

Newsletter

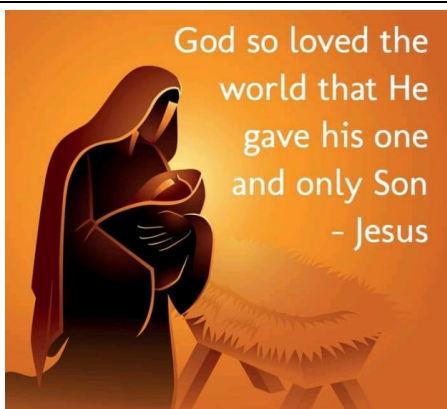
Autumn Term

Date: 17.12.2021

An Exceptional Place to Flourish

Though your beginning was small,
your future will flourish indeed.
Job 8:7

Special Christmas edition



Our school attendance target is:

96%

Attendance this week:

Reception	80.56%
Year 1	78.74%
Year 2	57.81%
Year 3	83.72%
Year 4	75.38%
Year 5	80%
Year 6	89.91%
Whole school	79.74%

Winning year groups:

Gold - 1 st	Year 6
Silver - 2 nd	Year 3
Bronze - 3 rd	Rec

Have a wonderful Christmas and festive season.

Achievers of the week:

		Reader of the week	Writer of the week	Mathematician of the week	Scientist of the week	Star of the week
Reception		Brooke	Florence	River	Alice	Evie-May
Year 1	Year 2	Daisy	Ralph K	Joey	Amelia-Rose	Henry R
Year 3	Year 4	Teddy D	Freddie	Lillie	Ralph B	Teddie T
Year 5	Year 6	Lara	Chloe	George A	John	Evie-Rose



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Promoting life in all its fullness through education across Essex and East London




Chelmsford Diocesan BOARD OF EDUCATION

SCHOOLS BULLETIN

A message from

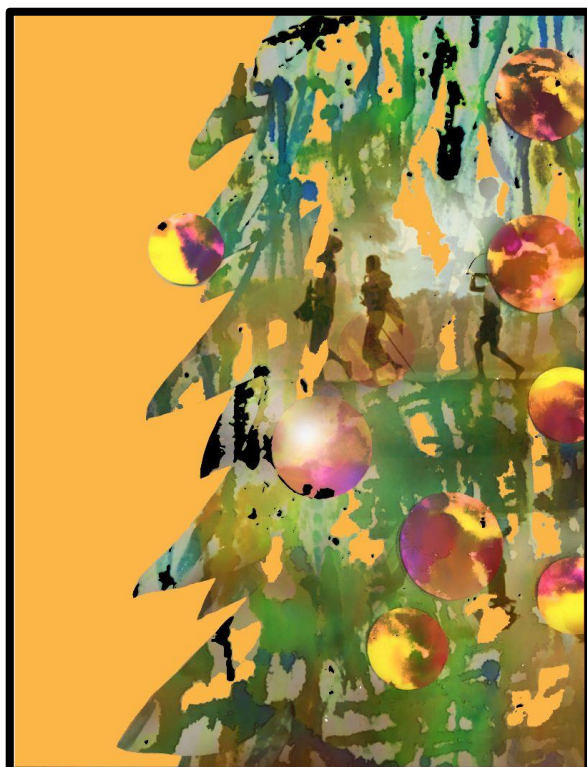
Revd Tim Elbourne
Director of Education



This has been a particularly exhausting term and we look forward to a decent break this Christmas.

But as the term ends there is uncertainty over more to come as dire Covid predications for January sweep the press. We do not feel settled; people are very unsettled.

The theme of the Christmas card we sent to all our schools is 'Unsettled Christmas'. Our thanks go to the Art Club at Epping St John's.



Amid the scene of a festive tree there are three small figures journeying. Are they the wise men or refugees or others on the move into uncertainty?

Uncertainty is in fact an abiding theme of Christmas. Far from tinsel and jollity, Christmas reminds us that God comes to a world beset by disruption and is born into its turbulent midst, into our midst.

Christmas hope is the assurance that in the person of the Christ child, God is surely with us whatever our circumstances. In Jesus, God has inhabited the same world in which we live with all its uncertainties, turbulence and unsettledness. Jesus is given the title used by the prophet Isaiah, 'Emmanuel', meaning 'God with us'.

We wish you a good break and a deep sense of the hopeful assurance of God's presence in your school, your pupils and families and especially in your own life this Christmas.

