



We are called to be the hands and face of Jesus as we learn, love and grow together

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Dear parents and carers

Today we have reached the final day of the Autumn term and what a term it has been! I must take this opportunity to thank the entire staff team who have gone above and beyond each day to ensure that your children have the very best opportunities to learn whilst remaining safe and secure. I would also like to thank your children for their resilience, commitment to learning and friendship – each day they renew the spark in each of us and remind us why we do what we do – they have been amazing! Finally, my thanks turn to parents and carers for your cooperation and consideration, for your flexibility when things have needed to change and for your support for the whole community. It has been a challenge for us all but together we have achieved so much – your partnership is key to the success of our community – thank you!

Please do watch out for Parentmails over the Christmas period in case there are any changes to plans in relation to the whole school or your child's bubble. You will find attached an important information sheet in relation to the school's track and trace responsibilities over the holiday period, including instructions on how to keep us informed. It is imperative that everyone reads this important information.



Advent has been a time of careful preparation in school where the children have turned to real and tangible social action which has outstretched a hand of friendship to those in our local community who are more vulnerable. Your generous donations for our Reverse Advent Calendar appeal, sent two full car loads of staple food items as well as goodies to the Food Shed and to Feed up Warm Up. These items were very much appreciated. In addition to this the children have produced cards, decorations, wordsearch booklets, calendars and a number of other festive items which have been packaged up and are ready to find their way to a range of elderly care homes in Stevenage with the



aim of 'Sharing a Christmas Smile'. These items were definitely 'made with love' and will be well received locally.

This week has been particularly busy with so many creative Christmas activities: Christmas stories, decorations, cards and homemade nativities have featured amongst many other creative Christmas activities. Even the lack of ovens on Christmas dinner day, didn't stop us all from having a special celebratory meal together on Tuesday! The school is covered in glitter and sparkles and there is a beautiful sense of excitement and expectant joy as we travel through the school. Yesterday saw some noisy Christmas party games in each class and all children have watched a lively virtual pantomime in their bubbles this week courtesy of the PSA.

Today we all joined together, albeit in our separate bubbles for our final assembly of 2020. After reflecting on this weekend's Gospel and the beauty of the Christmas story the children were treated to a special staff item which you will be able to view on our school website and Twitter feed. You can view the assembly and our staff item on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKmVJH9pMifRvmBg5Rxxnog>

We were sad not to be able to welcome you to our usual nativity play and our ever-popular Christmas in Song event. Later today, however, I hope that you will all receive an email link to our much-anticipated whole school 'Christmas Story' video. I am sure that you will enjoy watching every moment of it as journeys with Mary and Joseph, with each class exploring and reflecting on their own part of the story. Watch out for the parentmail link – please keep this for your own personal use and do not share it beyond your home as we do not have permission for this. This is why we are not sharing the 'Christmas Story' via any social medial platforms.

On behalf of the staff team and the governors of the school, may I wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy new year. May the festive season for you mirror the beauty of the child in the manger and may your family, whether apart or together this year, be blessed with peace, happiness, love and joy. Thank you for your kind words, messages and cards – they have been much appreciated by all!



May God bless you and those most dear to you.

Yours sincerely

Jon White
Headteacher

