



**ATTENDANCE** WEEK 6<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>

R Mozart- 86.2%	R O'Connor- 95.3%	Y1 Mistral- 94.5%	Y1 Stein- 94.7%
Y2 Pasteur- 92.7%	Y2 More – 91%	Y3 Hildegard – 93.3%	Y3 Seacole – 91.3%
Y4 Bonifacio – 97.7%	Y4 Michelangelo- 94%	Y5 Agnesi- 92.4%	<b>Y5 Teresa- 99.3%</b>
	Y6 Shakespeare-90.3%	Y6 Tolkien- 98.3%	

**Well done Y5 Teresa, Mrs White's class, with 99.3% attendance!**

As we returned to school on the feast of the Epiphany which celebrates the arrival of the Wise Men, some families shared pictures of cribs. The Christmas season officially came to a close on Sunday, with the feast of the Baptism of our Lord, but some keep their crib up until Candlemas, the feast of the Presentation, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, like the one in St Peter's Square!



The cribs at St Joseph's Church



An ice crib spotted in Iceland



The Orlina family's crib



Three St Vincent's mothers went to Brugge in December to visit the Christmas market. They were delighted to see that one of the stalls was dedicated to a large manger instead of selling something. Attached is their photo; they think it would be nice to see this in English Christmas Markets too



Another family saw these two cribs in Brussels at Christmas- one in the main square ( below) and the other in a church, ( left) which was amazing too.



A family with roots in other countries shared: "One picture (right) is from the Church we go to here in Stevenage, St. George's Cathedral (Coptic Orthodox), and it's where we celebrated Christmas again on the evening of 6<sup>th</sup> January.



The second one (opposite) was in a town in Italy near where my family lives (between Milano and Bergamo). In Italy you can see lots of nativity scenes in every town.



The third and last picture is the one my mum (the girls' grandma) made this year ( below) It's still with the same figures I had when I was little. My dad and I used to make really big ones, once we even covered a whole single bed and created an entire village around the manger.

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



*On 25th December Father Christmas or baby Jesus brings the main gifts then, on the Epiphany day (which is a bank holiday in Italy), we have the 'Bafana' (an old lady on a broomstick) who fills the stockings with sweets and fruits. You may notice that baby Jesus is not present in the second and third picture. That is because they were taken before 25th December. "*

As we celebrated the feasts of the Epiphany a parent described two cribs: "I bought this Nativity set around 15 years ago at an Oxfam shop when we got married. I love it because when I was little, in Spain, I remember my mum always setting up a beautiful nativity set with lots of figurines, the river, the bridge, the mill, etc. We did not have a Christmas tree or Santa Claus when I was little or growing up, only the beautiful old nativity set, and we got our presents on the 6th of January from The Three Wise Men which we went to see arriving on a parade in the town centre the day before. We celebrated Christmas Eve with a dinner for all the family and mass after that and also Christmas day with a family lunch. We celebrated New Year's Day and New Year's Eve. I love the beautiful Spanish Catholic traditions from my childhood and teaching them to my daughter, and now that my mum and dad are not with us anymore, they make me even more nostalgic. Children in Spain nowadays also get presents from Santa and decorate the house with a Christmas tree, but we did not when I was little. The second photo is from this Christmas in my hometown of Zaragoza, in Spain. Every year they display outdoors the most beautiful real size nativity set at the Cathedral Square (devoted to the Holy Virgin of El Pilar), which we love to visit and walk through with all the family. It has got lots of real size figures from the Angel Gabriel, The Three Wise Men, the shepherds, and of course Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus in the stable. It is another beautiful tradition we like to follow every year. We love to also visit different churches along the city and see the beautiful nativity sets they all display indoors."



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



And finally,...another crib- much closer to home in Barton-le-Clay ! A pupil spotted this crib whilst out Christmas shopping and seeing Father Christmas; she was desperate to have a photo to show her teacher

**Thank you everyone for sharing your experiences, visits and traditions**