



HEADTEACHER'S WEEKLY BULLETIN

"For I know the plans I have for you... plans to give you hope and a future"
Jeremiah 29:11



ISSUE NO. 12 : 29 Nov 2024

DIARY DATES

- Fri 29 Nov 7.30pm FOSP Christmas Wreath Making workshops—Tandridge Village Hall
- Tues 3 Dec 9.15am Open Morning for Prospective Parents September 2025 Admissions
- Tues 10 Dec 9.30am & 2.20pm Busy Bees Christmas Nativity
- Wed 11 Dec 2pm Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance
- Thurs 12 Dec 2pm Year 1 & 2 Christmas Performance
- Mon 16 Dec Elfridges and Christmas Party
- Wed 18 Dec School Christmas Lunch
- Fri 20 Dec 9am School Christmas Service @ St Peter's Church, Tandridge—All welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Oh my goodness, it is time to dig out the advent calendars and candles ready for the beginning of Advent, so I know what many of us will be doing this weekend. I can't believe November has flown by so quickly!

The week has been an extremely busy one for us all. On Monday the Dragonflies held their 'Friendship Teatime' after school in the village hall. It was lovely to see the children excitedly making Christmas cards, eating lots of cakes – icing first of course! - and playing together in the hall. All the funds raised at these events go directly to the classes for additional resources etc, so thank you to everyone who attended this. Dragonflies are over the moon.

On Tuesday our Ladybirds led Collective Worship centred around the Christian's Holy book - the Bible. They talked for example, about the different sections of the Bible (the Old Testament and the New Testament), and how to find different chapters ie: John 10:7 would be the Gospel of John, chapter 10 verse 7. The rest of the school listened intently and were able to answer questions posed by the Ladybirds to them. A lovely Collective Worship that gave us all lots of very interesting information. Thank you very much Ladybirds, it was superb!



Ladybirds Collective Worship

We are very lucky to be working with the Limpsfield Arts Society this year. The children had their first workshops on Wednesday and Friday where they were shown how to draw a Christmas Robin; slowly building up the outline before using watercolours to fill in the details. The birds that the children drew were incredible.

The children are starting to explore the concept of Spirituality, which can be very tricky for adults, let alone children. The Faith Group did the most fantastic job of explaining this to the rest of the school in a Collective Worship on Wednesday. They used the analogy of a ring doughnut to explain that spirituality can be both seen and not seen. The yummy doughnut section that you can eat is the 'awe and wonder' that we can see, hear and experience through our senses, but the hole of the doughnut is the part that we can't see but feel or may experience in ourselves or wonder about. Whilst the concept of spirituality is difficult to define, there is an understanding that there is much awe and wonder in the world, along with a sense that we are all part of something greater. In essence, it refers to a connectedness to and appreciation of the wider world and our place within it. Spirituality is felt within ourselves by individuals and so cannot be taught or measured - instead being something that needs to be nurtured and given the right conditions and space to grow. Spirituality is deeply personal and so we afford every individual with the space and opportunity to develop along their own spiritual journey.

Throughout this week the children have been thinking about the true meaning of Advent which concluded with their special Pause Day on Thursday. They began the day with a lovely Collective Worship led by Reverend Ashton. We were also visited by Shaun Burns, Education Advisor from Southwark Diocese, which made it extra special as he could see all the fantastic work that the children have been doing. He commented on all the lovely things that he saw going on, the feel of the school and the depth of care that you can see and feel for everyone – which was wonderful to hear and now share with you.

The children at this time made superb stain glass windows, advent calendars and brilliant advent wreaths with candles (some of which used foraged materials from outside).





DID YOU KNOW

Advent marks the start of the Christian year. It is the four weeks before Christmas, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas so this year it is this Sunday, literally December 1st. The word Advent comes from the Latin 'adventus' which means 'arrival' or 'coming'. This is the time for Christians to prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus and look forward to the time that Jesus will come again.

The clergy usually wear purple or royal blue clothing in their churches during Advent.

During Advent no flowers decorate churches, but it is usual to have an Advent Crown also known as an Advent Wreath. These are made from a circle of evergreen plants like holly and ivy which symbolises God with no beginning or end. The evergreen is a reminder that God does not change. The holly is also a symbol of the crown of thorns that Jesus wore when he was crucified. Four candles are fixed round the circle with another in the middle.

Various colours of candles have been used such as three purple and a pink with one white in the middle. Unlit candles represent darkness. One purple candle is lit on the first Sunday of Advent. On the second Sunday it is lit again together with another purple one, the third purple one is lit on the third Sunday and on the fourth Sunday the pink candle is included. On Christmas Day the white candle is also lit representing Jesus Christ as the light of the world. Sometimes four red candles and one white are used, red being a colour associated with Christmas



What do the Advent Candles stand for?

The candle of **Hope** so prayers on this day focus on hope.

This candle is a symbol of God's **Peace**, reminding Christians of the Prophets who said that the Messiah would be born.

