



RE NEWSLETTER

ADVENT

November -December 2020



In Pre-School we have been learning all about Advent and getting ready for Christmas. We learnt that the word Advent means coming. It is a time of waiting and preparation. We each painted our hand to make a print and then cut it out to make the leaves around the wreath. We needed 5 candles on our Advent wreath. This is because there is one candle for each Sunday in Advent and an extra candle for Christmas day! As we light the candles, we are preparing to celebrate the birth of Jesus who is the 'light' of the world.

I am putting paint on my hand to make a green leaf for the Advent wreath. The paint is cold and feels funny.



We have to cut out the handprints.

Then we can put our hands together and pray to God and Jesus.

During this topic of Advent, Year 3 have been learning about the story of the Annunciation. This is when the Angel Gabriel visited Mary in Nazareth, to announce she would have the baby Jesus. The children drew a concept map about this event and also had the opportunity to hot-seat Mary (asking her questions about this event). Year 3 then read about the Visitation, which is when Mary visited her cousin Elizabeth in the Judean hills.

Year 3 had the privilege of Father Matthew visiting both classes. Father Matthew read a story from the Old Testament, so the children could complete more pictures for their class Jesse Tree. Father Matthew read the story of 'Daniel in the Den of Lions' to 3G and then read the story of 'Moses in the Bulrushes' to 3Y.

The classes have completed this topic by learning about the Medieval tradition of the Jesse Tree and how, in many ways, it was an old form of an Advent Calendar.



God can do anything. He made a storm and a big fish to swallow Jonah. Jonah stayed alive in the great fish for 3 days. It was a miracle. Jonah went to Nineveh and people said sorry to God for the bad things they had done.



I have drawn a picture of the Angel Gabriel telling Mary that she will have a baby and he will be the Son of God. This story is called the Annunciation.

The main themes within the **Revelation** topic are:

Year R – God is shown in our lives and through the work of others.

Year 1 – Jesus as a teacher and a healer.

Year 2 – Stories from Scripture, which show how special Jesus is.

Year 3 – The Presentation and Baptism of Jesus as signs of God's revelation.

Year 4 – How the apostles and Anna and Simeon saw the glory of Jesus as the only Son of the Father.

Year 5 – How the divine revelation is communicated, particularly in Baptism.

Year 6 – The personal relationship St Paul enjoyed with God.



The story of Christmas



This year Advent began on Sunday 29th November. The staff have been sharing a daily reflection each morning on the FCJ Twitter feed. We have been so pleased to see many families taking a few moments to watch each daily reflection. These reflections will continue after we break up for Christmas and will finish on Christmas Eve with a very special video.



Join Bishop Philip on an Advent journey. Prayers and readings for you and your family to use throughout Advent as we prepare to welcome Jesus Christ into our homes this Christmas.

Join Bishop Philip on an Advent Journey

Bishop Philip invites you to join him as he journeys through Advent this year, by having an Advent Wreath in your home. He asks that you pray around it each evening using the prayers, songs and scripture found in the Diocesan Advent Booklet.

The Bishop has made a film explaining the traditions and symbolism associated with Advent Wreaths. The Advent Booklet contains prayers, scripture readings, YouTube clips and a song for each day of Advent.

The booklet, a step by step guide to making your own Advent Wreath, together with Bishop Philip's film of invitation can all be viewed on the Diocesan website at <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/advent-project>