



Headteacher: Miss K. Coll  
Deputy Headteacher: Mrs J Etheridge

Date: Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023

[www.visitation.ealing.sch.uk](http://www.visitation.ealing.sch.uk)

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### A Prayer For Christmas



Let us remember Mary this Christmas, and may God bless our mothers.

Let us remember Joseph this Christmas, and may God bless our fathers.

Let us remember Elizabeth, Zechariah and John this Christmas, and may God bless all our relatives.

Let us remember the shepherds this Christmas, and may God bless all those who will be working.

Let us remember the wise men this Christmas, and may God bless all those who will be travelling.

Let us remember **Jesus** this Christmas, and may God bless us all and make us his children.

**THANK YOU:** As we near the end of 2023, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support of your children and our school.

To everyone in the school who works so hard to ensure the school is a safe and happy place for the children to thrive. It is a privilege to work with this amazing team; Premises Staff, Office Staff, School Meals Supervisory Assistants, Nursery Nurses, Teaching Assistants, PPA and Support Staff, Class Teachers, Senior Leaders and Governors. Thank you for everything you do.

This term the children have been learning about the true meaning of Christmas and one of the ways that they have done this is through the Christmas Performances.

They have demonstrated their God-given talents through singing, acting, learning lines and performing in front of audiences.

They have helped us to enter into the true spirit of Christmas and brought great joy to us as they announced the birth of Jesus, the Saviour.

Thank you to all the parents who were able to join in, the staff for their hard work and the children for their performances. Please see the school web-site if you were unable to attend.

My thoughts and prayers go out to you all and wish you a peaceful and safe Christmas.

**We have so much to be thankful for in being part of this wonderful community.**

**CHRISTMAS JUMPERS:** Thank you to everyone who kindly donated Christmas jumpers.



**POPPY APPEAL:** Thank you for everyone's generosity we raised £125.97 for the Poppy Appeal.

**100% ATTENDANCE:** Well done to all the children that achieved 100% attendance this half term – Maximillian (Nursery), Ethan, Om, Mia Rose, Lily (FS2J), Iga, Aniela, Leonardo (FS2M), Xemari, Antoni, Prince, Igor, Zofia (1B), Aloysius, Nadia, Daniel (1K), Phoenix, Cian, Micah, Franek, Ellie (2P), Giulia, Fintan, Xaiden, Rensa (2W), Keegan, Nehemia, Anjlana (3G), Ethel, Maya, Emma, Nadia, Lazarus, Adam (3R), Matilda, Luca, Olivia, Daniel, Gabriele, Amelia, Kaya, Kamil (4C), Orlando, Rhea, Harvey, Lili, Gabriela, Arvin, Aleksander (4Y), David, Willow, Joshua, Eliza, Leor, Benas, Lilianna (5D), Liana, Lucas, Reuben, Crystal, Harish, Micaiah, David, Sebastian (5Y), Liam, Saba, Emmanuel, Ranula, Ruben, Nicola, Yoel, Adam (6S), Tiago, Crystal, Krisban, Nijole, Jewel, Szymon, Skaiste, Zachary, Vanessa (6W)

## CHRISTMAS AT OUR LADY OF THE VISITATION:

**KS1 - ADVENT LITURGY:** We began our Journey to Christmas with an Advent Liturgy service, led by year 1 and 2. Father Liam joined us as we lit the first Advent candle and celebrated the beginning of the Christmas story. The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and then Mary & Joseph travelled to Bethlehem as we all sang 'Little Donkey'. We thought about the gifts from God of Love, Joy, Hope and Peace as we prepare over the next few weeks for his greatest gift of all.



This was followed by the Carol concert performed by the Choirs of Cardinal Wiseman High School and Our Lady of the Visitation Primary school. These services marked the beginning of a time of waiting and preparing for the birth of Jesus.



**THE INFANT CHRISTMAS PLAYS:** The Advent Services were followed by The Infant Christmas plays. These were joyous celebrations depicting the birth of Jesus. The children sang like Angels, recited lines like true performers, danced and looked utterly amazing in their costumes.





**JUNIOR CAROL SERVICE:** Our celebrations culminated with the Junior Carol Service where the children created the Nativity scene through readings and song. This is always such a beautiful service and one that brings real JOY into our lives.

I would like to thank the children who worked so hard and all the staff who worked with them. I know how much hard work and effort goes into these productions.

I would like to thank Peter for playing the organ at all our Church services and Mrs Wildman who has led the choir and the singing. This has continued to make a massive difference to our performances.



**Well done to all the children and thank you to the staff for all the hard work and effort that went into these.**

**MIND:** Thank you to everyone who donated to the collection at the end of the Carol Service. We raised £351.80 for mind

**CHRISTMAS LUNCH:** Marybelle and her team served us another lovely dinner this year. The children looked fabulous in their Christmas jumpers.



