



FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL



Only one you

Dear Parents,

What a busy term it has been, packed with exciting opportunities and memorable moments! The build up to Christmas in primary schools is always a very special time and it feels such a privileged as staff to be able to enjoy it with the children! There's no doubting the excitement in school over the last few weeks and we hope that this spills over into your own celebrations with your children at home!



The last couple of weeks of term are, as ever, jam-packed with wonderfully Christmas themed learning... particularly this year with our whole-school learning experience, Nativity! This learning experience is rooted in Religious Education learning and the first time we have used the new 'Understanding Christianity' materials which we are introducing to school as part of our review of the non-core curriculum. We really love our whole-school learning experiences because they give staff an opportunity to plan collaboratively and the shared enjoyment of learning about the same subject at the same time in school is really powerful.



The children were HOOKED into this learning experience with a nativity play written and produced entirely with Fishbourne Church of England Primary School in mind. What an opportunity! We were hugely grateful to John-Paul Mc Crohon and his team for the inspiring hook into learning which left the children hanging on their every word. It included drama, song and audience participation. The children were captivated!



Following this, the children were introduced to three key enquiry questions which they would use to frame their thinking during the rest of the learning experience. Children in reception, Year 1 and 2 are exploring the question: **Why do people perform nativity plays at Christmas?** While children in Year 3 and 4 are asking: **Why is Christmas important to Christians?** Our oldest children are debating: **Was Jesus the Messiah?** These three key questions led to further questions that framed a sequence of teaching and learning in each year group.

Why do Christians Perform Nativity Plays?

What do we celebrate at this time of year? How do Christians celebrate? How can we make the world a better place at Christmas? What is a Christingle? What is the nativity story? Who are the characters in the story? Why do we tell the nativity story?

Why is Christmas important to Christians?

How do we know if someone is special? What is Christmas? Who are Christians and what do they believe? Why was Jesus born? How do Christians get ready for Christmas? What is incarnation? Does Jesus make a difference to Christians lives? How can we share our special qualities with others?

Was Jesus the Messiah?

What does 'messiah' mean? What is a messiah? Who is Jesus and what do you know about him? What attributes does a person need to be a messiah? How do Christians put their beliefs in practice at Christmas? What evidence is there that Jesus was the messiah?

The END GOAL for the learning experience will be for each class to contribute to the Christmas service with their reflections on each of the questions which our Worship Team will then weave together with carols and prayers. The steps of learning they take over the coming days will build their knowledge and skills within RE and what follows is a brief round up of some of the learning that has been going on during this time throughout school.

As part of their exploration of Christmas tradition and symbolism, the children in Early Years and Key Stage 1 visited our parish church to take part in a Christingle service. Prior to going to church they made their Christingles and spent time learning about the symbolism involved:

The orange represents the world, The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ. The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations. The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.



Children in Tiger and Meerkat classes (Y5/6) have been exploring symbolism in religious art and spent time zooming into John Piper's tapestry at Chichester Cathedral. The subject of the tapestry is the Holy Trinity which is represented by the central green triangle as a symbol of indivisibility. God the Father - the Light of the World - is represented by the white disc of the sun. God the Son is represented by the purple tau cross [Greek letter T], and the Holy Spirit is represented by the feathered flame. The children are going on to

create their own pieces of artwork inspired by their learning experience.

Children in Koala and Panther classes (Year 3/4) have been finding out the true meaning of Christmas. They have designed a room for a baby, walked around the school to find Christian signs of Christmas, and explored symbols and traditions of advent. This resulted in some fabulous advent poems, highlighting God's rescue plan for the world. They then moved on to create collages of their interpretation of the word incarnation.



Here are some of the children's reflections

Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas because they want to remember the birth of Jesus Christ. God can do extraordinary things to ordinary people, like Mary. The story reminds us as Christians that we should follow Mary and Joseph's example. They both were brave, courageous, determined and loving.

Eddie, Year 2



Christmas is important to Christians because it is Jesus' birthday. Jesus was special because he is God's son and because he saved everyone's life. When he was sacrificed on the cross, people were able to be friends with God again. Christians celebrate all this at Christmas because Christians care for Jesus and celebrate his birthday.

Noah, Year 3

I think Jesus is the Messiah because he could make dead people alive again, calm storms and he accepted the fact that he had to die on the cross to forgive us for our sins. In Matthew 21: 8-9 it says that the descendent of David would ride into Jerusalem on a donkey. Jesus fulfilled this prophecy.

Isla, Year 5

I believe with all my heart that Jesus is indeed the Messiah. Messiah means 'the chosen one' or 'saviour'. Did you know Saviour means Christ? Evidence has proved this. In verse 17 of Matthew it is said that Jesus was transfigured into part man, part God. God boomed down on everyone that Jesus was his son and was sent down from heaven, born in a stable and that is why we celebrate Christmas.

Emilia, Year 6

The Christmas service was a lovely way of rounding up all of the learning happening throughout school during the last couple of weeks. The depth of the children's knowledge was impressive and it was clear to see how much they had learned! A huge thank you to Mrs Treagust for coordinating a really special whole-school learning experience.



