St. RICHARD'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newsletter

2024-2025 Term 2

John 3:16
"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."

Welcome to our Christmas Newsletter.

Pupil voice

This term in Year 5, we've been learning about the four Advent candles. One is lit each Sunday during the Advent period.

The first one is purple and that represents Hope. Hope means to me that you always have hope even when there's none left. I'm hopeful for my parents and I hope for a good life.

The second one is also purple and represents Peace. Peace means to me that there's no fighting in the world and I hope there will be peace until I die.

The third one pink, it represents Joy and when you light the pink candle you know Christmas is just around the corner. Joy means to me that you will always have happiness in your life and that you never be sad.

The fourth candle is Love. Love means to me that even when you're mad at someone there's always a place in your heart where you love them.

Sometimes a white candle is lit on Christmas Day. Jesus Christ was born on that day. He is the saviour of the world and a peace maker, he spread the Good word of God to all people.

To me, these candles stand out from any other candles because they represent Christmas. Most candles just give out a scent but these candles represent the weeks of Christmas and what is special to all of us.

In Year Five, we've made our own paper wreaths and we went to the old people's home behind Morrison's for Christmas Carolling.

In our homework books, we were asked to draw a picture about what this quote means to us. It was the Gospel of John Chapter 1 Verse 5 'The light shines in the darkness and the darkness can never extinguish it.'

I feel we've been learning a lot this term and I will be honest it's hard to keep track of. Our religious knowledge has been blown through the roof this term and I feel we've learned a lot more about Jesus, the candles advent and Christmas as a result.

Merry Christmas

Georgia Year 5

1 John 1:5-8
5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
6 There was a man sent from God whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. 8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light.

On the next page we have a special Christmas message from Canon Victor Darlington, the Episcopal Vicar for the Southeast Area. He warmly greeted myself and the children, who had joined me at the special Advent Service held at St George's Cathedral on Friday 6th December. Out of all the schools he must look after and were present that day it was nice that he recalled St Richard's, and he remembered his visit so fondly.

Reflection from Canon Victor Darlington, Episcopal Vicar for Education

Beloved Friends, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Do you have a favourite Christmas Carol? Mine is Silent Night.

Every year in December, when I go around London, in the coffee shops, in a taxi, in schools, and in our parishes, I hear Silent Night sung. The words of the carol connect me with how God works mysteriously - not in mighty and significant ways, not in the fire and brightness of the day, not in the heavy wind, not in thunderstorms and lightning, but calmly and quietly in the silence and stillness of the night - our saviour was born, it evokes in me till today how God still connects with me and with us in silence – how important it is to withdraw sometimes from the noise and busyness of our world to recognise and hear God speaking to us.

As you come to the end of a busy school year, I recommend this carol to you. There is so much spirituality in that song. It connects me to see how God works in our lives. Silent night was holy, silent, calm and peaceful- the night our saviour was born. In the silence of that same night - the Shepards heard the message of the angel and went in haste to pay homage to the adorable baby born on that sacred night - whose birthday dispelled the darkness of that silent night and brought light, a new dawn to our world.

The next few days and weeks leading to Christmas, as we know is busy, and with plenty of distractions from an often-secular understanding of Christmas. I encourage you to rediscover the true meaning of Christmas, and to spend some time in silence before Christmas to reconnect with Jesus whose birthday we shall all celebrate on Christmas day.

Thank you for all the excellent work you have done this year. I pray that as we look forward to the Jubilee Year, we as a pilgrimage people of Hope will receive all the graces we need for ourselves and our family.

I wish you and your family and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Canon Victor Darlington
Episcopal Vicar for the Southeast Area,
Commissions for Promoting Racial and Cultural Inclusion,
Education and Director of Caritas, Archdiocese of Southwark

Advent Matchbox Manger.

Cut out, fold and stick together the box (1).

Cut the swaddle (2) and sticky tape it in a roll. Stick on the smiling baby Jesus face (3) and keep it somewhere safe until Christmas Day!

This Advent, every time you do a good deed, or make a little sacrifice for someone else like holding the door open, offering someone the last biscuit, or sharing your toys, place a small piece of straw in the manger (you could make some straw by cutting yellow paper into thin strips if you don't have straw).

By the time Christmas Day comes, hopefully there is a manger full of straw to place the baby Jesus on, as a sign that you have been preparing your heart this Advent for Jesus.

