

# NEWSLETTER

End of Term 2025



Our Lady Of Peace Catholic Primary and Nursery School



***“With Christ in our hearts, together we grow”***

Dear Parents,

As we reach the end of an incredibly busy term, I want to take a moment to reflect and share my gratitude.

Our September return brought significant change as we all moved into the Lower School building. This morning, I told the children how proud we are of them—their resilience and adaptability have been remarkable. I also want to thank you, our parents and families, for your patience and support while work has been ongoing. There are still a few finishing touches to complete in this first phase, but we are very nearly there. The IEB will provide an update to parents in the Spring Term.

This term has been filled with successes and joyful moments: school trips, visitors, choir performances at the care home and Parish concert, PTA events (including our first-ever disco!), sporting competitions, and so much more. It is a privilege to be Headteacher of a school that offers such rich experiences for our children.

## Reminders:

- School reopens on Tuesday, 6th January at 8:40am.
- Full school uniform is required. If you're unsure, please check our guidelines here: <http://www.olopprimary.co.uk/web/uniform/193563>.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you for the thoughtful gifts and cards you have given to our staff team. Your generosity and kindness are truly appreciated.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and every blessing for 2026. Enjoy this special time with family and friends.

God bless,  
Mr Stopps

## Important Dates

18<sup>th</sup> December-Nursery Finishes

19<sup>th</sup> December-Last day of term 12:15pm

5<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - INSET Day

6<sup>th</sup> January 2026 - Start of term

14<sup>th</sup> January - Start of Term Mass



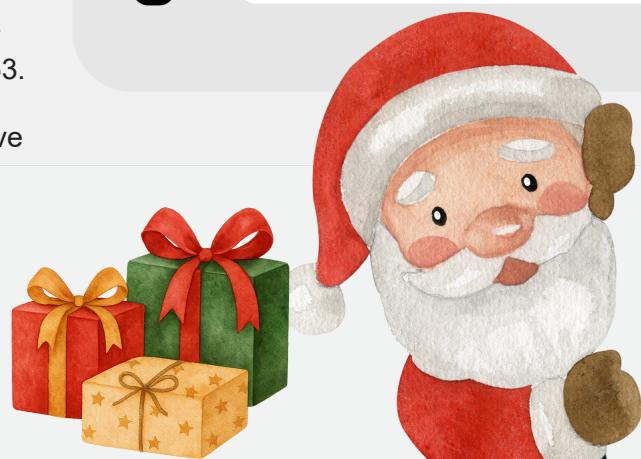
[Our Lady Of Peace](#)