**YEAR 1 TOYS FROM THE PAST WORKSHOP:** In year 1, we have been learning about toys from the past through our English and History lessons this half term. We have also been learning about the materials they are made from in our Science lessons and we are in the process of making real toys to play with in DT.

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October we took part in a workshop where a lady called Liz let us explore many toys that children in the past would have played with. We finished the morning with a fantastic puppet show.



**YEAR 1 MOZART WORKSHOP:** We were lucky to experience a musical repertoire from the Mozart artists as they played classical music for us on the piano and the cello. It was great fun listening to the different notes and tempo, the instruments were played at. We were able to touch the cello strings to feel the vibrations when the bow touched the strings.



**LITTER PICKING:** The Mini Vinnies have teamed up with LAGERCAN (Litter Action Group for Ealing Residents) and have been litter picking in the local area. They collected 5 bags of rubbish in 30 minutes.



**YEAR 3 STONE AGE WORKSHOP:** On December the 14<sup>th</sup>, we welcomed in Dan from Portals to the Past, who took the Year 3 children back in time all the way to Stone Age Britain. The children explored the time frame of the past and could visually see how their 7 or 8 years compared to the amount of time Britain was in the Stone Age.

The children learned about the different animals that would have been in Britain at the time and thought about which ones are extinct now and which ones have continued to evolve over time. Dan also showed the children real artefacts that are from these animals, including a real woolly mammoth tusk.

In the afternoon, the children continued their journey through time as they experienced the Bronze Age and the Iron Age. The children all had the opportunity to touch real animal bones, fossils and other interesting artefacts from across the ages, including obsidian stone, a real cave bear claw and a genuine seal skin.

Daniel 3G said, "The thing I enjoyed the most was that I got to hold a giant hunting bow and arrow from the Stone Age".

Ashlyn 3G said, "The part I enjoyed most was getting to touch all of the animal bones and the rocks."

Ethel from 3R said, "I loved when I was able to touch the horse's bones. There were big and bit sticky."

Max from 3R said "I love that I was able to touch the obsidian. It came from a volcano and it's like a glass."



**YEAR 4 SAXON VILLAGE TRIP:** This year, our enthusiastic Year 4 students embarked on an exciting and educational journey to Butser Ancient Farm in Hampshire. The trip offered a unique opportunity for the children to step back in time and experience life as an Anglo-Saxon.

Despite the unpredictable weather, the day was filled with hands-on activities that brought the past to life. The students had the chance to engage in various immersive experiences, such as carving Saxon letters into chalk, handling artefacts, crafting Saxon jewellery, and delving into the art of Saxon writing. One student said "I loved the trip because we got to see how the Saxons lived over 1000 years ago and we actually have a lot more in common with them than I thought."



**TREES FOR CITIES:** Over the last few weeks, our children have been involved in a huge tree planting project, both in school and in our local environment. Our school project was funded by Trees For Cities, and hasn't cost the school a penny!!

Half of the children in the school were involved in preparing, digging, planting, mulching many different trees and sensory plants, and a hedgerow on our school field.

It will become a wonderful place for our children to care for, relax, play and learn. Not only that, but will be a new habitat for nature and wildlife, and will help to absorb carbon and produce oxygen for us to breathe, and provide shade in the summer. Children learnt the benefits of planting trees with the experts from Trees For Cities who came to school to manage this project with us.

Here are some before and after photos.



On Tuesday 5th December, we worked together to plant trees in our playground. We are doing this to increase habitats; make our playground look beautiful and so plants can release more oxygen into our atmosphere. Working in partners, we had a fabulous time in our wellies and coats - we were very muddy as our giggles filled the air. I feel proud that we came together to fulfil God's mission to love, to be loved and to make the world a better place.

Willow, 5D.



## KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE IN EDUCATION PARENT WORKSHOPS JANUARY 2024

Starting in January 2024, we are joining Ealing schools in providing a series of parent workshops to further safeguard our pupils.

There will be 5 parent safeguarding workshops on various aspects of keeping our children safe. Each week will focus on a different focus of safeguarding which will include a focus on FGM and the lessons that will be taught for all KS2 pupils in the spring term.

Ealing Council's dedication to ending FGM, has meant that this project is the only one of its kind, unavailable anywhere else in the UK and we are proud to be one of the schools that is part of that change. We encourage parents and carers to attend **all** of the following vital safeguarding workshops:

Parent workshop day 1 - What is safeguarding?

Wednesday 17th January 2024

At 2pm

Parent workshop day 2 -PSHE & curriculum

Wednesday 24th January 2024

At 2pm

Parent workshop day 3 - Internet safety including social media

Wednesday 31st January 2024

At 2pm

Parent workshop day 4 - FGM

Wednesday 7th February 2024

At 2pm

Parent workshop day 5 - FGM - lessons that will be taught in KS2

Wednesday 21st February 2024

At 2pm

Please use the following link to register for the parent workshops:

<https://forms.gle/QuU1NpywjK54FwUR9>

**RECONCILIATION:** The children in year 4, 5 and 6 received the sacrament of reconciliation last week. This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to reflect on how they would like to do better and grow closer to God. I would like to thank Fr Liam, Fr Tom, Fr Joe and Fr Marcellus for coming into the school to deliver the sacrament.

