



Term: Autumn - **Issue Number:** 12 - **Date:** 04th December 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MRS WALLIS

This week's Monday assembly focussed on the often overlooked story of the birth of a baby, foretold by the Angel Gabriel and reported in Luke's gospel – that of John – later to be known as John the Baptist. When he was first told the news of his wife's pregnancy, Zechariah had his doubts! As a result, he was unable to speak until the time came for the baby to be named – we thought about how there is a lesson there about our half term value of Trust as well as discovering a little known story from the Bible.

Today, children will have considered St Andrew – to mark St Andrew's Day on Monday 30th November – and particularly how this special day is marked in Scotland.

As you will have heard, we have been placed in Tier 2 of the latest Covid restrictions – attached to this email is some information related to what this means in practice which I hope you will find useful.

As the weather turns colder, please can I ask you to remind children to bring in hats and gloves as well as a warm coat so that they can enjoy their time in the fresh air.

Thank you again for your support and partnership as we continue to manage in these trying times – I hope you have a restful and enjoyable weekend.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

We are happy to tell you that there will be a Christmas Post Box at both main gates on the following dates for children to post their cards;

Tuesday 8th December, Wednesday 9th December, Thursday 10th December, Monday 14th December

The box is only available on these days to allow the 'elves' to safely sort and distribute the cards and to make sure the cards have had sufficient time 'in quarantine'!

In order for cards to be sent to the right person please ensure all envelopes are addressed with the first name and initial of surname along with the class name.

***we are prepared to provide a class list of first names only in exchange for a 50p donation**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

8th December – Christmas Dinner day – this year – a turkey roll and cracker!

10th December – Non-uniform Day – Christmas Jumper Day – children are welcome to wear Christmas Jumpers in aid of Save The Children and bring in a donation – recommended £1

11th December – **School Closed** – Occasional Day

18th December – **End of term**



SUPPORTING THOSE IN NEED

We are regularly asked to support a range of charitable organisations and this year is no exception. Having considered the specific issues that many are facing as we continue to battle the impact of Covid-19, we have decided to focus our efforts on these worthy causes;

- **Classrooms to Carehomes** –we will be working alongside the Times Educational Supplement to support an initiative that encourages schools to get their pupils to write letters for care home residents and staff. Lesley carter – Age UK’s Clinical Lead says “Older people have really missed the visits from young people. And I think it would be lovely if people could share cards and letters.”
- **Christmas Jumper Day** – 10th December – On this day, we are inviting children – and staff – to wear a Christmas jumper in exchange for a donation for Save The Children (we recommend at least £1) whose declaration is ‘In the UK and around the world we make sure children are safe and healthy. We support them to learn, grow and become who they want to be.’ ***Please note that you don’t need to buy a new jumper for this occasion – or even have a special one – just a piece of tinsel attached to a regular jumper will be fine!**

Thank you in advance if you choose to support one or all of these worthy causes.

HANDS ON TO HAND OUT

Thank you to all who generously donated filled shoe boxes for the homeless or items to go inside a box. They were collected today and will support homeless people in the Euston and Kings Cross areas of London.



DISPLAY IN MORRISON’S WINDOW

We have put a display of children’s art work inspired by the Bible verse; ‘**The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.**’ John 1 verse 5

Why not have a look if you’re in that part of the town...



MATHS AT HOME IDEAS - WEEK 4

The Yes/ No game

A fantastic game which needs no resources at all. One player thinks of a number or shape; their opponent simply asks ‘yes/ no answer’ questions in order to work out what the number or shape is.

Example questions:

- Is it an odd/ number? - Is it a 2-digit number?
- Does it have more than 4 sides? - Does the number have a 5 in it?

This game is easily adapted to suit all age groups.

Have fun!

MOBILE PHONES

Please can we remind you that only Year 6 are permitted to bring a mobile phone to school. This does not include the addition of bluetooth devices such as speakers which can distract children from concentrating on the roads around them and all devices must be handed in to the class teachers at the beginning of the day.



NEGLECT MATTERS - A MESSAGE FROM HCC

The Hertfordshire 'Neglect Matters' campaign is being launched in early 2021 in partnership with the NSPCC and will focus on intervening at the earliest opportunity to prevent neglect and the impact that it has on children, young people and families. In order to help shape the campaign and the services we later develop countywide to support families we'd be grateful for your views. We're asking parents and carers to complete a survey to help us understand what neglect means to you. The survey is very short (only 8 questions in total) and takes only 3 minutes to complete. All answers are completely anonymous, and you don't have to have experienced neglect to take part.