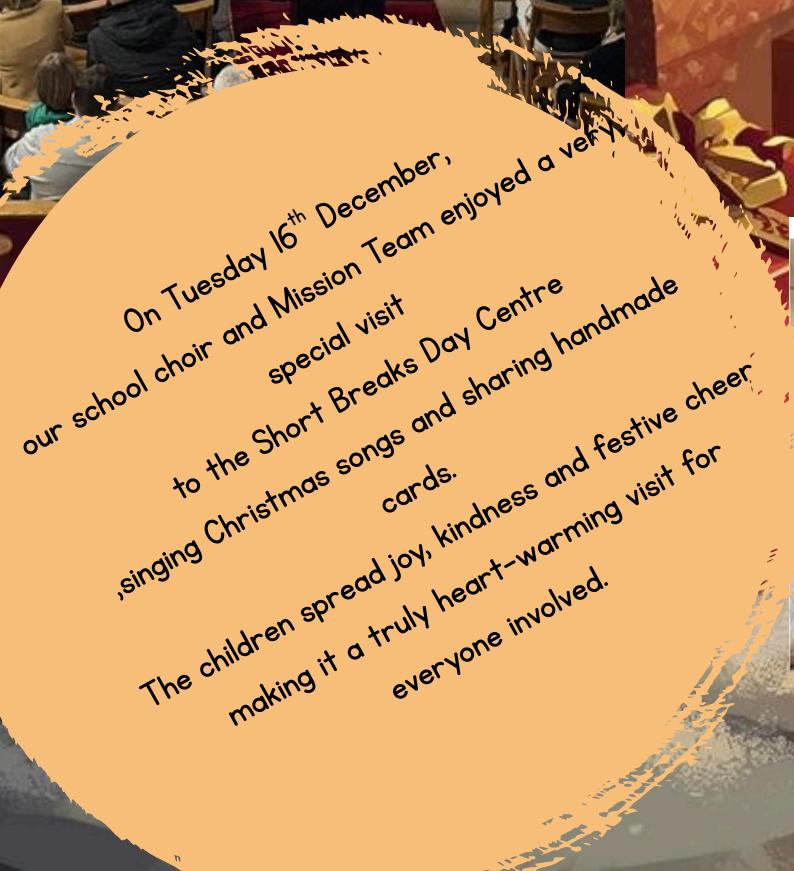
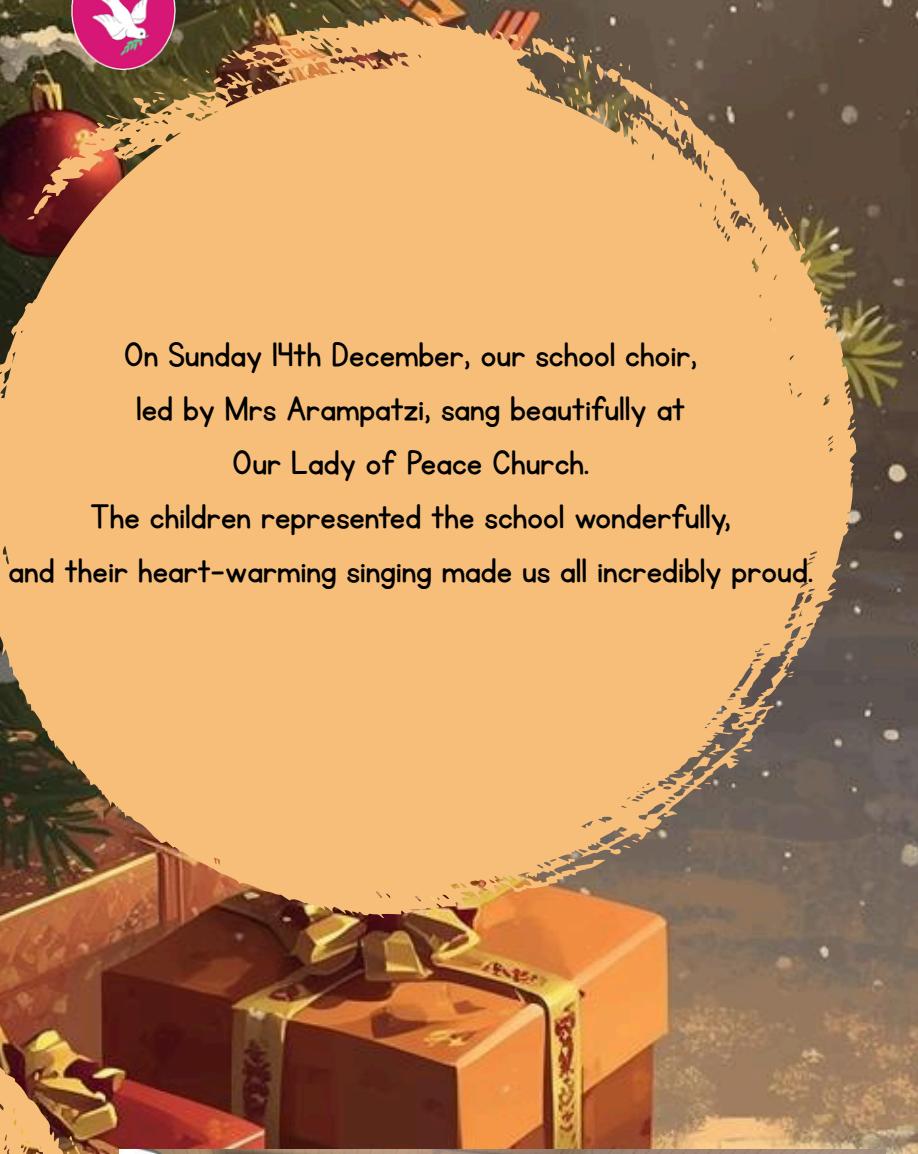
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# Catholic Life and Religious Education



# Advent Calendar

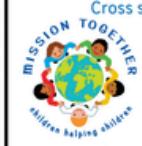


As we enter into this special time of preparation in school and at home. We would like to share our Advent Calendar that we will be following in school. There is a digital and printable version for you to share as a family.