***May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope;
The spirit of Christmas which is peace;
The heart of Christmas which is love.
~ Ada V. Hendricks***



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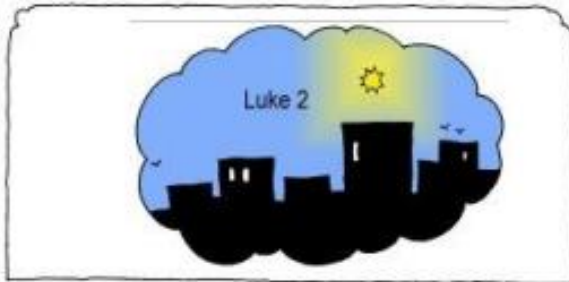
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JESUS was born in Bethlehem

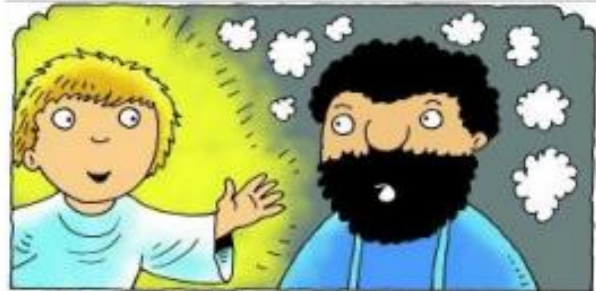
Print Free: www.lambsongs.co.nz

By Jill Kemp

Illustrated by Richard Gunther



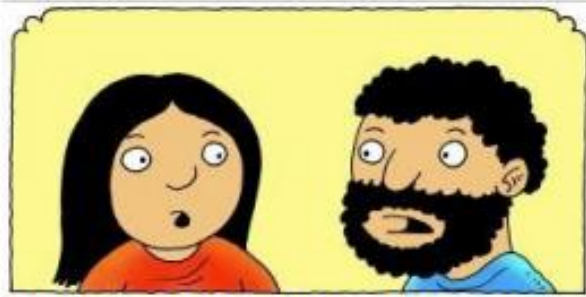
Jesus was not born in a palace, or a big house. He was born in a stable in the small town of Bethlehem and didn't even have his own bed!



Joseph the Carpenter lived in the town of Nazareth. One night God sent the angel Gabriel to tell him that the baby Mary was expecting was the promised Son of God. He was to marry Mary and take care of her and the baby.



The emperor Augustus wanted more tax money. He made a new law. Everyone was to go to the town their ancestors came from to write their names on a list, so Joseph had to go to Bethlehem.



"My ancestor David was from Bethlehem," Joseph told Mary, "so I must go there to put my name down. Your baby will be born soon but you will have to come too, because God wants me to look after you."



It took about three days to get to Bethlehem and Mary rode on the back of the donkey. It was a bumpy ride and Mary would have been very tired and very uncomfortable.



So many people had come to put their name on the list at Bethlehem that there was nowhere for Mary and Joseph to stay, except a smelly stable that animals slept in.



That night baby Jesus, the promised Saviour, was born in a stable in Bethlehem. A very bright star appeared in the sky right above the place where He was born.



Joseph and Mary called the baby Jesus, just like the angel Gabriel had told them. They wrapped him in a soft linen cloth and made him a bed in a manger box of hay.



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Questions to discuss:

After reading the story together, you could discuss these questions as a family:

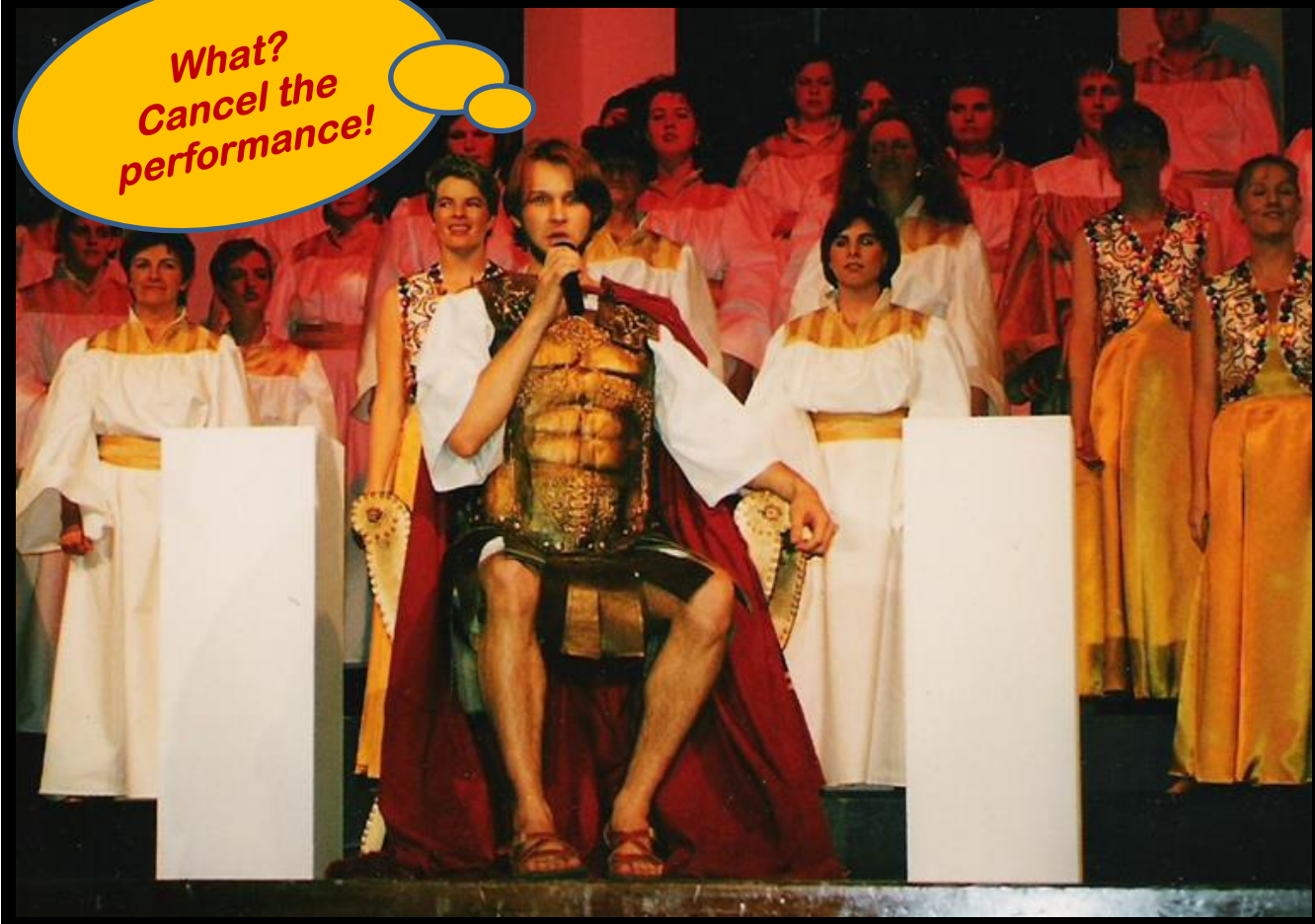
1. What is the greatest distance you have walked?
2. Why did Joseph and Mary have to go all the way from Nazareth to Bethlehem?
3. How do you think they felt when there was no place for them to stay?
4. What would you have done if Mary and Joseph had knocked on the door of your house looking for a place to stay?



