christians call Jesus the Messiah or Christ, and what his miracles and healing show about the Kingdom of Heaven, with a particular focus on Jesus as a servant king who brings God's love to people who were pushed to the edge of society. Pupils will learn stories such as Jesus healing Peter's mother in law, healings that show faith and mercy, John the Baptist's question about Jesus, Jesus walking on the water, and Peter's profession of faith, including Jesus' question, 'Who do you say I am?' Alongside Scripture, children will learn how Catholics experience God's healing and forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the Sacrament of the Sick, and they will explore why Catholics pray the Creed at Mass as a shared statement of belief. Throughout the unit, pupils will be encouraged to reflect on how Christians are called to serve others today, especially those who are excluded, and they will look at examples of people and organisations inspired by Jesus to care for those who are ill or marginalised.

CURRENTLY, YEARS 5 AND 6 ARE CONTINUING WITH THE 'COME AND SEE' CURRICULUM.

YEAR 5

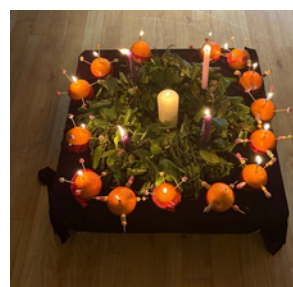
This half term, Year 5 children will be learning about 'Mission'. They will explore how Jesus sent his followers to continue his work and how the Holy Spirit empowers Christians to spread the Good News through their words and actions. Children will learn about the Church's mission in the world today, including caring for others, promoting justice and peace, and living out Gospel values. They will be encouraged to reflect on how they too can respond to God's call by using their gifts to serve others in their school, community and wider world. They will also begin their topic on 'Memorial Sacrifice' and will explore how the Mass remembers and celebrates Jesus' sacrifice at the Last Supper and how bread and wine become a special sign of Jesus' presence for Catholics. Children will deepen their understanding of the Eucharist, learning why it is central to Catholic life and how it strengthens believers to live as Jesus taught, loving and serving others in their daily lives.

YEAR 6

This half term, Year 6 children will be learning about 'Sources'. They will explore how the Bible and other religious texts guide the beliefs and actions of Christians and people of other faiths and learn to understand the importance of sacred texts as sources of wisdom and inspiration, and how these texts help believers make moral decisions and live out their faith. The children will also reflect on the ways these teachings influence their own lives, encouraging them to think about the sources of guidance and values that shape their choices and actions. They will also begin their topic on 'Unity' and will explore the importance of coming together as a community and working in harmony with others. They will learn about the value of friendship, cooperation, and sharing, both in their school community and in the wider world. Through stories, activities, and discussions, children will reflect on how people can support one another, celebrate differences, and build strong, caring relationships.

Thank you for your continued support in nurturing the faith and spiritual growth of your child.

At the end of last term, our whole school joined together for a beautiful Christingle celebration, a moment that allowed us to pause and reflect on the light of Christ at the heart of our faith. As the children held their Christingles and the candles glowed warmly, we were reminded of Christ's enduring presence among us and our call to share His light through love, service, and compassion. It was a joyful and prayerful way to prepare our hearts for the coming of Christmas and to celebrate our unity as a faith-filled school community.

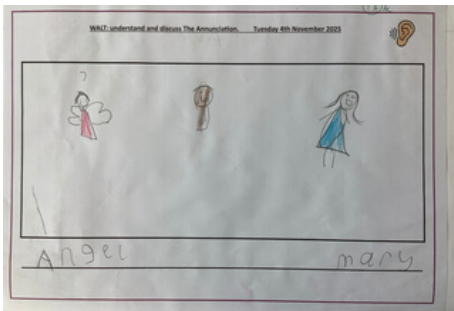


'Jesus. The light of the world.'

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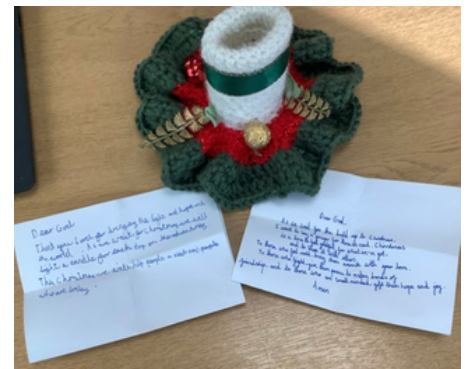
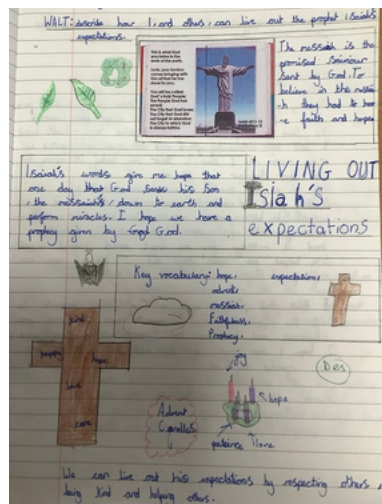
'With Jesus we love, learn and grow'