1

2 ROLL ← Top

3 STICK

CELEBRATE
www.firstsaturday.co.uk

Autumn Psalm Walk

Intro

Wrap up warm and decide where you would like to walk. Maybe to a park or a place in the countryside, or maybe you have arrived at your walk already. There will be things to look out for, to say and do.

You might like to spot:
different colour leaves*, twigs*, feathers, petals*, blackberries, small pebbles, minibeasts, wildlife
**we will collect some of these later - take care to ensure children do not collect anything poisonous.*

On your way, you are going to hear parts of Psalm 104 from the Bible.

This is the Psalm response that you will repeat throughout the walk:

Praise the Lord, my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are!

Have a quick practice.

Step 1

Make the sign of the cross.
Look around you as you walk - what are the tallest plants/trees/houses/shops/flats that you can see? What is the weather like? Describe where you are walking.

Our God is great - he is the creator of the whole world. He has wonderfully ordered everything so that we can live here.

Choose someone to read Psalm 104:5:

"You have set the earth firmly on its foundations, and it will never be moved."

Response (everyone):

Praise the Lord, my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are!

Walk on

Step 2

In the autumn, leaves change colour and fall from many of the trees. What colours can you see? Can you hear them crunching beneath your feet? Collect leaves of different colours and shapes.

You might play Tic-tac-toe by making this shape with twigs and using two different colour leaves for two people to play.

God is an amazing artist! He designed all the different shapes and colours of the plants and trees in our world.

Choose someone to read Psalm 104:16:

"The cedars of Lebanon get plenty of rain— the Lord's own trees, which he planted."

Response (everyone):

Praise the Lord, my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are!

Walk on

Step 3

Can you see any water on your walk? Are there puddles or perhaps a river or pond? If you have wellies, you might like to splash through puddles, or if you find a bridge on your walk, you might like to play Pooh sticks.
Why is water important to us, to creatures, to plants? God provides water for his creation to grow and be healthy, and that includes us!

Choose someone to read Psalm 104:10:

"You make springs flow in the valleys, and rivers run between the hills."

Response (everyone):

Praise the Lord, my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are!

Walk on

Step 4

As you walk, what creatures can you see? In the air, in the trees, on water, and on the ground. Look closely at the ground, shrubs and plants - can you see any minibeasts? Can you describe them? How many legs do they have? How do they move?

God knows about each plant and each creature. If he gives the flowers such beautiful colours and provides food for the creatures, how much more will he take care of us!

Choose someone to read Psalm 104:24:

"Lord, you have made so many things! How wisely you made them all! The earth is filled with your creatures."

Response (everyone):

Praise the Lord, my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are!

Walk on

Step 5

Can you search for the following items to make a heart shape on the ground? Leaves*, petals*, little stones, twigs **ones that have fallen to the ground already.*

God loves us completely and has given us a beautiful world to live in. As you place each item into the heart shape, say thank you to God for something.

Choose someone to read Psalm 104:1:

"Praise the Lord, my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are"

Response (everyone):

Praise the Lord, my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are!

Walk on

Step 6

Is there play equipment nearby? If not, why not have fun playing a game like Stuck in the Mud or I Spy with My Little Eye?

Gather back together afterwards.
God is with us when we are happy and having fun, and also when we are feeling sad. He loves us and will never leave us. He wants to fill us with his joy and happiness.

Choose someone to read Psalm 104:31:

"May the glory of the Lord last forever! May the Lord be happy with what he has made!"

Response (everyone):

Praise the Lord, my soul!
O Lord, my God, how great you are!

On this last step, join hands to say the family prayer Jesus taught us, the 'Our Father' and finish with the sign of the cross.

CELEBRATE HOME

Pupil voice

Year 6 Elsie and Subiksha

We have been learning all about bar models. We have been working on Barvember which continued into December. We have also been learning about fractions. We have learnt how to add them, multiply and subtract fractions as well as reduce them to their simplest form.

English

We have been learning a lot about Grammar and comprehension such as a statement or a comma or exclamations.

We have written a letter based on the Christmas Truce, using the correct terms and language from the time. That required a lot of careful thinking to include this as a character.

History

During our History lessons we have created posters based on WW1 such as rationing and political movements such as the Suffragettes. We also learnt how women took over the men's jobs so they could go to war to fight.