It's Christmas time!



*What?
Cancel the
performance!*



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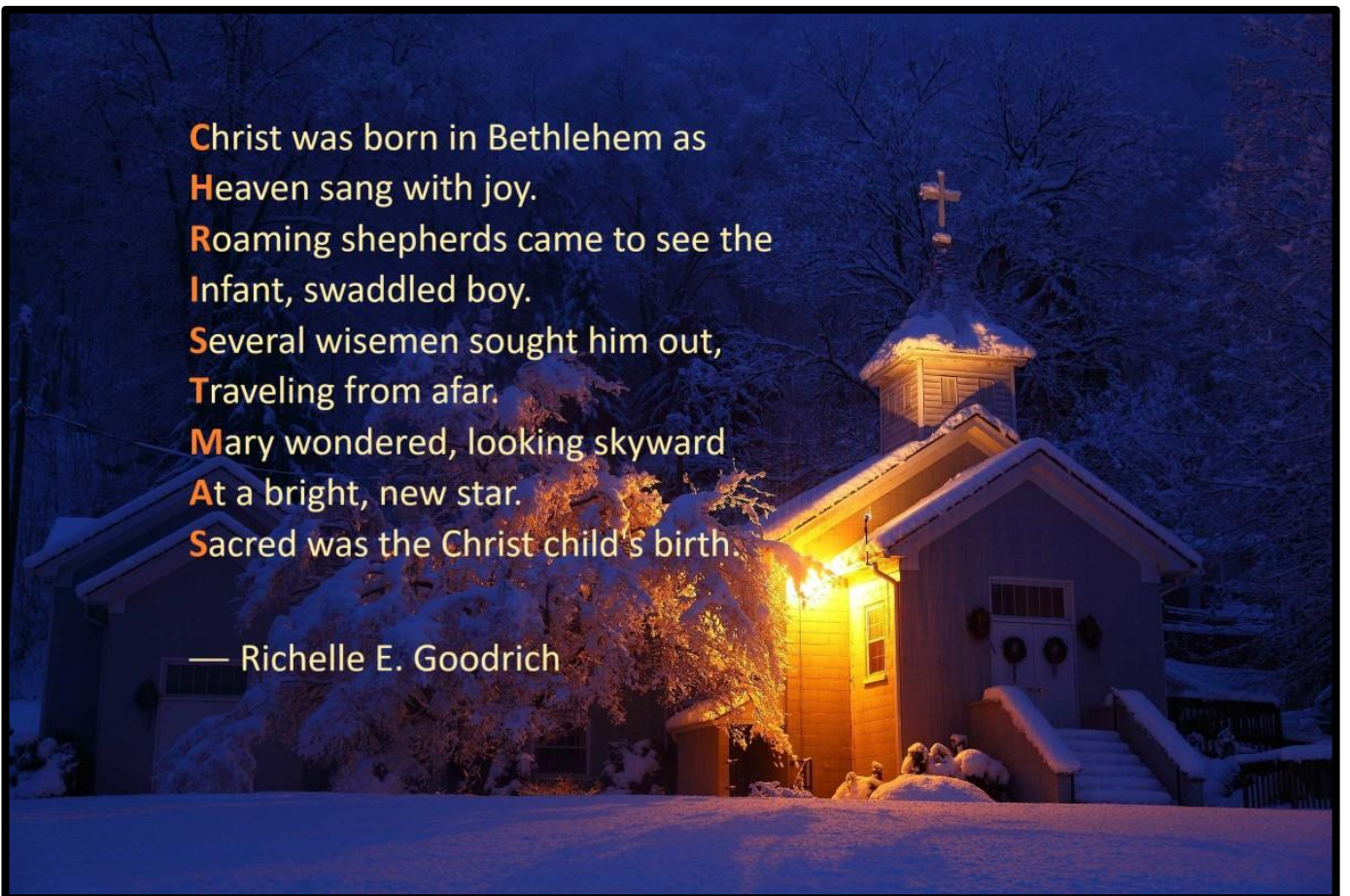
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The Real Meaning of Christmas