SOME EXAMPLES OF OUR CHILDREN'S WORK FROM LAST HALF TERM



Monday 8 December 2023
WALT: write a prayer for people who need help

Dear God,
I would like to pray for the people who have
dile in the life that you give ^{children} ^{and other} ^{children}
I would also like to pray for the homeless people
in the streets and ^{children} ^{and other} ^{children} the people who are
poor like have no money, babies have to waste and
religion ✓
Anna Adams



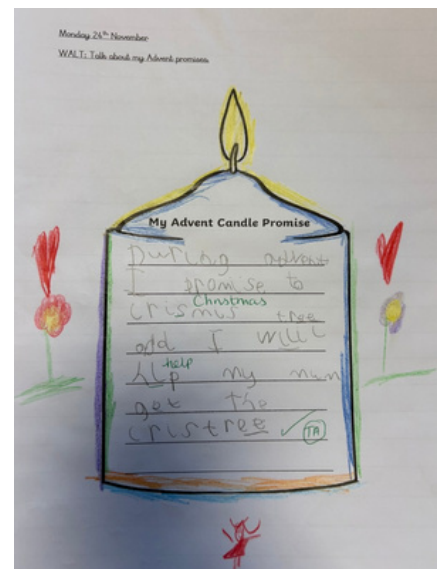
Thursday 11th December
I recognise that we wait in hope for Christ to come again

Dear Jesus,
During Advent, I have been preparing my for your coming by praying to your father God, donating our home, forgiving people for their sins, learning about you coming, lighting the Advent candles and attending mass.

When the day of your birth once arrives, I will celebrate by celebrating with family, I want to honour the words of creed: "You will come again in glory... and your Kingdom will have no end." Christmas is a special time to honour your love because you sacrificed your love.

I hope for your special coming so people can change their ways, people and countries can find you. I hope when you arrive you find us living so peacefully and being the best version of ourselves. Help me to stay patient and hopeful for the day of your coming is near.

With love
AMEV



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HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST HALF TERM

KS1 NATIVITY



EYFS NATIVITY



KS2 CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE



YEAR 6 VISIT TO THE METROPOLITAN CATHEDRAL



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YEAR 3 VISIT TO THE AL RAHMA MOSQUE

Year 3 had a truly memorable visit to the local mosque last term, where the children were warmly welcomed and given the chance to explore a place of worship different from their own. They learned about the daily prayer and experienced the call to prayer. They asked thoughtful questions about Islamic beliefs and traditions. The children were impressed by how peaceful and respectful the atmosphere was, and they represented the school brilliantly with excellent behaviour. It was a wonderful experience that brought classroom learning to life and helped deepen their understanding of different cultures and communities. The study of other faiths helps children to understand and respect people of different beliefs while deepening their own understanding of the world.



FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY

We will come together as a school community to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany this week, a special moment in our Catholic calendar when we remember the visit of the three wise men to the infant Jesus. The children will reflect on the gifts of the Magi and what these symbols teach us about recognising Christ's presence in our own lives. We will also share with them the beautiful reminder that, in the Catholic Church, the Christmas season continues beyond December 25th, inviting us to keep celebrating the joy of Christ's birth right through to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. As we mark this special feast, we talk about offering our own "gifts" each day—acts of kindness, love, and generosity—and following the light of Christ with faith and courage, a joyful and meaningful way to begin the new term.



'And behold, the star that they had seen at it's rising proceeded them, until it came and stopped over the place where the child was.' Matthew 2:9

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At this time when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent and Christmas by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern.'



Look out for invitations from teachers this term inviting parents to join in class Collective Worship.

OUR COLLECTIVE WORSHIP THEMES FOR THIS HALF TERM ARE AS FOLLOWS:

WEEK 1 - COMMUNITY

WEEK 2 - CELEBRATIONS

WEEK 3 - GROWING

WEEK 4 - GOOD/BAD

WEEK 5 - EUCHARIST

WEEK 6 - HOPE

MARY'S MEALS - SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT

AS A SCHOOL, WE COLLECTED £72.40 FOR MARY'S MEALS. THANK YOU FOR YOUR NEVER ENDING GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT.



THE MONEY COLLECTED PROVIDES LIFE-CHANGING SCHOOL MEALS FOR CHILDREN LIVING IN SOME OF THE WORLD'S POOREST COMMUNITIES. THE PROMISE OF A GOOD MEAL BRINGS HUNGRY CHILDREN INTO THE CLASSROOM, WHERE THEY CAN GAIN AN EDUCATION AND BETTER OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE. MARY'S MEALS ALREADY SERVES MORE THAN THREE MILLION EVERY SCHOOL DAY. WITH YOUR SUPPORT MORE HUNGRY CHILDREN WILL WAKE EACH MORNING KNOWING THEY WILL EAT A GOOD MEAL TODAY – YOUR DONATION MEANS THEY HAVE HOPE FOR A BRIGHTER TOMORROW.

THANKS TO THEIR LOW-COST APPROACH IT COSTS JUST £19.15 TO PROVIDE A CHILD WITH MEALS IN A PLACE OF EDUCATION FOR A WHOLE SCHOOL YEAR.