Our Christmas newsletter would not be complete without celebrating the wonderful children and staff who make up Penguin and Elephant class! Lights, Camel, Action was an incredible performance and great testament to the magic that happens when you collaborate! The performances were fantastic and packed full of confident, courageous children who performed their socks off! A huge well done from all of us and a THANK YOU for all the hard work put in by children and staff alike.



A huge well done also to our youngest children who took part in their own, informal nativity play during the last week of term. We are mindful of not wanting to put our youngest children under any un-necessary pressure and so this performance is 'organic' - meaning, quite literally, anything could happen! As ever, this relaxed atmosphere, meant the children did brilliantly and enjoyed every moment of their first nativity play!



Coming up in 2020!



WORLD BOOK DAY 2020—we want to give you the heads up now that we are celebrating WBD differently in 2020! Rather than our usual 'dress up' day, we are planning the next visit of our fabulous Patron of Reading, Sophy Henn, who will be coming on THURSDAY 26th March. The link we have had with Sophy this year has been so special and the children have really enjoyed their regular film updates... so... we are challenging everyone in school to find or make a pair of Bad Nana glasses to wear to school on the 26th to surprise Sophy! If any children would like to go further still and design themselves a Bad Nana costume they would be very welcome to do so and may also wear it to school on this day!

CAN YOU HELP US? We have two go-karts in our shed and we would love to dust them off this year so that our children in Y5/6 can benefit from using them in the Greenpower race series (including the chance to race at Goodwood motor circuit!). We would dearly love a couple of volunteers who might be able to run an after-school club with the karts and would be happy to promote this fabulous opportunity for our children at Fishbourne Primary! Last year our karts were unused and we felt this was such a missed opportunity. If anyone thinks this might be something they would be interested in, please do get in touch so that we can let you know more!



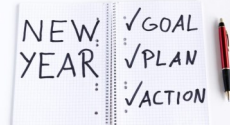
Miss Beth Grand will be joining our team in February 2020 to cover Mrs Goodman's maternity leave. Miss Grand is currently a Year 1 teacher at Parklands School in Chichester and we really look forward to welcoming her to our learning community next year! She will start here with us after February half term and have lots of time to be able to ensure a really smooth transition with for our wonderful Hippo class. We hope she will be very happy at Fishbourne and really look forward to her joining the team.



Have you read your copy of Fishbourne Reads yet?

This half termly newsletter is put together by the children and is packed full of some great recommendations for children in all year groups. We are often asked for recommended reading lists and what's great about this is that the titles are selected by the children. It's a super publication and well worth sharing with your children. Copies are always available on our school website under the CHILDREN tab and then FISHBOURNE READS!

As we prepare for the arrival of 2020, here are some things you could pledge to do that would make a huge difference to Fishbourne CE Primary School!



- 1) **Get to school on time** so that you can come in to school through your classroom doors instead of the front office. This minimises disruption at the beginning of the day and means the children can get on with their learning straight away. **School gates open at 8.45am and class registers are taken at 8.55am.**
- 2) **Park at the Roman Palace** and make use of the Walking Bus, avoiding parking on the residential streets around school. We still have a number of families choosing to park illegally and inconsiderately.
- 3) **READ with your children** (and to your children!) every day—make it a part of your daily routine. It makes a HUGE difference to confidence and enjoyment!

We would like to finish this Christmas newsletter by wishing each and every one of our Fishbourne families a special Christmas time. We will miss you all and look forward to seeing you back in school on Tuesday 7th January for the beginning of the spring term. Thank you for your ongoing support for our school community and all your kind words this Christmas time. With every best wish,
All of us at Fishbourne CE Primary School.



Autumn term

Fri 20th Dec: INSET Day
Mon 6th Jan: INSET Day

Spring term

Tue 7th Jan: First Day of the Spring Term
Wed 22nd Jan: Young Voices choir (Y3-6) at the O2 Arena all day
Tue 11th Feb: Y6 out to E-safety event at The March School

Mon 17th Feb—Fri 21st Feb: HALF TERM

Thu 26th March—World Book Day celebrations & Sophy Henn visit
(NB: This is not the same date as the national WBD!)
The children will be asked to craft a pair of Bad Nana glasses... we will not be doing our usual dress-up day!

INSET Days for 2019/20

We appreciate that families often don't know what happens in school during INSET days and so below we have given you an idea of exactly what we get up to during these days! We also meet weekly for professional development that supports us working towards the priorities on our School Development Plan:
Mon 6th January - Reviewing our non-core curriculum - the big picture!
Fri 22nd May - moderating teacher assessments
Mon 20th July - Fishbourne Curriculum 2020 launch

Our Twitter page is gaining some momentum so if you haven't done so already, you may like to consider joining the world of Twitter! Inspired by Sophy Henn, we decided we would set up a Twitter account for our school which you are warmly welcome to follow. It will be a lovely way for our children to follow Sophy via our school Twitter account.

Please do find us and start to follow... @FishbournePrim1
You could also follow Sophy Henn... @sophyhenn



AT FISHBOURNE CHURCH OF ENGLAND PRIMARY SCHOOL, WE NURTURE OUR LEARNERS TO BECOME...