Christ was born in Bethlehem as
Heaven sang with joy.
Roaming shepherds came to see the
Infant, swaddled boy.
Several wisemen sought him out,
Traveling from afar.
Mary wondered, looking skyward
At a bright, new star.
Sacred was the Christ child's birth.

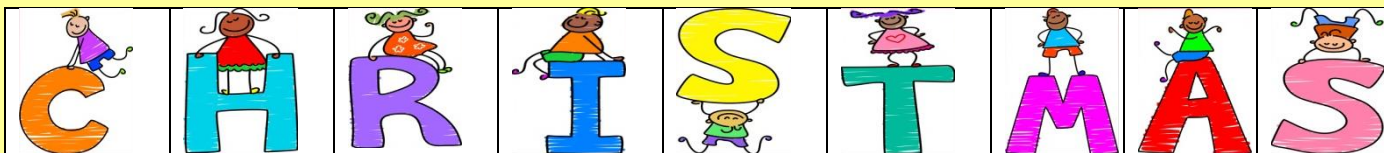
— Richelle E. Goodrich



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CHRISTMAS means:

- Celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ.
- Heavenly news.
- Rejoicing and being glad.
- Innkeeper helping Joseph and Mary.
- Shepherds watching their flock by night.
- Three wise men following a star.
- Many animals in a stable!
- Angels worshipping God.
- Special time with family and friends (and presents).










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The Christmas story

<p><u>The Annunciation</u></p> <p>Two thousand years ago there lived in distant Galilee A carpenter named Joseph and a gentle maid, Mary. One day the Angel Gabriel he dropped in out of the blue, And he exclaimed “Hail blessed maid, have I got news for you.”</p>	
<p><u>The Journey</u></p> <p>Caesar Augustus at that time did send forth a decree, Commanding everyone to pay their tax in Galilee. Mary and Joseph journeyed then to distant Bethlehem Town, They rode upon a donkey over rough and rocky ground.</p>	
<p><u>The Stable</u></p> <p>But in the town of Bethlehem they found no place to stay, For all the rooms were full and they were rudely turned away. Until a kindly innkeeper took pity on the poor pair, And led them to his cattle shed so humble and bare.</p>	
<p><u>The birth</u></p> <p>That night the baby child was born as Gabriel had said. His mother gently laid him in a manger for his bed. And all the creatures gathered round to see the wonderful birth. This baby king was born to bring peace and love on earth.</p>	
<p><u>The Shepherds</u></p> <p>A band of swarthy shepherd boys were on the hills that night. To their surprise before their eyes appeared a shining light. A host of heav'nly angels singing “Jesus Christ has been born. Now leave your sheep, go forth and seek him on this happy morn.”</p>	
<p><u>The Wise men</u></p> <p>Three weary wise men on that night had journeyed from afar, And they were searching for a King and following a star. And when they found him lying there, as prophecies had foretold. They gave him precious gifts of myrrh and frankincense and gold.</p>	
<p><u>The Celebration</u></p> <p>And then before the baby king they all knelt down top pray, The shepherds and the wise men there together on the hay. While high above the angels sang with glorious heavenly voice, Telling all mankind to come together and rejoice.</p>	



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Reception – The cast



Joseph



Mary



King Herod



Donkey



Innkeeper



Innkeeper



Angel



Angel



Angel



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Angel	Shepherd	Sheep
		
Sheep	Sheep	Sheep
		
Wise man / King	Wise man / King	Wise man / King
		
Star	Elf	Snowman



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Reception class



JESUS, LIGHT OF THE WORLD

“IN HIM WAS LIFE, AND THAT LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.” (JOHN 1:4)



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Years 1 and 2 – Stars and Angels



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Years 1 and 2 Angels



Years 1 and 2 Stars



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Years 1 and 2 – Made Peppermint Creams as part of Food Technology



Years 3 and 4 – Animals in the stable



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Baking and decorating Christmas biscuits

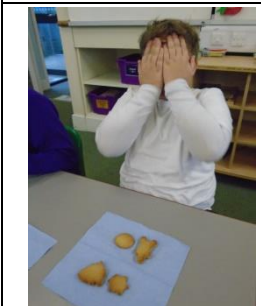
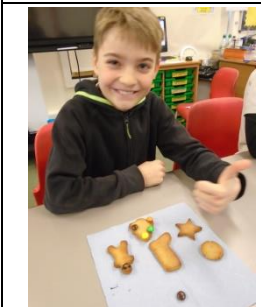
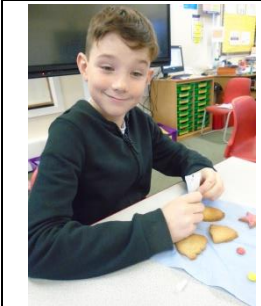


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Years 5 & 6 baking and decorating Christmas biscuits.