RE

We have completed a lot of RE as it Advent, we do it almost every day. The Reflection theme is Joy. We have written poems and shared promises, we have looked at certain pictures and discussed why we liked it and why it was so important. We have 2-3 lessons a week and we write in one lesson and talk and make promises in the other lesson.

Year 5 Myla-Grace and Amelie

We have been learning about Scrooge who is a character from a book written by Charles Dickens called a Christmas Carol. This character was an old miser who was visited by four ghosts these were Jacob Marley, the Ghost of Christmas past, then the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Future.

Maths

We have been learning about fractions and Improper fractions as well as mixed numbers.

RE

We have been learning about Advent and that it is a time of waiting reading for Jesus birth at Christmas.

History

We have been learning about the Victorians and the Work Houses which existed where children and families were places if they were poor. We learnt about chimney sweeps, they had to be thin to fit in the chimney and sweep the soot out.

Year 4 – Noa and Everleigh

In English we were writing a set of instructions about mermaids we also described them which was amazing. I loved that! We learnt so much about this fictional creatures.

Maths

We have been learning about factors, we even did some today! I feel like I have really improved with everything we have done in this topic.

RE

We have learnt about Advent, the colour changes from green to purple. We always have RE on a Monday and Tuesday, we are always doing lots of different types of work around RE. I like it as we draw in lessons as well as write all about the different topics.

Geography

We have been learning about Rivers and it was called Rushing Rivers. They start small and go down a hall like a snake. Each part curves because of how the earth is so it can't go in a straight line. Afterwards, the water goes out to the sea through the mouth of the river.

Science

We have been learning about the water cycle. The water evaporates when it gets hot.

This water becomes a gas and then becomes a cloud. The wind transports the cloud to somewhere else and when that cloud is too heavy the water falls this is called precipitation.

Year 3 Noah and Rozie.

We have been learning our times tables. We have learnt about column addition and subtraction. That was really good, we have also had refresher lessons on other types of addition and subtraction. We learnt about communitive law such as 3x4=12 or 4x3=12

English

We have been reading a new book called Joy around the world. The book tells you how different countries have Christmas around the world such as Iceland or Italy. Before that we read the Tear Thief we love that book so much. It made a great picture in my head about the Tear Thief and what they did.

We went on the school trip to Dover Museum. Afterward we wrote a recount text all about our trip.

History

We made round houses from the Iron Age, we made then from clay, hay, sticks and straw. They were much larger than Bronze Age houses and they were covered in Wattle and Daub.

We learnt that Iron is tougher then bronze. Bronze was harder to use that iron as it took longer to make things, cut down trees or build with Bronze tools. In D.T. we made lanterns out of card and tissue paper, we joined it by folding it and then we used glue to make it stay together.

Year 2 Georgia

English

We have been reading a book about a penguin who gets lost and goes to the North Pole instead of the South Pole! He get help to get back to where he should be.

By reading this book we have been learning about the North Pole and the South Pole and the animals there. Afterwards we wrote a diary about the book.

Maths

In these lessons we have recently been learning about the vertices on 3-D shapes as well as the other properties such as faces or edges.

RE

In RE we have learnt about Advent and the Nativity. The colour changes to purple.

Year 1 – Elliot

In English we have we learnt all about the book Paddington. We wrote a letter to Miss Martin all about Paddington.

Maths

We had to find a number, its on a number line with 0 or 10. We have to find the middle number. We have been working very hard.

RE.

We have learnt about our Christingles and how they were made and why we made them. We have also been learning everything there is to learn about Christmas and Advent.

Science

We have learnt about different types of animals such as reptiles, birds or fish. It has been very interesting to learn about all the different types and how you tell them apart.

Year R

We have learnt a lot since coming to school. I remember learning about dinosaurs, when the dinosaurs were around there were no people, no phones or houses!

We learn tricky words and our sounds each day in class.

This week we have been making our Christingles, we have an orange, we made a hole with a candle and we put 4 sticks in it which represent love. We put marsh mellows on it as well.

Tchoukball from Pheonna

When playing tchoukball, you have 2 nets and ball. You have to bounce the ball off the net. This gives you a point if it touches the floor but if any member of the opposite team catches it then you do not get any points. If it goes in the D area then you get no point. You can score in either net.