The candle of **Love** represents John the Baptist who baptised Jesus.

The candle of **Joy** reminds Christians of Jesus' mother, Mary.

The fifth candle reminds Christians of the birth of Jesus.

Christingle

In many advent services children have fun making Christingles. Christingle means 'Christ's Light' and it is a symbol of the Christian faith. Lots of churches hold Christingle services around Christmas time. The custom of giving out lighted candles in these services began in Germany in 1747 but it wasn't introduced to the Anglican Church in England until 1968.

Christingles are made up of different parts, each one being there to remind us of something.

The orange represents the world.

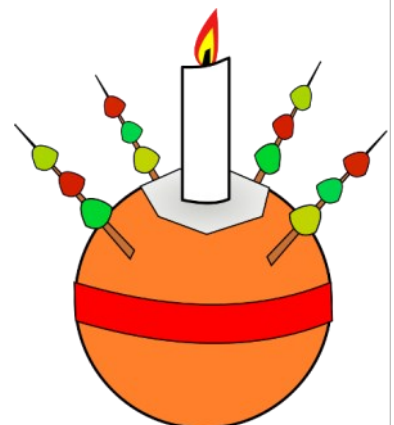
The candle reminds Christians of Jesus who they believe to be the light of the world.

The red ribbon goes all round the 'world' and being the colour of blood, reminds Christians that Jesus died.

The four cocktail sticks could have either of two meanings; the four seasons or the four corners of the world.

The sweets (or sometimes dried fruit) remind Christians of God's gifts to the world including kindness and love.

The foil is only there to catch waxy drips from the candle.



*O Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the first (purple) candle of this wreath.
May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise of salvation. May He come quickly and not delay.*

CLASS NEWS

BUSY BEES

This week Busy Bees have been working on "The Gingerbread Man" story. Our role play area is now a 'Gingerbread Café' and in our Drawing Club sessions the children have been creating their own version of the story. They have designed a Gingerbread Person and, on Monday, they will be creating an edible version of their design. In Maths we have learned about 2D shapes and used appropriate language to describe them. During our Advent Pause Day yesterday the children created a stained glass window collage and made a candle holder. It was a special day to think and reflect on the days that lead to the Christmas celebrations and the importance of Jesus for Christians.

Homework: Read a little everyday



LADYBIRDS

Ladybirds have been scientists this week. A mystery object appeared in the classroom and we had to try to work out what it was. Some of the adjectives we came up to describe it with were 'cold', 'slippery', 'freezing'. We used these clues to discover that it was an ice balloon. We then had to think about where would be best in the classroom to help it melt quickly. Our scientist minds decided that by the radiator would be best! We thoroughly enjoyed this experiment and everyone got involved. We also enjoyed our advent pause day making advent calendars and thinking carefully about why Christians celebrate advent.

Homework: Number challenges

DRAGONFLIES

Dragonflies have had a very productive week. We continued our English theme on "Dirty Bertie", using our story plans from last week to write our own versions. Our stories were very imaginative...and funny! In Maths we have looked at addition and subtraction and how these apply in word problems. We were challenged to read word problems, deciding if we needed to use addition or subtraction to work out the answers. Our Christmas play rehearsals continue to go well—we now have no scripts on stage and we have done a full dress rehearsal. On Wednesday this week we had a visit from the Limpsfield Art Society. We were shown how to create some amazing robin paintings using watercolours. Our pictures will be turned into Christmas cards soon.

Homework: One last push on lines for the play (recording next week!!)



CHURCH NEWS

Our services this Sunday:

8am Holy Communion
11am All Age Worship
6.30pm Evening Prayer

PRAYER FOR HOPE

Almighty God, grant us the grace to hope in you with unwavering trust.

As we begin this season of Advent, may our hearts be filled with the hope that comes from knowing your promises are true.

Amen.



COME AND NEEDLE FELT A CHRISTMAS CANDLE!

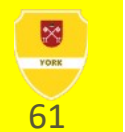
£30 EACH
TEA AND CAKE
CONTACT LYNNE ON
07906 600 437

SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS,
AGE 14 AND ABOVE WITH
ACCOMPANYING ADULT.

SUNDAY 8TH DEC
1:30-3:30PM
TANDRIDGE
VILLAGE HALL

IN AID OF
ST PETER'S CHURCH

HOUSE TEAM POINTS



KINDNESS AWARDS

This week Kindness Awards have been presented to:

Amélie R — for being thoughtful and asking if Miss Greenaway needed any help in the dining hall on Thursday.