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Years 5 and 6 – Shepherds



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Yeagrs 5 and 6 – Magi



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Follow the star....



Year 6's last Nativity at Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School.

Christmas story lunch



Recipe

Make lunch and tell the Christmas story at the same time!

- For Joseph you will need 2 grapes
- For Mary you will need 2 grapes
- For the stable outline you could use bread sticks
- For the manger you will need apple slices
- For baby Jesus you could use a rolled-up ham or turkey slice and a grape for his head
- For the angels use a carrot stick and satsuma segments
- For shepherds and sheep use grapes and mini marshmallows
- For the Star use a slice of cheese cut to shape
- Gold, frankincense and myrrh use shiny wrapped sweets or wine gums



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Santa dash

Last week we took part in Santa dash during our P.E lessons. The children enjoyed running around to Christmas music, some even pretending they were Christmas characters. This was an initiative for lots of Ongar schools.



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Pupils created collective class Christmas cards.

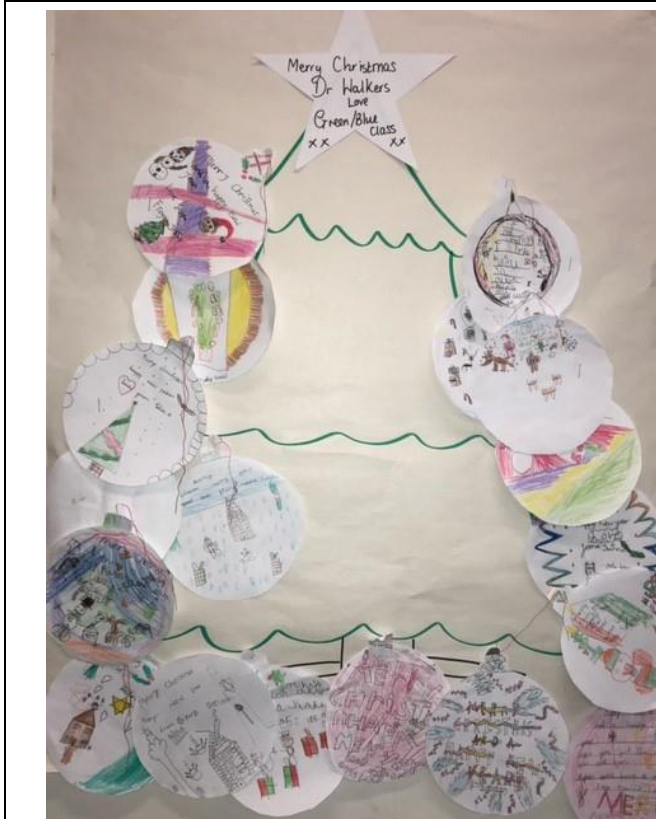
This was to reduce our CO2 footprint and as a COVID minimising measurement.



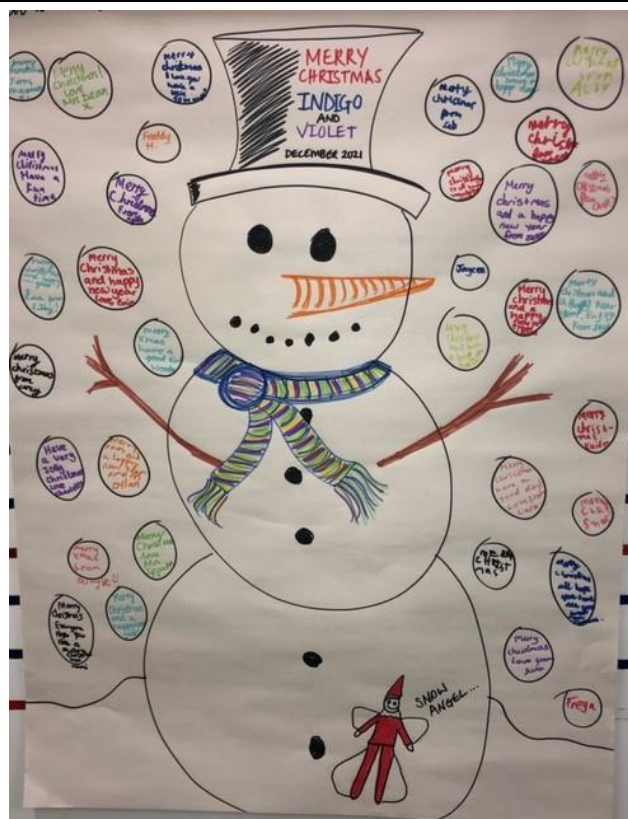
Red class (Reception)



Orange-Yellow class (Years 1 and 2)



Green-Blue class (Years 3 and 4)



Indigo-Violet class (Years 5 and 6)



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Thursday was Pantomime day!



