



St Alban & St Stephen Catholic Primary School & Nursery

Weekly Newsletter



Friday 14th January 2022

Epiphany Reflection

It seems that the wise men were rich enough to bring special gifts to Jesus. Even though it isn't recorded in the Bible, it's possible that the shepherds also brought gifts for Jesus. A well-known Christmas carol has this verse in it:

'What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give him - give my heart.'

Think about those words by Christina Rossetti. What do they mean to you?

Epiphany Prayer

Dear Lord,
Thank you that you wanted both rich and poor to see
baby Jesus.
Thank you that as we think about Epiphany,
we are reminded that every person is important to you.
Please help us to use all the gifts that you have given to us.
Thank you for all the good things that you give.
Amen.



Dear Parents and Carers,

The term is off to a flying start, new learning is underway and the children have slipped straight back into the amazing learning behaviours they had developed throughout the autumn months. It is clear that they are happy to be back in school and learning!

The Spring Term sees children starting new topics, and next week you will receive news of these in the year group newsletters which outline each theme and the areas to be covered. Don't forget also to look at year group pages on our website which are regularly updated with news and events.

We know that the weeks ahead are likely to throw up some significant challenges but at the moment we are all so grateful that we are able to open our school as normal, to have all the children sat in front of us and interacting with their peers the way children should. We have many exciting things coming up in the term ahead and we are in the process of planning events and extra-curricular activities to enhance the curriculum and stimulate the children's love for learning.

Have a lovely weekend.

Mrs Moore

Learning in School This Week

Our Religious Education learning this term began with a focus in every class on the Feast of Epiphany. This is a really important date in the Christian calendar as it celebrates how a star led the Magi, also known as the three kings or wise men, to visit Jesus after his birth.



In Year 2 we made little books showing the stable where Jesus was born and pictures of the people who came to visit. We learnt that the shepherds were the first visitors and the wise men visited later. The wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

In Year 4, we learnt more about the Epiphany story and thought about why the three Magi were so determined to continue on their journey even though it was difficult. We also learnt that the word 'Epiphany' comes from the Greek word 'epiphaneia', meaning 'appearance'. Finally, we created triptychs to show the different stages of the Magi's challenging journey.



Science Learning in Year 4

In Year 4, we are really enjoying our new science topic of sound. Our investigation into producing and observing vibrations using a range of musical instruments and other equipment helped us to understand how sound is produced and how it travels to our ears.



SEND Spring Update

DSPL7 supports parents and carers, staff in early years settings, schools and further education colleges by ensuring there is a range of provision and support services within the St Albans and Harpenden area for children and young people with additional needs.

Please find below a link to the DSPL7 Spring 2022 Parenting booklet with many different activities. [Microsoft Word - Parenting Support Spring Term Booklet 2022.docx \(dspl7.org.uk\)](#)

Please contact Mrs Murphy via the school office - Assistant Headteacher/SENDCo if you require any further information.

Religious Education Lent Term Update

Come and See at Home

This term we will be studying the three themes of Local Church (Community), Eucharist (Relating) and Lent/Easter (Giving).

LOCAL CHURCH - COMMUNITY

(3.01.22-28.1.22)

Early Years	CELEBRATING - People celebrate in Church
Year 1	SPECIAL PEOPLE - People in the parish family
Year 2	BOOKS - The books used in Church
Year 3	JOURNEYS - Christian family's journey with Christ
Year 4	COMMUNITY - Life in the local Christian community and ministries in the parish
Year 5	MISSION - Continuing Jesus' mission in diocese (ecumenism)
Year 6	SOURCES - The Bible, the special book for the Church

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Explore the Diocesan website, looking at the number of churches, and finding out about our bishop. Read Bible stories together or encourage older children to read a child's Bible.

EUCCHARIST - RELATING

(31.1.22-4.3.22)

Early Years	GATHERING - Parish family gathers to celebrate Eucharist
Year 1	MEALS - Mass, Jesus' special meal
Year 2	THANKSGIVING - Mass, a special time to thank God
Year 3	LISTENING & SHARING - Jesus gives himself to us
Year 4	GIVING & RECEIVING - Living in communion
Year 5	MEMORIAL SACRIFICE - Eucharist as the living memorial of Christ's sacrifice
Year 6	UNITY - Eucharist enabling people to live in communion

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives. Discuss how we come together for special celebrations.

LENT/EASTER - GIVING

(7.3.22-1.4.22)

Early Year	GROWING - Looking forward to Easter
Year 1	CHANGE - Lent: a time for change
Year 2	OPPORTUNITIES - Lent: an opportunity to start anew
Year 3	GIVING ALL - Lent: remembering Jesus' total giving
Year 4	SELF DISCIPLINE - Celebrating growth to new life
Year 5	SACRIFICE - Lent: a time of aligning with the sacrifice made by Jesus
Year 6	DEATH & NEW LIFE - Celebrating Jesus' death and resurrection

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about how you are going to practise self-control and self-giving for the rest of the season of Lent. You may decide to give up biscuits or cakes and donate the money to a charity. If you have an older child provide him/her with an opportunity to take part in The Stations of the Cross. Ask your child/ren how the school is focusing on Lent and self-giving.

IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS DATES THIS TERM

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

6 January

Epiphany is when we celebrate how a star led the Magi - also known as the three kings or the Wise Men - to visit the baby Jesus after he had been born.

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

9 January

We remember the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 February

On this day, we celebrate the presentation of Christ in the temple at Jerusalem on the 40th day after His birth.

ASH WEDNESDAY

2 March

Ash Wednesday is one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar. It takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday and opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer.

ST JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

19 March

On this day we remember St Joseph's compassion, protection and care for his wife, Mary and baby Jesus.

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

25 March

The Annunciation celebrates the coming of the Angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to announce to her the special mission God had chosen for her in being the mother of His only son.

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

10 April

Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

14 April

Holy Thursday is the commemoration of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ, when he established the sacrament of Holy Communion prior to his arrest and crucifixion.

GOOD FRIDAY

15 April

Good Friday is the day on which we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ.

EASTER SUNDAY

17 April

Easter is the celebration of Christ's resurrection from the dead. It is celebrated on Sunday, and marks the end of Holy Week, the end of Lent, the last day of the Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Sunday), and is the beginning of the Easter season of the liturgical year.