We won every game we played. We played against Eythorne, Charlton, Sandown, Greenpark and 3 other schools.

The team was made up of Oliver S, Ruby, Pheonna, Benedict, Kacper, Charlie and Joseph.

Kacper scored 6 I think with Charlie scoring 4, Joseph and I scored one as well. We had a great time.

At the end we won a cup which was the first cup the school has won in a long time. This was absolutely amazing.

St George's Advent Mass – London from Elsie.

This was an amazing day. The Service was really focused on us the children. School's across London and Kent led the Service. They re-told the story of Christ's birth, every child was really good, clear and I could every word.

The steel drum band was great, I loved the live music.

Half way through the service Micky and I took our gifts up to the front, presenting a gift Cannon Victor Darlington which would be given to charity and we also gave him our Advent promises.

I was really glad I was invited, I think it will be one of my highlights of Year 6.

Winter Uniform

The below uniform must be worn at all times:

Boys:
Grey trousers
White shirt (no polo shirt)
School tie
School Jumper
Grey socks
Black Shoes (no boots or trainers)
Girls:
Tartan School Skirt
White shirt (no polo shirts)
School tie
School Jumper or Cardigan
Navy socks
Black Shoes (no boots or trainers)

No jewellery, except a watch, may be worn.

All the school uniform can be purchased from Channel Uniforms in Folkestone (see below link), and a leaflet can be found in the School Office with the price list.

https://www.channeluniforms.co.uk/

We also have a small selection of pre-loved uniform items in school available to purchase at a reduced rate.

Is Your Child Starting School in September 2025?

Admissions for Reception places for September 2025 are open and close on the 15th January 2025. If are interested in finding out more about the school or you have friends or relatives who are looking for a school please encourage them to contact Mrs Robinson in the School Office.

Parking

Thank you to everyone who parks their cars and walks their children into school. It is much appreciated. Please do not stop your car in the middle of the road to drop off any children. A recent incident was dealt with by the Police and they have asked that the school reports all drivers who stop in the middle of the road.

Thank you.

School Meals

School meals are prepared the children by Chartwells and cost £2.95 per day for children in Years 3,4,5 and 6.

Dinners must be booked and paid for (if applicable) using ParentPay. Bookings can be made in advance (as far as the end of the current term) or on the day (before 9.30 am).

Regardless of whether or not your child is a Universal Free School Meal (Year R, 1 and 2), Free School Meal or Paid – all meals must be pre-booked by the parents as the kitchen take the meal number daily, directly from ParentPay and not the school.

Our School Menu can be found online at: https://st-richards-catholic-primary.secure-primarysite.net/meals/

Please make sure your child returns to school on Monday 6th January.

A message from Deacon Barry

First Holy Communion (FHC) Preparation Programme 2025: St Paul's Dover
The First Holy Communion (FHC) preparation programme 2025 commences on SATURDAY 4th January, at 9.30am, St Paul's Church Hall, Dover. The Hall is immediately adjacent to the church.

This is the first of the weekly preparation classes and will continue on each successive Saturdays at St Paul's until June 2025, with the exception of half and end of term school holidays.

Every child MUST attend each of the FHC sessions and STAY with their parent throughout. This helps parents to: better understand the programme; support their child's ongoing development and meet and support other FHC parents.

FHC application forms are available from the back of St Paul's Church, by emailing Deacon Barry, barrybarton@rcaos.org.uk or downloading a copy from the parish website

https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/reconcilliation-first-holy-communion/

Dates to note

Wednesday 15th January 9am. Vision and Hearing screening Year R.

Friday January 31st Candlemas at 2pm in the school hall. Families welcome. There will be no celebration assembly that day.

Term Dates 2024/2025

Term 3

Mon 6th Jan – Fri 14th Feb

Term 4

Tues 25th Feb – Fri 4th April

Term 5

Tues 22nd April – Fri 23rd May

Term 6

Mon 2nd June – Mon 21st July

Staff Development Days 24/25 – School closed to all pupils.

Monday 24th Feb
Tuesday 22nd July

Links to Church websites:

Please find the links to our affiliated Churches for information about the Parish.

St Paul's Roman Catholic Church: https://www.parishofthegoodshepherd.uk/

Our Lady of Dover Church: http://ourladyofdover.cloudaccess.net/

Finally we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. God bless you all.