



All Saints'

family, faith, flourish

"God gave you that gift... Now let it flourish, as a small flame grows into a fire" (2 Timothy 1:6 – 1CB)

Monday 16th December 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Happy final week of term!

The children have recently enjoyed a Worship all about what Advent means to Christians and to others. It is a period of waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas.

The counting down is symbolised through a calendar or advent candle and may involve a tasty treat or two!

Did you know: Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which means 'coming'.

It's been a wonderfully busy half term with lots of exciting opportunities for our children to achieve and flourish both spiritually and academically. We hope you have been able to keep up-to-date via our school blogs and Facebook page.

CHURCH SCHOOL WORK

Our value for reflection this term is **Honesty and Truthfulness** we have been exploring what this looks like in everyday life at school and in the world.



Perhaps as a family you would like to talk about this at home through these two discussion cards.

Annie always tells the truth and she makes a point of letting everyone know. Does that make her more honest?

John told his friends he likes skateboarding because they do. But he doesn't like skateboarding. Is that dishonest?

Our children at All Saints' as always are committed to identifying charities for us to support and we would like to thank all of our families for their contributions to this. Our recent collection for Children in Need raised over £450. Many of the children have already identified fund raising opportunities for the new year and we look forward to continuing to support local charities such as the Jigsaw foodbank and charities overseas in 2025.

The Worship Team will be visiting Jigsaw Food bank again at the end of January to volunteer for a few hours and understand more about how this charity supports our local community.

THE NARNIA EXPERIENCE:

Last weekend saw our beautiful scenes from the story The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe displayed over the Christmas Market weekend in All Saints' Church. Our children from Early Years to Year Six worked in teams to produce the most magnificent scenes that show values from the bible brought to life in the story:





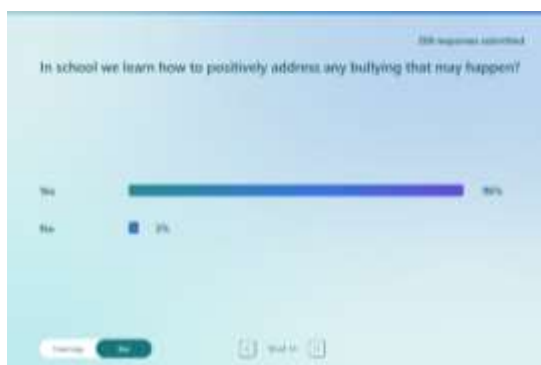
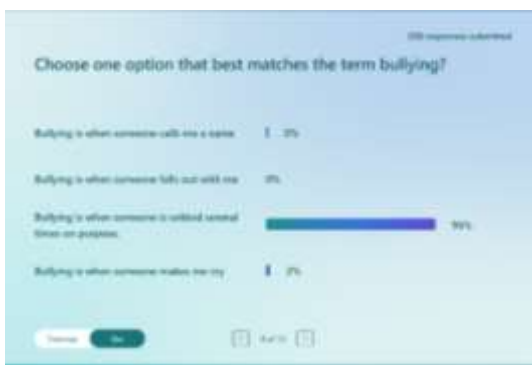
CHRISTMAS CRAFT

Without wanting to give away too many Christmas surprises, the children thoroughly enjoyed crafts galore on Thursday, dressed in their festive gear, they rolled up their sleeves and got crafty with glue and glitter (sorry Debs, Brian and Hayley)!! Here are Year 1 enjoying their day...



SURVEYS and QUESTIONNAIRES:

Over the last few weeks, we have spent time talking to *all of our children* about their school, focusing on friendships, safety and behaviour. All the children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 completed the survey individually and anonymously with our younger children completing in small groups. We've attached a link to the full outcome from the survey to this letter, which can be found on our website, [Pupil-voice-november-2024-for-all-saints-ce-juniors](#) but we wanted to share some examples of the positive feedback. It's really important for us to know that the children feel safe and happy at school, understand how to recognise bullying and what to do about it; know how to stay safe online and feel proud to be part of our wonderful school.



ONLINE SAFETY:

We know that a lot of our children are hoping for some electronic devices for Christmas this year, please look out for our weekly-up-dates on online safety shared in our Friday Flyer. As our children get older they will need even more support with using games and apps and social media. It can be as simple as being around to support their time online or taking an interest in what apps they use or playing a game alongside them.

We welcome the opportunity to talk through any online safety concerns you may have. Please take a look at this poster, as you might like to encourage your family to have a Tech-Free Christmas!

Top Tips for a TECH-FREE CHRISTMAS

It can be difficult to stay away from technology and devices, and sometimes this means that people – at any age – can find it hard to be present in the moment. As a period when families are able to spend some quality time together and enjoy each other's company, Christmas is the perfect opportunity to step away from our phones, laptops and consoles and concentrate on the things that really matter. Follow our top ten tips for a tech-free festive period and make the most of this holiday season. Merry Christmas!

