



THE FLAME



Edition 3

Dec 2018



Holy Family Catholic Primary School, Addlestone



Advent...a time to prepare for the birth of our Saviour!

Advent is a time of joy, celebration and waiting, it is a time in which we prepare for the birth of Our Lord; Jesus Christ. In Advent people decorate their home with many different things and they use their Advent calendars to count down the days until Christmas. On Christmas Day children open presents, but all these things are not the true meaning of Christmas; the true meaning of Christmas is to remember Jesus and how he came to our earth, it is also to grow closer to God and strengthen our faith. We remember the Christmas story in our school through RE and nativity plays. Around December we focus very strongly on Christmas related tasks such as making different things for the Christmas Wonderland, the school carol service and more! In assemblies we will talk about many different ways we can prepare for the birth of Jesus. I am sure that everyone can agree that the importance of Advent's truly astronomical as it marks the start of the church year!

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Pope Francis Watch...what has our beloved Pope been up to lately?



Pope Francis has a special affection and love for homeless people and the poor. He frequently speaks out to support them and we have seen many examples of him helping those in need. On World Day of the Poor (Sunday Nov 18th), Pope Francis celebrated a special Mass in St Peter's Basilica and gave VIP tickets to 4,000 homeless people. Following Mass they were given a very special hot meal, *'This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him'*



Value of the month: Joy

Philemon 1:7

'Your love has given me great **joy** and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.'

Supporting Grassroots and the Woking Homeless

This year we are working with the charity Grassroots once again supporting Woking homeless people. Woking's team are there to lend a friendly and non-judgmental ear, they provide support. They give the homeless, things like; emergency clothing equipment and food, this makes a big difference to this part of England mostly at this time of year when it is cold and wet. Every summer, the kind and friendly staff at Grassroots are incredibly kind as they give up their time to help make our school even nicer than it already is. They make our garden look brand new, we do not ask them to do this but they just do it out of sheer kindness. **During Advent we raised £137 to support this wonderful cause**



Holy Family Flames for December

Each class has a Holy Family Flame chosen by the teachers or pupils every month. Holy family flames are chosen because they have been recognised for sharing the light of Jesus.. There is also a special head teacher flame for those who have not just impressed the teachers but have also amazed the head teacher! Towards the end of the month the flames have a special lunch in the library with Mrs O'Neil and or Mr Tindall. The Holy Family flames for December, chosen by the 3 previous Flames are; Mia Rupal (Year R), Freya Aquino (Year 1), Ruby Hall (Year 2), Robbie Chivers (Year 3), Harrison Goodwill, (Year 4) Kyana Machiado (Year 5), Rosa Fernandez-Shipman (Year 6), Keira Cahill (Headteacher's)

Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day



Every year at Holy Family, we help 'Save the Children'. We come to school in our Christmas jumpers and bring in a small donation and give it the teachers, they will put all the money together and give it to the charity 'Save the Children'. Save the Children is an international non-governmental organisation that promotes children's rights, provides relief and helps support children in developing countries, where they are less fortunate than us. **This year we raised £204 For Save the Children...may God bless you all for your generosity and support.**

Mary's meals



During Advent, we are supporting a charity called Mary's Meals, they help less privileged children who have much less than we do and they give them an education and a hot meal to eat; we don't have to worry about being fed but for them this is a very big deal! At Holy Family, we support this charity by filling backpacks with the essentials to a happy and healthy life. This includes: a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, clothes and more. The backpacks allow children in poor countries such as India, Kenya, Malawi and Sudan to go to school. At school they are given a hot meal; this is often the only hot food they get each day. For £13.90 we can provide a hot meal to a child in Africa every day for one whole year! **This year we raised an amazing total of £625 which means we can feed 90 children every day for a whole year!**



The Advent Wreath

The Advent Wreath has everlasting leaves on its branches. The Advent wreath, or Advent crown, is a Christian tradition that symbolizes Christ's everlasting love and the passage of the four weeks of Advent in the liturgical calendar, of the Western church. ... Many Advent wreaths include a fifth, Christ candle which is lit at Christmas

Eve or Christmas Day. The advent wreath is made up of three purple candles a pink and one white

Every week we light an extra candle to show that we are one week closer to Jesus' birth in Bethlehem where he was born in an old stable, The light reminds us that Jesus is the light of the world.

