



The Friday Messenger

3rd Sunday in Advent
Friday 15th December



Our curriculum themes are:

Year 1: Mary, Mother of God-Advent

Year 2: Mysteries-Advent

Year 3: Mary our Mother

Year 4: Trust in God- Advent

Year 5: Hope-Advent

Year 6: Justice-Advent



Year 1	Year 2
This week we are continuing to practise retelling the nativity story. There has been a focus on Mary's role and why she was important with a link back to the annunciation. The children were asked to think of some 'I wonder' questions about Mary and her role.	This week we continued with our topic on 'Mysteries – Advent'. One of our focuses this week were the shepherds. We listened to the scripture and then retold the story of the shepherds ourselves. After that we discussed how the birth of Jesus was special to both us and other people.
Year 3	Year 4
Year 3 have continued to think about Advent and why Jesus was born. This week they considered why Jesus was sent to earth as a human and the impact that had on the world. They then considered if the world were perfect and they decided it wasn't so they came up with ways that they could help to improve the world.	In our RE lessons this week, Year 4 discussed the story of Zechariah. They each drew a thought bubble on a picture of Zechariah. Inside they wrote what he might have thought after the angel had visited him and explained why they believed this. After more discussion about the story and having trust in God, the children answered key questions. These included "What was God teaching Zachariah?", "Did he learn the lesson? How do you know?" and "In what way did God's plan come true for Zachariah and Elizabeth?" This gave the children the opportunity to explore and write about their knowledge of the story and the concept of trust in God.
Year 5	Year 6
This week we looked at how another prophet, Jeremiah, prepared the way for Jesus. He lived about a hundred years after Isaiah. Year Five discussed his scripture noting that he could see that his people were not following the ways of God and he needed to warn them about their behaviour. He also wanted to also encourage them by telling them the good times would come and the Promised One would come. Year Five spent a lot of time in RE this week reading about Mary when she visited her cousin, Elizabeth. We discussed how Mary was feeling at this time. Elizabeth was also expecting a baby. We were able to make links between this story and the words used in Psalm 27. The children were also able to compare the two women's very different feelings at this special time in their lives.	This week, the children finished their current topic of 'Justice'. As a class, we read several bible quotes and discussed the real message behind the words. The children then wrote about how each quote allows us to focus on justice and how a Christian can live this out. In the second lesson, the children created a poster explaining the true meaning of Christmas and how it is linked closely to justice.

Gospel Values

This month's value is *Hope*

Action! This Sunday is the 3rd Sunday of Advent. The Third Sunday of Advent is also known as Gaudete Sunday which means 'rejoice'. The closeness of the great feast of Jesus' birth is the reason for great joy. The 3rd candle on the Advent wreath is pink as a sign of our great joy. You can pray the prayer below as a family this week.

Heavenly Father, this third week of Advent, let us remember that the good news of Jesus' birth has the power to bring us great joy this Christmas season. Our joy comes from you: it doesn't depend on the gifts we give or the gifts we find under the tree. That joy that filled the hearts of the shepherds, the angels, the wise men, the hosts of heaven, and Mary and Joseph is the joy that still has the power to fill our hearts. We thank you God for the joy of Christmas.

Amen