Please do share with us any way in which you celebrate Advent at home or how you are preparing.

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/digital-advent-calendar/>

## Mission Together Advent Calendar 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Today's reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of a time when people will hammer swords and spears into what? + Isaiah 2:1-5  <b>30</b>	An Advent wreath's circular shape and evergreen leaves are signs of God's unending love. What might the candles be a sign of?  <b>1</b>	Advent is a waiting time. Waiting for good things isn't easy, but prayer helps. Today, ask God to help you wait patiently for Christmas Day.  <b>2</b>	Listen to our Advent carol <i>We are Waiting</i> .* Try learning the carol, as a way to help you get ready for Jesus!  <b>3</b>	<b>GLOBAL FAMILY FACT:</b> During Advent in the Philippines, homes are decorated with paper lanterns called Paroles. They are to light the way for Jesus.*  <b>4</b>	Make a Mission Together Star of Hope today, and think about how you can bring hope to others in Advent.*  <b>5</b>	Write an Advent prayer or poem. Try to include the words: Advent, hope, wait, light, God, Jesus, love.  <b>6</b>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Today's reading from the Prophet Isaiah speaks of God's kingdom. How does the prophet describe God's peaceful kingdom? + Isaiah 11:1-10  <b>7</b>	In this 2 <sup>nd</sup> week of Advent we think about peace. Today spend a moment remembering children who live in war zones. Ask God to keep them in His care.  <b>8</b>	One way we prepare for Jesus is by being peacemakers. Make a Mission Together Peace Paper-chain. On each link write ways you can build peace.*  <b>9</b>	Listen carefully to the carol <i>Silent Night</i> . This peaceful carol once stopped soldiers fighting. Try singing along, too.*  <b>10</b>	Make peace today. Say sorry to someone you may have upset this week; or forgive someone who has upset you.  <b>11</b>	<b>GLOBAL FAMILY FACT:</b> Tomorrow is the feast of St Lucy. In Denmark, children join candle-lit processions to honour St Lucy, and as a sign of the light that Jesus brings.*  <b>12</b>	Today, find somewhere peaceful to sit and thank God for the people who love and care for you.  <b>13</b>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> Today's reading from Isaiah speaks of the joy that God's love brings. How can you share that joy today? + Isaiah 35: 1-6a, 10-14  <b>14</b>	Yesterday was Gaudete Sunday. Gaudete means rejoice! The pink candle lit on the Advent wreath is also a sign of joy. Why is there a growing sense of joy?  <b>15</b>	<b>GLOBAL FAMILY FACT:</b> Mauke is an island in Oceania. As Christmas nears, Christians there share the joy of Jesus' birth by giving food hampers to strangers.*  <b>16</b>	Today, make a Mission Together Joyful Paper Angel and think about how you can share the joy of Jesus' birth with others.*  <b>17</b>	Joy is easy to pass on! Look out for people who are lonely today and invite them to play.  <b>18</b>	Singing helps us to feel joyful – especially when we sing with others. Try singing the carol <i>Joy to the World</i> today.*  <b>19</b>	Today, say a prayer for children who are sad or lonely. Ask God to help you share His joy with them.  <b>20</b>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent</b> In today's reading from the Gospel of St Matthew, what does God's angel say to Joseph? + Matthew 1:18-24  <b>21</b>	Christmas is a time for welcoming visitors – Jesus himself is coming! Today, ask your parents if you can help them get things ready for Christmas Day.  <b>22</b>	Around the world, billions of people are preparing for the birth of Jesus. Today, say the Our Father for those in our global family who need God's help today.  <b>23</b>	<b>GLOBAL FAMILY FACT:</b> In DR Congo (Africa), people of all ages will take part in big nativity plays this evening. Can you share the Christmas story with someone today, too?*  <b>24</b>	<b>Rejoice! Jesus is born!</b> Remember to thank God, and your family, for all the gifts their love brings.  <b>25</b>	<small>Cross symbol + refers to scriptures found in our Advent Celebrations of the Word. Asterisks * refer to assemblies, craft activities, and sing-along carols. Download all for free at MissionTogether.org.uk</small> <small>Mission Together is the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission Registered Charity No. 1056651</small>  	

## ATTENDANCE FOR THIS TERM



Please ensure you are calling the Office on 01628 661886 or emailing [attendance@olopprimary.co.uk](mailto:attendance@olopprimary.co.uk) before 9am to advise of any absence.