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Christingles

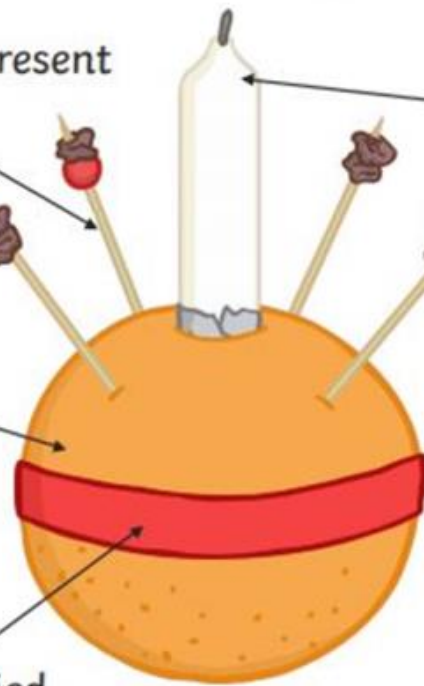
The cocktail sticks represent the four seasons.

The candle reminds Christians of Jesus, light of the world.

The orange represents the world.

The sweets or dried fruit represent all of God's creations.

The red ribbon is a reminder that Jesus died.



The Meaning and Origins of Christingle

Every year thousands of churches now hold special Christingle services or celebrations between Advent and Candlemas. Christingle, which means 'Christ Light', is a symbol of the Christian faith. During the service each child is presented with a Christingle - an orange decorated with a candle, red ribbon, fruit and sweets. The orange represents the world, the red ribbon around it the blood of Christ, the fruit symbolises God's creation and the candle Jesus, the Light of the World.

Christmas: The story of the Christingle

The word 'Christingle' actually means 'Christ Light', and celebrates the light of Jesus coming into the world. Stories of how the Christingle began look back to the Moravian Church, which is found in the Czech Republic. The Moravians have held Christingle services for more than 200 years, and according to them, this is how the first Christingle might have been made:



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Many years ago the children in a village were asked to bring a Christmas gift to put beside the crib in the church. One family was very poor, and had no money for gifts, but the three children were still determined to take something. The only nice thing they had was an orange, so they decided to give the Christ-child that. But then they discovered the top was going green, so the eldest cut it out, and put a candle in the hole. To add some colour, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange. It was hard to make the ribbon stay still, so they fastened it in place with toothpicks. The toothpicks looked a bit bare, so the youngest child added some raisins to them.

The other children sneered at their meagre gift, but the priest seized upon it with joy. He held it up as an example of the true understanding of the meaning of Christmas, for the following reasons: the orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark, like the love of God; the red ribbon goes round the 'world', as a symbol of Christ's blood, given for everyone; the four sticks point in all directions, and symbolise that God is over all: North, South, East and West; and the fruit and nuts remind us of God's blessings.

The Children's Society first introduced the Christingle Service to The Church of England in 1968, and it has since become a popular event in the church calendar. This candlelit celebration is an ideal way to share the key messages of the Christian faith, while helping to raise vital funds to help vulnerable children across the country.

Visit: www.childrensociety.org.uk

The Christingle Story

Many years ago, children were asked to take a gift to put beside the crib in church. One family had no money for gifts but were determined to take something. They found an orange which they felt would be okay, but were disappointed to find it was going mouldy at the top. However, they thought they would scoop out the bad bits and put a candle in the top and turn it into a lantern. Thinking that it looked a bit ordinary, one of the girls took a red ribbon from her hair and tied it around the middle of the orange.

They had difficulty getting it to stay in place, so fastened it with four small sticks, on the ends of which they put a few raisins. They took their lantern to church and were afraid of the reactions of the other children. However, the priest acknowledged their gift and told the congregation how special it was for the following reasons:

- The orange is round like the world.
- The candle stands tall and straight and gives light in the dark like the love of God.
- The red ribbon goes all around the 'world' and is a symbol of the blood Jesus shed when he died for us.
- The four sticks point in all directions and symbolise North, South, East and West - they also represent the four seasons.
- The fruit and nuts (or sometimes sweets!) represent the fruits of the earth, nurtured by the sunshine and the rain.

Source: www.layerchurches.org.uk/xtingle.htm











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Christingle winners

Reception	Years 1 and 2	Years 3 and 4	Years 5 and 6	
Florence	Ralph	Aviella	Naomi	Harrison
		 	 	 

Reception class



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Years 1 and 2




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And a Christmas present...