Lots of people hang their advent wreath on their front door where everyone can see it and some people put it on their Christmas tree.

In a church at the start of December they will light it during Mass and light one more candle every week.

The order we light the candles:

The first candle is Purple. It represents Gods people and Hope.

The second candle is Purple. It represents the Old Testament prophets and Peace.

The third candle is Pink. It represents Mary the mother of Jesus and Joy.

The fourth candle is Purple. It represents John the Baptist and Love.

The final candle is White. It represents the Birth of Christ and reminds us all that Jesus is the light of the world.



Reception Nativity

At Holy Family, the children in key stage one have been working incredibly hard this half term to perform some Christmas nativities to get everyone into the Christmas spirit and in this they definitely succeeded! Reception went first, performing 'The Nursery Rhyme Nativity' to the whole school- it was incredible as they all got on the stage and sang songs (some of them even did solos) and acted out the Christmas story when most of them were only four!

Key Stage One Nativity

After Reception performing such a brilliant play it was hard to get anyone to feel more Christmassy but I think we all can agree that Year One and Two did exactly that with their play 'Prickly Hay'. In Prickly Hay, there were talking animals, a stable boy and much more! So, to all the children who performed in plays this half term- a big WELL DONE from the Year 6 Liturgy leaders!



Holy Family Advent Carol Service 2018



The Advent Carol Service begins with the angels leading the Gloria dance which welcomes everyone then we sing Christmas Carols and hymns together with readings to help us reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. A second liturgical dance, 'Mary Did You Know', helps us think especially of Our Blessed Lady and we also say Happy Christmas in all the different languages within the Holy Family community (India, Polish, Chinese, Slovakian, Spanish and more). We think about the birth of Jesus and thank God for all our blessings and for making our world a beautiful place to live. During the carol service we have a collection for our chosen Advent charities; this year, Kingston homeless and Mary's Meals will benefit from the generosity of our community. It is amazing to think that for £13.90 we can feed one child in Africa with a hot lunch every day in school for a whole year! Our donations this year are being match-funded by the government so our £13.90 will actually feed 2 African children every day.

Great Pilgrimage sites of the world—The Vatican City

St Peter's Basilica — Designed by Donato Bramante, Michelangelo Carlo Maderno and Gian Lorenzo Bernini, St. Peter's Basilica is the largest church in the world. Being the largest church in the world it can hold up to 60,000 people at once. The enormous St. Peter's Basilica dominates Vatican City, and its dome can be seen from all over Rome. Built on the site of St. Peter's crucifixion and over his tomb, it's the epicenter of the Catholic Church and the burial place of many popes, including Pope John Paul II. The lavishly adorned basilica is the largest church in Italy and all of Christendom, and it's also a museum full of priceless works of art—including Michelangelo's spectacular "Pietà" and Bernini's bronze baldachin

The Sistine Chapel is a famous chapel in the Vatican Museums, best known for Michelangelo's 16th-century painted ceiling. It is visited by millions of tourists every year but is also the chapel where cardinals gather to begin the process of electing a new Pope. Everyone should visit The Sistine Chapel in their lifetime.

Saint of the month - St Stephen

St Stephen's Feast Day is 26th of December. He became the first Christian martyr when he was stoned to death in Jerusalem around the year 34 AD. St Stephen's name means 'laurel wreath' or crown in Greek. The martyrdom of St Stephen can be found in Acts Chapter 7.



The Flame editorial team are:

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In the next Edition:

Value of the month: Peace

Great Pilgrimage sites of the world : Lourdes

Meet our liturgy leaders

Prayer partners at Holy Family

Pope Francis Watch

And much more!