We really want to hear from a variety of parents and carers – whether you're biological parents, adoptive parents, grandparents, fosters carers and so on. We would like to hear from people of all ages, communities and backgrounds.

Your feedback will help to build up a clearer picture and ultimately shape a campaign that will be most relevant to Hertfordshire and the people living here. Protecting children is everyone's business, so please do help us by completing the survey at: <https://bit.ly/HertsNSPCCsurvey>

WINTER READING CHALLENGE

Many of our children regularly take part in the summer reading challenge organised by the library. This year, why not take part in the winter mini reading challenge too? The theme this year is 'Everyone is a Hero' and aims to find heroes, both big and small, by reading great books. All you have to do is set up a website profile and read three books between the 1st December and 15th January. Find out all you need to know at:

<https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/news/general/winter-mini-challenge-2020>

Do let us know in January if you took part and don't forget to tell us what you read! We always love to hear what books you have enjoyed!

CHRISTMAS GIFT BOOK GUIDES

It's that time of year when we're all busy looking for presents for our loved ones. For any families wondering about what books they may want to buy for their primary-aged (and younger) children or relatives, one of our favourite websites, Books for Topics, have prepared Christmas book gift guides for different age groups. You can find them here:

<https://www.booksfortopics.com/gift-guides>

HEALTHY START

Are you pregnant or have a child under four? Did you know you could be missing out on free fruit and vegetables or milk worth at least £200 a year?

If you are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old, and in receipt of certain benefits, you could be entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers worth £3.10 per child per week (£4.25 per week from April 2021), to spend on milk, plain fresh and frozen fruit and vegetables, and instant formula milk. You can also use them to buy certain pulses and canned fruit and vegetables.

If you are entitled to Healthy Start Vouchers you will also get free vitamins designed to help pregnant and breastfeeding women and growing children.

Pregnant women and every child over one and under four years old can get one voucher every week. Children under one year old can get £6.20 per week.

Some supermarkets are also reducing the cost of shopping by an extra £1 to those redeeming the Healthy Start Vouchers.

Check your eligibility on www.gov.uk/healthy-start

You can also use the benefit-checker on the County Council's website, and access free information about benefits that you might be missing-out on – www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/benefits



NEW RECEPTION – SEPTEMBER 2021

If you, or anyone you know, has a child who will be starting school in September, we were hoping to hold some Covid-safe open sessions after school.

However, due to the current country-wide restrictions, these have had to be postponed for the time being.

The video recording for prospective families has now been completed and is available to view on our website.



' I think St Catherine's is a brilliant school. Both my children seem so happy and look forward to going to school ' *Early Years Family in 2020*

Is your child starting school in September 2021?

Are you looking for a church school that will give your child the very best start?

Discover our:

- Fantastic staff committed to supporting your child
- Close links with the parish church
- Professional sports coaching and heated pool
- Popular breakfast and after school clubs
- Extensive grounds and opportunities for outdoor play
- Excellent teaching and opportunities to learn from experiences
- State-of-the-art computer suite

BOOK A VISIT

09/11/20 - 4 - 6pm

01/12/20 - 4 - 6pm

08/01/21 - 4 - 6pm

St Catherine's C of E Primary School
Haslewood Avenue,
Hoddeston
(Find us opposite Sainsbury's,
close to the Clocktower)



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AIM HIGH; IN LIFE, IN LEARNING, WITH GOD - TOGETHER

Here are the results from last week's Times Table Rockstars Battle of the Classes!

Next battle: 4/12 - 10/12

Year 3

Clock Tower: 1,784 ★

Rye Mead: 502

Year 5

New River: 3,091

Dobbs Weir: 9,851 ★

Year 4

Rawdon House: 3114

Lampits: 4,494 ★

Year 6:

DLR: 4,692 ★

The Lynch: 3,806



Highest scoring players/ superstars: Yr3: Louisa; Yr4: Simbiso; Yr5: Spyro; Yr6: Jussi

Highest scoring class: Dobbs Weir (for the second week running!)

Class with the most participants/ winner of the TTRS trophy: New River 🏆

Well done if you played!



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