 **The Book Outlet**

info@thebookoutlet.co.uk



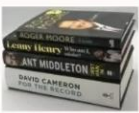



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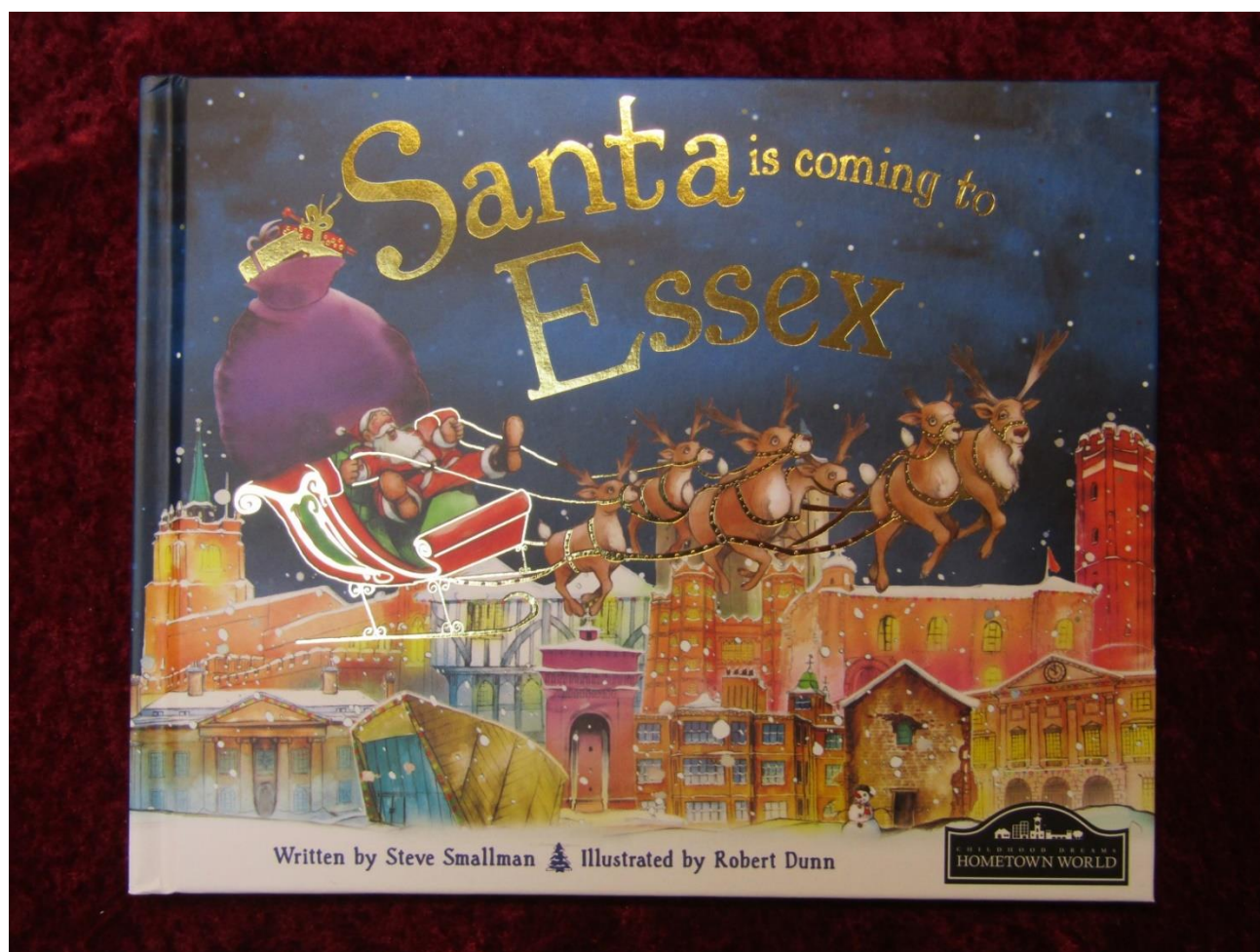
Opening Times
Wednesday - Saturday
10 - 4pm

Unit 9 Langford Court,
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Wide Range of
Kids & Adults Books



Thank you to The Book Outlet, for gifting every pupil in school with a copy of *Santa is coming to Essex*.



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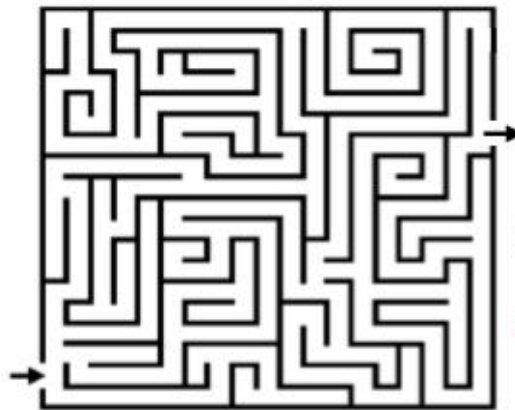
Activities:

Write a recount of the nativity

	First...
	Then...
	Good news...
	Afterwards...
	Finally...

Puzzle

Can you help Mary and Joseph get to the stable in Bethlehem?



Where did they put the baby Jesus?