RHA St Valentine 92.8%.

RRP St Joseph 96%.

IEH St Bernadette 94.7%.

IRS St Faustina Kowalska 94.1%.

2SS St Mary Magdalene 96.1%.

2SK St Teresa of Calcutta 95.2%.

3CK St Martin de Porres 97.2%.

3MB St Paul 95.7%.

4SS St Peter 94.4%.

4RB St John Bosco 95.7%.

5TH St Thomas Moore 94.7%.

5HH St Assisi 96.2%.

6J0K St Maximillian 95%.

6SP St Josephine Bakhita 93.8%.



# Reception



## Talk for Writing

In our Talk for Writing sessions, the children have been enjoying exploring the stories *The Gingerbread Man* and *The Jolly Christmas Postman*. We spent time getting to know the characters, talking about who they were and how they felt at different points in the stories. The children were extremely excited when the Gingerbread Man escaped from the role play ovens and ran as fast as he could! The children loved changing parts of the stories by adding new characters, different endings and exciting events. A strong focus was placed on writing simple sentences using capital letters at the beginning, finger spaces between words and a full stop at the end. Through fun activities, the children practised saying their sentences aloud before writing them. Role play was a big highlight, as the classroom became a busy post office. The children wrote letters, posted them, sorted the mail and delivered it to their friends, helping them to understand how writing is used in real life while building confidence and creativity.

## Mathematics

In Mathematics, the children have been developing their understanding of shapes and numbers through practical, hands-on activities. We explored a range of 2D shapes, learning their names and talking about their properties, such as sides and corners. The children enjoyed going on shape hunts and building pictures using different shapes. We also focused on numbers 0-5, learning to recognise them, count objects carefully and match quantities to the correct number. Using five frames, cubes and other resources, the children made numbers in different ways and learned that numbers can be made up of smaller parts. They practised writing numbers correctly, paying attention to starting points and formation. These activities helped build strong number sense while making maths fun, engaging and meaningful for all learners.

## Religious Education

In Religious Education, the children learned about the Nativity story and what it means to Christians, especially during the season of Advent. We talked about the key characters, including Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men, and discussed the idea of patiently waiting and preparing for Christmas Day. The children listened carefully to the story, asked thoughtful questions and shared their own ideas. They expressed their understanding by drawing pictures, creating crafts and acting out the Nativity through role play. Singing Christmas songs helped bring the story to life and made learning joyful and memorable. Through these activities, the children developed a deeper understanding of the Nativity story and why it is such an important part of Christmas for many families.

## Special Events and Celebrations

This term has also been filled with exciting experiences and special celebrations. We were thrilled to welcome Zoo Lab into school, where the children had the opportunity to meet a variety of amazing animals and learn fascinating facts about them. The visit sparked curiosity and encouraged respectful discussions about caring for living things. We proudly celebrated Anti-Bullying Week, learning about kindness, friendship and how to support one another. During Black History Month, the children explored important themes of diversity and equality through stories and discussions. We ended the term with a fantastic Christmas carol concert, where the children sang beautifully and confidently, making it a joyful celebration for everyone involved. On our penultimate day of term, the children were elated when Santa Claus visited the classrooms and they received class presents for being on the nice list.

The Reception team wish you all a peaceful and very Merry Christmas.



# Year One



## Religious Education

In Creation and Covenant, the children learned how God created the world and discussed the role we play in caring for it for future generations. During Prophecy and Promise, they focused on Mary, her role as Jesus' mother and why she was chosen. They also learned about the role of angels in delivering God's message.

## English

The children studied The Enormous Turnip, using adjectives to describe objects, people and animals, and applied their phonics knowledge to their writing. They then explored instructional writing, learning about structure and key vocabulary.

Later, they read The Storm Whale, focusing on describing settings. Throughout the term, the children continued to develop their handwriting, writing skills and use of punctuation.

## Maths

The children worked on place value, counting forwards and backwards within 10, and reading and writing numbers in numerals and words. They identified one more and one less and used mathematical language such as equal to, more than and less than. They also focused on addition and subtraction within 10, including number bonds, related subtraction facts and solving one-step problems using practical resources and pictorial representations.

In shape work, the children recognised, named and sorted 2D and 3D shapes and created patterns using them.