- 1. BOARD GAMES CAN BE FUN (HONEST)**
Oh, no one wants a repeat of that incident when your youngest had to pay 'fine' rent on a broken board game? Well, playing board games can be a fantastic bonding experience. Choose a game that suits the interests of all members of your family and enjoy a fun tech-free time.
- 2. MAKE YOUR OWN DECORATIONS**
Spending time on arts and crafts is a brilliant way to relax and spend some precious free time at home. Making your own Christmas decorations as a family can become a wholesome tradition and leave you with some treasured memories, too.
- 3. GO FOR A WINTER WALK**
Not much been wrapping up, worm get a crisp December day and taking a stroll. Whether alone or with the family, it's a fantastic way to clear your head and melt the stress from your busy normal life. As an extra festive treat, why not make a track of hot chocolate to take with you?
- 4. BAKE SOME FESTIVE TREATS**
Not all Christmas cooking has to be a stressful chore. There's time for precision. Baking some simple festive treats like cookies doesn't have to take hours – and will make sure you're stocked up on tasty things to offer any friends or family members who pop round.
- 5. READ A FAMILY STORY TOGETHER**
Turn story time into an event. Make the living room or bedroom into a tech-free space. Light some candles, make some hot drinks and snuggle for a classic Christmas tale. It's a fantastic way to relax before bed, and the right story will help to get the whole family into the festive spirit.
- 6. TURN OFF NOTIFICATIONS**
It sounds obvious, but turning off email and app notifications can give you more control of your relationship with technology. Getting into the habit of checking your phone periodically – rather than reacting every time a notification arrives – helps you to stay present in the moment.
- 7. FEED THE BIRDS**
Food's hard to come by for wildlife in winter, so helping our feathered friends is a very worthwhile reason to put down those devices and reconnect with nature. Fill a bird feeder in the garden or take a snack for the ducks at your local park (but ditch the bread in favour of oats, rice or husked).
- 8. SET DAILY LIMITS**
Many apps and devices let you set reminders to let you know how long you've used them for that day. Setting daily limits puts you in charge of your time and will help to ensure you don't miss out on any family Christmas moments because you're engrossed in your phone or laptop.
- 9. GET ON YOUR BIKE**
Exercise, such as going for a run or a bike ride, is an excellent way to burn off some of those festive stresses while giving your brain and eyes a break from screen-based activity. Physical exertion also helps reduce anxiety and releases endorphins, which can improve your sense of wellbeing.
- 10. MAKE TIME FOR YOURSELF**
There can be a lot of pressure to meet up with friends, make video calls and check in with people at Christmas – but remember that you need time to relax as well. Don't feel guilty about not replying to messages and emails immediately – the holiday is your chance to drop down a gear or two.

NOS National Online Safety
#WakeUpWednesday

ATTENDANCE:

A huge thank you for your support in ensuring your children are attending school regularly and arriving on time. It has been an extremely settled term with many children attending for 100% of the time. Remember to let the school know if your child has a medical appointment, or the reason for their absence on the first day and for every day that they are off school. This can be done via ParentMail or a phone call to the School Office. We are happy to support in any way we can if you are struggling with your child attending school.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR BAD WEATHER:

It is the aim of All Saints' CofE Federation to remain open during adverse weather conditions, when practically possible. This is dependent on us having enough staff to safely open (teaching staff as well as catering). Given the hilly nature of Matlock, and the restricted parking at either school, we always advise travelling by foot.



In the event of a school closure the following steps will be taken to notify parents and carers:

- A message will be sent to inform staff, parents and carers via ParentMail.
- A message will also be displayed on the homepage of our website.
- The School will contact the School Closure page of the DCC website.
- We will provide an update via our federation Facebook page.

You can find further information on our website, including our 'adverse weather' policy. Please can you take the time to let either School Office know if you have changed your contact details recently so that you are able to receive information sent via ParentMail.

AND FINALLY:

Our wonderful KS2 Quad has finally been redeveloped into a calm reflection garden partially funded by the PTFA events held last year. The garden is resting and growing over the winter months before a grand opening in Spring which you will be invited to.

We plan this to coincide with the KS2 parents evenings.

This year our PTFA are fundraising for our Infant school playground to support our children's play, well-being, gross and fine-motor skills. Thank you for continuing to support our school events and to all the new members of the PTFA that have joined this year.



We hope to be able to see you at one of the planned events over this final week and that you and your families have a very happy and joyous lead up to the festive season.

Cath Lee Head of School
All Saints' C of E Junior School

Sophie Seddon Head of School
All Saints' C of E Infant School