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Short prayer

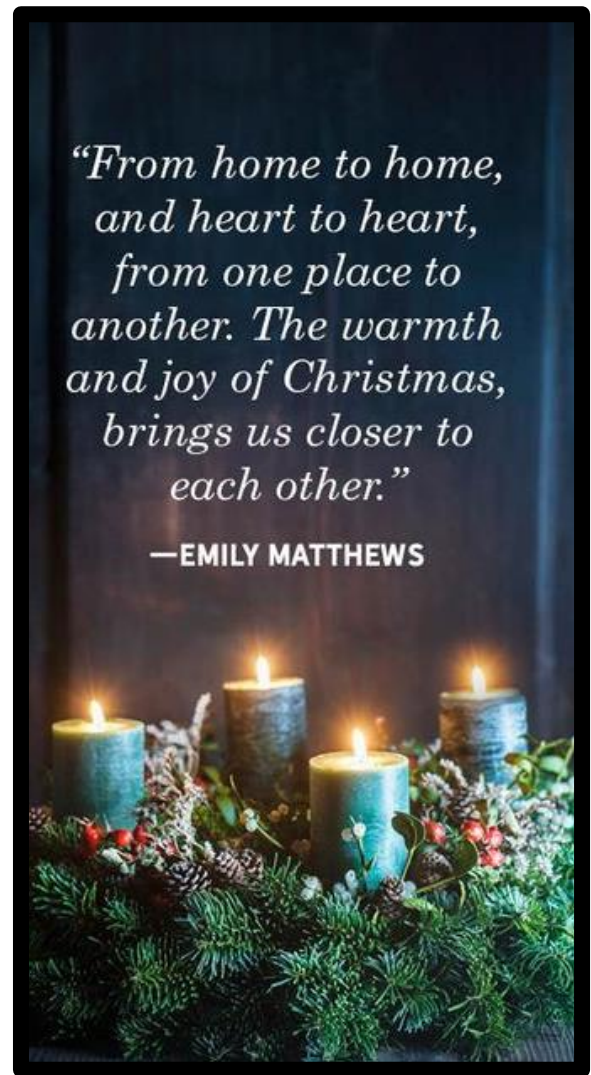
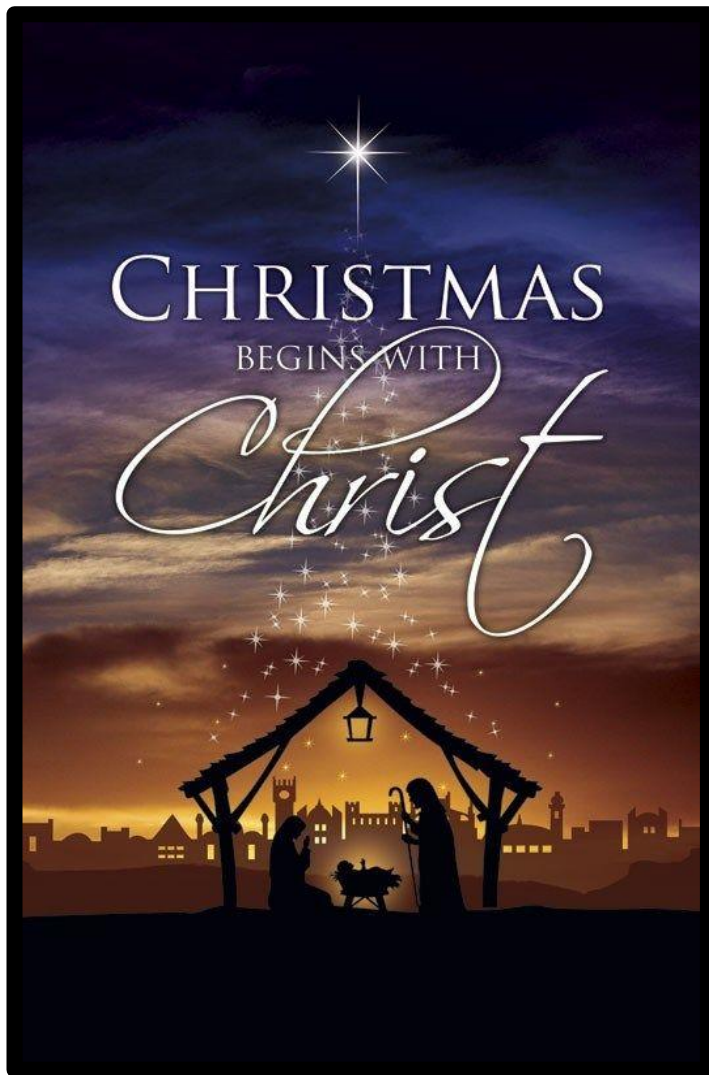
Dear God, thank you for sending Jesus as a baby to the world on the very first Christmas. Thank You for the best gift ever - Jesus. Please help me to remember that this is why we celebrate Christmas. Amen.



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**The staff at
Dr Walker's
Church of England Primary School,
wish all
parents, carers, pupils, and governors
a blessed
Christmas and festive Season.**



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