## Phonics

The children have worked hard learning new phonemes as well as alternative graphemes for some of these. They have enjoyed using the Floppy website in helping them with this learning.

## Science

The children learned about Animals including Humans. They classified and identified mammals, reptiles, birds, fish and amphibians, and discussed herbivores, carnivores and omnivores. They also explored the human body, naming body parts and learning about their structure.

## Geography

In the topic What is it like here?, the children explored the school grounds and local area. They created simple maps using symbols, learned the points of a compass and used directional language.

## History

The children studied Schools in the Past, learning how schools, particularly Our Lady of Peace, have changed over time.

## Art

In the Spirals topic, the children explored how to use their whole bodies to create patterns and pictures. They studied the work of Molly Haslund and observed spirals in nature before creating their own artwork using a range of media.

## Design and Technology

The children learned how to design and make a moving picture book.

## Computing

The children learned about technology in the classroom, identified the parts of a computer and practised using technology responsibly. They also wrote short algorithms and programs to control floor robots and predicted program outcomes.

# Year Two



What a whirlwind first term it has been! The children have achieved so much, and it has been wonderful to see the progress they have made across all areas of learning. Looking back, it is truly impressive to reflect on everything they have accomplished.

In English, the children wrote their own character descriptions as well as some amazing instructions on how to trap a magical creature. In maths they made excellent progress through topics including shape, addition and subtraction, and place value. One of the highlights of the term was our trip to Didcot Railway Centre. It was a fantastic day where the children stepped back in time, learning how transport has changed over the years and enjoying the memorable experience of riding on a real steam train.

The children also took part in Andy Goldsworthy-inspired artwork in nature, which was a joy to observe. Their creativity shone through as they explored materials and created thoughtful pieces of art outdoors. Creating poppies in November provided a poignant opportunity to reflect on remembrance, with the children writing heartfelt and respectful messages on each one.

Throughout this term in RSHE, the children have taken part in a wide range of learning experiences that support their personal, social, and emotional development. In RSHE lessons, they explored friendships, feelings, and how to be kind and respectful to others. Highlights included celebrating Black History Month, Odd Socks Day, Anti-Bullying week and wearing red on Show Racism the Red Card Day.

Religious Education has been full of engaging learning this term. The children explored stories such as Noah releasing the dove after the flood and learned about the Angel Gabriel appearing to Mary and Zechariah. Year 2 also had the special role of being the choir for this year's Nativity. They performed beautifully, and the story, told through song, linked closely with their learning in R.E.

The children have worked incredibly hard throughout the term, and we are very proud of them. We hope you and your families have a happy and restful Christmas, and we look forward to welcoming the children back for another exciting term in Year 2.



# Year Three



## History

This term in History, Year 3 explored life during the Stone Age through a combination of classroom learning and immersive experiences. A highlight of the term was the Year 3 trip to Ufton Court, where pupils travelled by coach to take part in hands on workshops designed to bring prehistory to life. During the visit, the children learned about how Stone Age people lived, including their homes, tools, hunting methods, and daily routines. They engaged in practical activities, which helped them understand how early humans survived and adapted to their environment.

## Science

Our Science topics this term were packed with hands on investigations and exciting experiments. We began by studying skeletons and muscles, exploring how the human body is supported and how movement is made possible. To deepen their understanding, the children constructed their own mechanical models of biceps and triceps, demonstrating how opposing muscle groups work together to move the arm. This practical task helped them visualise complex ideas in a memorable and engaging way.

We then moved on to learning about different types of rocks and their properties, examining how they are formed and how they can be classified.

To bring our Earth science learning to life, the children created their own edible models of the layers of the Earth using “dirt pudding”. This was not only great fun but also an effective way for them to understand the structure of the Earth’s crust, mantle, and core.

## Religious-

In the topic of Creation and Covenant the children studied the book of Genesis and have a greater understanding of the purpose of God's creation and the depths of God love for us, His creation. We looked at a range of religious art, meditated on the beauty of the world and the lives of the Saints and how they showed love for God's creation. In the Topic of Prophecy and Promise, we studied the prophet Isaiah and how he shared the message of God's promise to send Jesus His Son. We also learned about the obedience, commitment and trust St Joseph showed. We used role play, created religious art, acted out the Annunciation unto Joseph and Mary. Children created beautiful angels inspired by the work of Edgar Philips and drew beautiful landscapes inspired by the scripture readings of Isaiah 4 1-5. We wish all children and their families a peaceful and happy Christmas and prosperous New Year!



