



## RE NEWSLETTER

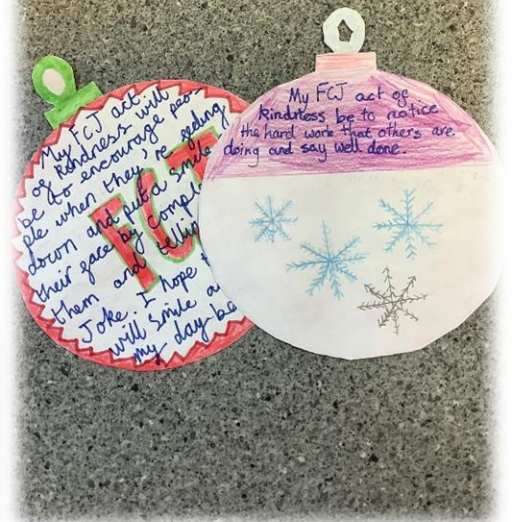
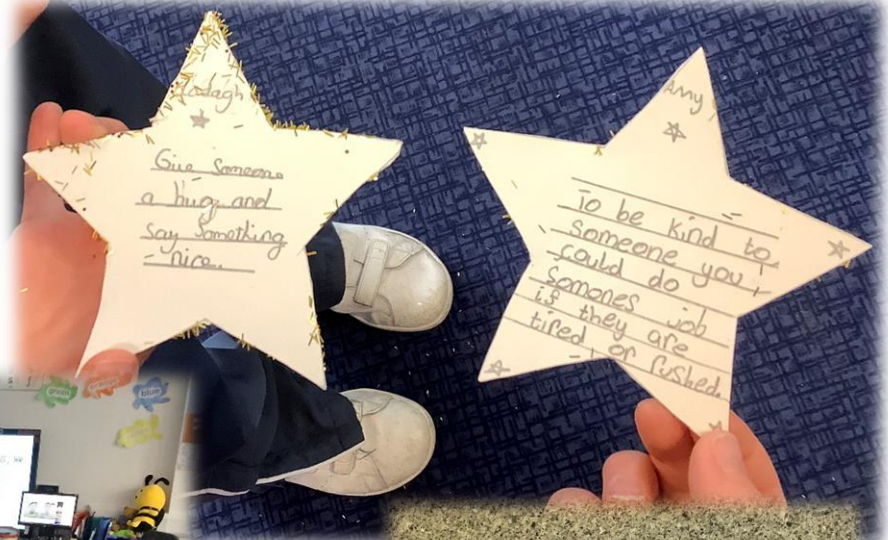
### ADVENT and CHRISTMAS

December 2021



Advent began on Sunday 28th November. This year our FCJ Advent theme is "Advent Acts of Kindness" with a challenge to complete a specific act of kindness each day of Advent. We have been posting daily challenges on Twitter and have been delighted to see families joining in too, either at home, school or in the workplace.

Kindness is when you help someone. We can help mummy or daddy or Mrs Noble or Mrs De Gruchy. We can help our friends.



We enjoyed helping Mr Wheatley. We all worked together to help tidy up the playground. He was very happy because we helped him get a big job done very quickly. It was our act of kindness.



The main themes within the **Revelation (January)** 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.

### December 8<sup>th</sup> -Our Feast Day

December the 8<sup>th</sup>, is our FCJ Feast Day. This is a special day in the FCJ Calendar where we celebrate our Foundress, Marie Madeleine, and the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. This year, we started the day with a very special act of Collective Worship. Although we were in our class bubbles, the whole school stopped to pray at 9am to give thanks for our Foundress, and for our school. We then spent time celebrating our achievement in gaining the UNICEF Rights Respecting Gold Award. The children also thought carefully about how we could support the Sisters' campaigning mission towards COP26.

**Prayer for Creation**

Creator God, we give thanks for the wonderful gift of creation and your presence in every part of it.

As we seek to widen our circle of love, help us to rediscover the value, unity and sacredness of all that exists.

We seek forgiveness for the ways in which our actions and choices have damaged the earth, affecting the climate, destroying diversity, and impacting the lives of the poorest of our sisters and brothers.

In your love, lead us into solidarity and companionship, inspire our leaders to courageous decisions, and grant each of us the wisdom and commitment to act.

May we treasure earth's resources, work to reduce our impact on the climate and be open to a conversion of heart and lifestyle.

Amen



Sister Lynne and Sister MaryAnne participated in the day of action for climate justice in Glasgow.



### First Holy Communion 2022

We are in now in the process of arranging the First Holy Communion Programme for 2022. Mrs Taylor will once again work alongside Year 4 staff to plan and prepare the children. The Mass is booked for Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 11am at St Thomas' Church. Further details will be sent to all Year 4 parents in the new year.