**LONDON ROCKS TTRS COMPETITION:** Congratulations to everyone who took part in this event which ran from 14<sup>th</sup> November until 16<sup>th</sup> November.

We are very proud to announce, that one of Our Lady of the Visitation pupils, Krisban 6W came 37<sup>th</sup> out of 377,370 students that took part around the country!

**SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS:** On Thursday 23rd November, Year 5 and 6 pupils were selected to join an athletics competition that took place at Greenford High School. The OLOV team were all very determined and we tried our best in each activity - we ran fast, jumped high and threw far. It was an amazing day and we achieved something incredible... We won 3rd place and got bronze medals! We are really grateful to have taken part and hope our school will compete again. Team Visitation! Lilianna and Eliza 5D



**THANK YOU:** A thank you to the parents/carers who have been helping with the DT projects. This has made a great difference to the end results.

To all those who have helped throughout the year in the many and varied ways; we really do appreciate everything you do.

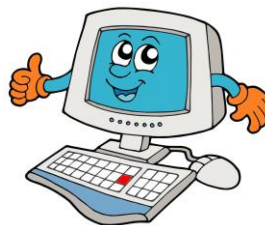
**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS:** All After School Clubs will begin week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. Boom Sports after school provision will begin from Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

#### **NURSERY AND RECEPTION 2024**

**APPLICATIONS:** Reminder deadline to submit applications in noon on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024. For Reception applications please ensure you have completed both the school Supplementary Information Form and online application with the Local Authority.

#### **KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE:**

Enjoy all your Christmas presents and keep safe this Christmas. Use technology sensibly and tell your parents/carers if you see or hear anything online that concerns you or makes you feel uncomfortable.



**Everyone at Our Lady of the Visitation school wishes you;**

**A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS**

#### **Diary Dates**

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December** – Last Day of Term for the Christmas Holiday (School finishes at 1.30pm)

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January** - School re-opens for the Spring Term

#### **LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS**



#### **SPRING TERM**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January – St Vincent Pallotti 12.00pm

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February – Candlemas and St Blaize

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March – St Patrick's Day

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Holy Week Liturgies (Infants 9.30am in the school hall and Juniors 10am in the Church)

All Masses will be at 9.30am in the Church

#### **School Sunday Mass**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January at 12pm**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 12pm**

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June at 12pm**

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July at 12pm**

**Please join the Parish after Mass for coffee**

# ACHIEVEMENTS

**ATTENDANCE:** Please see the table below for class attendance this term.

Congratulations to 4C and 4Y for 93.3% attendance this week.

**NURSERY 87.7%**

**BUTTERFLIES 82.4%**

**BUMBLEBEES 80.5%**

**1B 86.2%**

**1K 92.6%**

**2P 89.7%**

**2W 91.4%**

**3G 89.3%**

**3R 81.7%**

**4C 93.3%**

**4Y 93.3%**

**5D 92.6%**

**5Y 90.6%**

**6S 85.7%**

**6W 90%**

**Whole School 88.5%**

**PRAISE CERTIFICATES:** Each week children are awarded a Praise Certificate for a range of reasons; excellent work, making a greater effort, consistent and sustained improvement, displaying the Gospel Values of friendship, supporting and helping others, to name but a few. Congratulations to the following children who received the Praise Certificate this week.

**Prince and Shevon – 1B**

**Mary Grace and Karol – 1K**

**Damian and Niamh – 2P**

**Casien and The Whole Class! – 2W**

**Elijah and Zyla – 3G**

**Hashvin and Aiden – 3R**

**Julia and Ola – 4C**

**Lynaia and Yorkabel – 4Y**

**Sasha and Jamie – 5D**

**Liana and Sara – 5Y**

**Nancy and Ranula – 6S**

**Pola and Victor – 6W**

**CITIZENSHIP AWARD:** Our citizenship award is awarded weekly to pupils who display good citizenship and Gospel Values; for example, Kindness, Inclusion, Tolerance, Respect and following school rules.

This half term we are focussing on **PREFERENTIAL OPTION FOR THE POOR**. The '**preferential option**' means allowing someone to have the first choice. It means giving someone the best that is available; not just the scraps or leftovers.

God calls us to look for those in need and work hard to support them as best we can.

**Milani – 1B**

**Aleksy – 1K**

**Micah – 2P**

**Matilde – 2W**

**Áine – 3G**

**Pola, Mrs Religa and Mrs Shanahan – 3R**

**Lucas – 4C**

**Ola – 4Y**

**Deanna – 5D**

**Katie – 5Y**

**Liam – 6S**

**Kacper – 6W**