# Year Four



R.E.

Advent without a doubt is every child's favourite part of the liturgical year. They have consistently shown in lessons through discussions how much they care for others in school and the parish community.

## Science

Ensuring the children knew that what they consume today can impact their bodies and lives detrimentally when they are older was an eye opener them all. Especially when we discussed the cost of dental treatment if they consume too many sweet products.

## History

I believe the children were fascinated about the living conditions of children the same age as them during the Anglo-Saxon era. They couldn't believe those children had to do so many different physical jobs instead of going to school.

## Geography

The ZooLab coming into their classrooms was of the best days of this term. Having the opportunity to either hold, stroke or look at creatures like a tarantula found in rainforests on the other side of the world was truly amazing.

## RSHE

Work completed during October for Black History and Show Racism the Red Card, made us all realise how fortunate we are to attend a school that believes in inclusivity at its core. The children understood that the mistakes made by our ancestors should never be repeated and it is their responsibility to ensure the world is a fair and safe environment in the future.

## Computing

Digital, digital, digital – this is the world your children have been born into and only know. It is a world they feel comfortable and secure using, but we had to teach them that unfortunately there are many pitfalls to be aware of – online security and the notorious scammer.

## Art

It was lovely to see how much this year band really appreciates the artistry and sketching, using a variety of media to be creative. Designing and making their own story books, which I hoped was enjoyed by all at home.

## Design Technology

Linking Science with DT, by making and using circuits to create a torch made this unit of work a highlight of this half term.

## PE/Games

Fitness and gymnastics have been our focus this term, with the children realising that youth does not equate to being fit. How flexible they were a surprise, but it did help them to really enjoy the gymnastics lessons.

## French

As so many of our children in Yr4 can speak different languages, they have enjoyed continuing their learning of French this term, focusing on language related to themselves and family members.

## Music

Thanks to Mrs Fenton's teaching of the Christmas carol's your children produced a wonderful Christmas Carol production, with the star being Ranvir on the piano, playing Silent Night.

# Year Five



The Year 5 pupils have had a fantastic start to the academic year! All the staff have been really impressed by their mature attitude and dedication to their work - let's hope for a continuation of this wonderful approach for the term ahead!

In R.E. the children learnt about the covenant that was made between God and Moses. They studied the importance of the Ten Commandments and how they still guide our behaviour today. They also explored the family tree of King David, learning that Jesus was one of his descendants and therefore the living fulfillment of God's covenant with David himself.

In English, we have written three different text types: warning stories, non-chronological reports and poetry. We have focussed upon the grammatical features of each text type and ensured we use the appropriate tone, depending on the context.

In maths, we started the term by focusing on place value then moved onto addition and subtraction. After half-term, we worked on multiplication and division problems and ended the term with our unit on fractions. The children worked extremely hard in every lesson and persevered even when the problems became quite complicated!

In history, we studied The Tudors. We enjoyed our trip to Hampton Court Palace and learnt a lot about the lives of rich and poor people in Tudor times. The pupils' Brain Builder projects on The Tudors were a wonderful variety of artwork, modelling, written word and digital media. Thank you to all the parents and carers who supported their children with their excellent homework!

Our geography topic focussed upon the Alps. The children learnt about its geographical features such as climate, location and topography. They also researched why people visit the Alps each year, exploring the popular places and attractions to visit there. We also compared the Alpine city of Innsbruck with our local area, identifying the similarities and differences between the two.

In our science lessons, we learnt about forces at the beginning of the year. In particular, the pupils focussed upon different types of force, such as gravity, air resistance and friction. Recently, we have investigated materials and their properties, understanding why certain materials are suited to particular jobs, such as car tyres being made from rubber.

Overall, it has been a busy and exciting start to Year 5 - it is hard to believe that we have reached the end of term so quickly! Well done to all the Year 5 pupils for your hard work, good behaviour and kindness throughout the term. Have a very merry Christmas and enjoy a well-deserved rest!