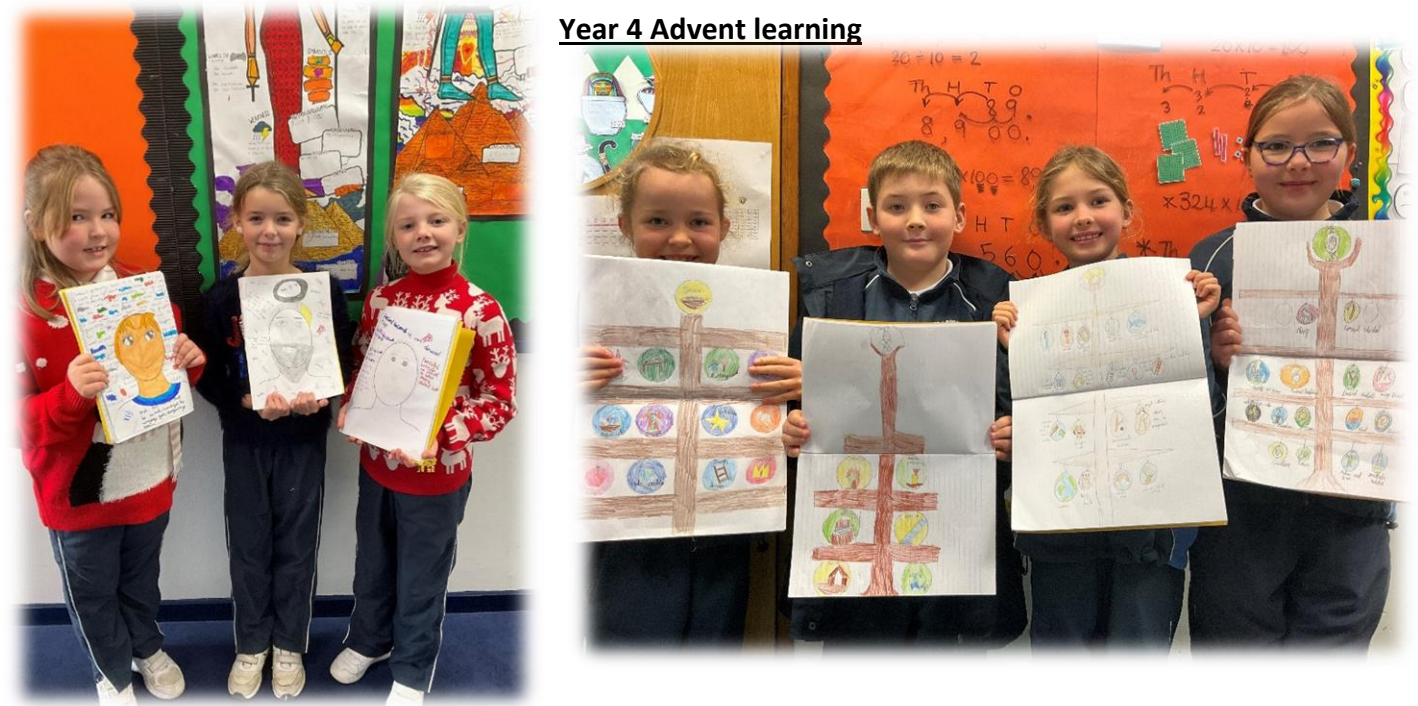
### Year 1 Advent Topic



In our Year 1 Advent topic this term, we have been getting ready for the Birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. We have also been looking at the meaning of the Advent wreath.

During our lessons, we discussed how Advent lasts for four weeks and starts on a Sunday. We learnt that the third Sunday of Advent is marked by a pink candle. This candle signifies joy as it is lit on Gaudete Sunday—named for the entrance antiphon for that Sunday’s Mass: “Rejoice (gaudete) in the Lord always, again I say, rejoice.”

### Year 4 Advent learning



In our Year 4 Advent topic this term, we have been looking at the timeline detailing events in the Old Testament to find out which prophets from the Bible passages spoke about the Promised Messiah.

During our topic on Advent, we discussed how Advent is a time to prepare for the ‘Coming Messiah’ that the prophets foretold throughout the Old Testament. We read the Bible passages that described the Coming Messiah to help us with drawing a portrait and labelling it with traits that the Messiah may have.





St Vincent  
de Paul Society  
England and Wales  
Turning Concern into Action

### FCJ Reverse Advent Calendar

For the three weeks of Advent, before we finish for the Christmas holidays, we are collecting food items to be donated to the St Vincent de Paul (SVP) food bank. Each week has a different item to be collected and the donated items will be delivered to the food bank to contribute to the work that they do, just in time for Christmas.

Week 1 (29th November)– Tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits

Week 2 (6th December)– Tinned food (e.g. beans/sausages/pies)

Week 3 (13th December) – Shower gel and soap

It is also a time when SVP like to gift one or two extra treats to families such as a christmas pudding, biscuit selection box, chocolates, minced pies, etc and even christmas crackers for Christmas day. These items can be delivered at any time during Advent.



A huge thank you for all your donations to our Reverse Advent Calendar this year. It is always a really blessing when we deliver all your donations to SVP, and we are always amazed at your generosity. Thank you very much.