A Note on Dangerous Gifts - Child Accident Prevention Trust

December is on the horizon. Families around the country are already putting up Christmas trees and tinsel is starting to grace our high streets. Before long mince pies, Mariah Carey and mysteriously familiar Santa Clauses will make their way into our lives. This is all in good fun, and children from Lands' End to John O'Groats look forward to the build up to Christmas all year. However, not all presents are created equally. More than ever our Christmas shopping is done online from an increasingly varied list of providers. From imitation manufacturers, to sellers platforms and to third party small businesses that use known provider logistics services, we're all trusting people ever further removed from us to provide high quality goods. Unfortunately this is far from guaranteed. Production firms abroad or within a 'cottage industry' may not have the strict manufacturing standards applied in the UK or expected as industry standard. The Child Accident Prevention Trust has published a list of eight gifts most likely to cause an accident this year. If interested please follow the link below. It's always important to remember that prevention is always better than repairing >> <https://capt.org.uk/8-dangerous-gifts-to-avoid-this-christmas/>

ST PETER'S CHRISTMAS POSTAL SERVICE



One of our many traditions at St Peter's School is for the children to use our special Christmas post service to post their cards to each other or staff over this festive period. Our Christmas Postbox will be **in the library** from Monday 2 Dec so that the children can post their cards if they wish from this date. Children from Ladybirds and Dragonflies will be our 'Posties' and sort and deliver the cards around school. If your child(ren) would like to write some Christmas cards to others in the school the last posting date will be Thurs 12 Dec.

I hope you have a lovely weekend, which we hope will be calm and relaxing for you all. God Bless, *Lenia Greenaway*

BLACK FRIDAY EASYFUNDRAISING

Please remember to use easyfundraising when you do your Black Friday and Christmas online shopping. Use easyfundraising when you're ordering and many companies will donate to St Peter's for FREE when you shop with them. This means you can raise donations for us when you buy anything from decorations and festive food shopping to gifts like toys, jewellery, tech, experiences and more! These donations really help us. www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stpeterstandridge



Emergency information regarding the school will be announced on HEART RADIO 102.7FM

01883 712439 | hello@stpetersinfant.org | www.stpetersinfant.org



Southwark Diocesan Board of Education
Supporting Christian Education



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

SNAP STREAK

97

DAYS

SNAPCHAT

AGE RESTRICTION

13+

Snapchat is a messaging app which allows users to send images, videos and texts to others. Its best-known feature is that anything sent 'disappears' 24 hours after it's been viewed; however, users are known to take screenshots or use another device to obtain a photo of their screen. In 2023, Snapchat added a chatbot function called 'My AI'.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

My AI is Snapchat's new chatbot, which replies to questions in a human-like manner. However, the software is still in its infancy and has significant drawbacks, such as biased, incorrect or misleading responses. There have already been numerous reports of young users turning to AI for medical help and diagnoses, which could be inaccurate and therefore potentially dangerous.

PREDATORS AND SCAMS

Predators can exploit Snapchat's disappearing messages by, for example, telling a user they have naked photos of them and will post them unless they're paid. Snapchat's own research found that 65% of teenagers had experienced this – on this app or others. This likely isn't helped by 'SnapMaps' – a feature which highlights your exact position in real-time. This is meant to help friends keep track of each other, but could be used for more sinister reasons.

MY EYES ONLY

Snapchat has a hidden photo vault called 'My Eyes Only'. Teens can conceal sensitive photos and videos from parents and carers in this folder, which is protected by a PIN. You can check for this by clicking on the icon which looks like two playing cards. This takes you to the 'Memories' folder which stores photos, stories and the My Eyes Only folder.

SCREEN TIME ADDICTION

Snapchat prioritises user engagement, with features like streaks (messaging the same person every day to build up a high score). The app also has sections called 'Discover' and 'Spotlight', which show tailored content to each user. However, this could also be seen as an attempt to hook users into watching videos endlessly. Furthermore, constant notifications can lure people into using the app.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat simply isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's 'disappearing messages' feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

ONLINE PRESSURES

Although many of Snapchat's filters are designed to entertain or amuse, the 'beautify' effects on photos can set unrealistic body image expectations – creating feelings of inadequacy in younger users. Snapchat now also has 'priority' notifications (which still get displayed even if a device is in 'do not disturb' mode), increasing the pressure on users to log back in and interact.

Advice for Parents & Educators

UTILISE PARENTAL CONTROLS

Snapchat's 'Family Centre' lets you view the details of the child's account – their friends list and who they've spoken to in the last week – and report any concerns. You must invite a child to the Family Centre for them to join. To keep the child's location hidden on the app, go into settings and turn on 'Ghost Mode' and 'Hide Live Location', and ensure they know not to share their location with anyone.

BLOCK AND REPORT

If a stranger does connect with a child on Snapchat and begins to make them feel uncomfortable through bullying, pressure to send explicit images or by sending sexual images to them, the child can tap the three dots on that person's profile and report or block them. There are options to state why they're reporting that user – such as annoying or malicious messages, spam or masquerading as someone else.

FAMILIARISE YOURSELF

Before you allow a child to download Snapchat, download it yourself and familiarise yourself with the app. Snapchat has produced a parents' guide to the app to help you understand how it works and any protections they have in place. A link for this can be found in the sources below.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. For example, discuss My AI's responses to questions and how reliable they are. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgementally about sexting, emphasising its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant, educator and researcher who has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety policies for schools. She has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviour of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/snapchat-2021>

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