Mr. Head and Mr. Haidaree

# Year Six



In RE, we began the Autumn term by learning about Creation and Covenant, focusing on the second account of Creation from Genesis. The children first represented the meaning of the story through their own artwork before exploring the scripture in more detail. This learning was then linked to our responsibility as stewards of God's creation, as taught by God and the Pope. Throughout our RE lessons, the children have also been learning about Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the importance of treating everyone with dignity and respect, caring for others and taking responsibility for our world. The children also researched and presented information about Catholic scientists, helping them to understand how Science and RE work together.

This half term, we moved on to Prophecy and Promise, where the children learnt about important women in the Old Testament and compared these inspiring figures to Mary and her faithful response when she was told she would be the mother of God. The children have really enjoyed the thoughtful discussions and group work across these areas of the RE curriculum. We were also fortunate to welcome Wayne Dixon, who spoke to the children about the true meaning of Christmas and how this message encourages us to live out Catholic Social Teaching in our everyday lives. Father Anthony also visited the school and spoke to the children, who asked him lots of interesting questions and enjoyed learning from his experiences.

In History during Autumn 1, the children studied World War Two, learning about key events leading up to and during the war, including The Blitz and the Battle of Britain. As part of this topic, we visited the Battle of Britain Bunker in Uxbridge. The children thoroughly enjoyed exploring artefacts from the time, plotting locations on maps, trying on soldiers' and pilots' uniforms and discovering what life was like inside the bunker. It was a memorable and enjoyable day that brought their learning to life.

In Geography this half term, the children have been exploring the topic of Population and how it impacts the environment. As a year group, we investigated our local area by walking to Burnham Park and along the High Street. During this fieldwork, the children acted as excellent ambassadors for the school, confidently questioning members of the public about issues such as noise levels, pollution and traffic. This provided valuable first-hand learning and helped the children to better understand how human activity affects the places we live.

In Art, the children explored the three-dimensional work of artist Lubaina Himid and discussed how art can be more powerful when it can be experienced in space rather than simply viewed on a wall. Inspired by this, they created enlarged silhouettes of soldiers to produce striking WWII artwork for Remembrance Sunday.

Displaying the work in three dimensions greatly enhanced its impact.

In DT, the children are currently designing and making a soft toy for themselves or a family member. They carefully planned their designs, chose suitable materials and practised the blanket stitch. The children are now sewing their toys together and will soon be ready to stuff and decorate them with appliqué details of their choice. We are looking forward to sharing the finished toys with you in the new year.

In PE, the children have been developing their physical skills by improving their general fitness, with a focus on stamina, agility, balance and speed. They have also shown excellent teamwork through choreographing dances and taking part in Touch Rugby and Basketball.

In Science, we have been learning about electricity and light. The children have particularly enjoyed these topics due to the hands-on experiments. In the electricity unit, they built a range of circuits and investigated how changing different components affected the outcome. More recently, in our light unit, the children explored reflective materials, investigated refraction using objects placed in water and carried out an experiment to observe how the length of a shadow changes at different times of the day.

As we come to the end of the term, we can see how the values of Catholic Social Teaching underpin so much of our learning across the curriculum — from working respectfully in groups and supporting one another, to showing care, responsibility and kindness in our daily school life. We would like to wish all of our children and their families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful New Year.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of our Walk to School Ambassadors.

These are children who will champion active travel to school. Thank you to all the children who put their names forward.

Congratulations to all of our new Walk to school Ambassadors.

A Walk to School Ambassador, is a student leader who promotes active travel (walking, cycling, scooting) to school, helps run the program by tracking journeys and awarding badges, and inspires

peers to be healthier and help the environment, acting as a positive role model for sustainable journeys. They champion the cause in classes, assemblies, and encourage participation in the monthly badge system for sustainable travel.

There are lots of resources to use on this link:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/wow-the-walk-to-school-challenge/wow-ambassador/>



# What is happening?



## Burnham Lodge Festive Picture Drawing Competition In Conjunction with May's Chocolate House

This years competition invites children to pick up their pencils, crayons, colouring pens or paints and let their Imagination twinkle like fairy lights.

Children can create any festive masterpiece they wish that's bursting with colour and festiveness.

All children are welcome to join in the fun.

All drawings will be displayed in May's Chocolate House, transforming it into a cheerful wonderland of creativity.

Entries will be judged by the wonderful May's Chocolate House who will pick the winners for different categories:

Most Festive

Most Creative

Most Heartwarming

Funniest Christmas Scene

All entries must be submitted by 20.12.25