

The Lantern

St. Boniface said of St. Bede that 'he shone forth like a lantern.'



Dear Families

I know many of our children, staff and parents are presently unwell —some with COVID. I am aware too that many of you approach this Christmas with the gift you most want for your family is that of staying well. This week has been particularly challenging for many of you and I would want pupils, parents and grandparents to know that staff have been keeping the whole school community in their prayers. We will continue to do so.

Despite everything, it has been a great week in school. There has been much laughter and Christmas happiness. There is arguably no better a place to be than in a school at this special time of the year. I think the children have loved it.

We were overwhelmed with the donations of tinned and dried food that children brought into school as a result of our annual Reverse Calendar. I have never known more to be received. I think this is particularly special because I know money is tight for many of our families.

It was taken today to the Redbridge Foodbank today by Mr Peter and Mrs Knight. The volunteers were so very grateful, commenting 'wow, we are very impressed at the amount of donations from your school. It's so very kind of you all and it will make a huge difference to families in the Borough before and after Christmas'.

We finished this week without ten of our staff and this has meant others have had to give above and beyond to pick up the duties of unwell colleagues. My sincere thanks to them and the entire school team. In other news...

We are delighted for St George House, who have won the **TT Rockstars Times Table Completion** this term. They will get to enjoy their prize of double-breaktime when we return.

Lantern Certificates (youngest to oldest) - congratulations to all!

Evanjes; Aarav; Haylowe; Fечи; Jayden; Leonard M; Chidi; Martine; IFY; Joshua O; Amelia F; Luke RJ; Adrian; Dubem; Adriana; Logan; Shanessa Kiara; Summer; Taiwo

We congratulate Abigail Dk, Amelia F, Nivain, Caden, and Dotti-Beau, who have all received a **Head Teacher's Award** this week.

We wish a Happy Birthday to those children who celebrated a birthday this week: Shanessa, Jhamal, Olivia, Benjamin, Kiara, Grace, Justin and Maria.

And, we have a number of children who will celebrate their special day over Christmas and the New Year: Ellerae, Eddie, JoJo, Anshika, Caden, Renesmae, Faith, Arianna, Manny, Demi, Leo, Aiden, Theo and Daniel.

Our five new members of staff—Mr Peter, Mrs Kaur and Miss Salah have all had an excellent term. We are so pleased to have had them join our school family. In addition, those staff in new roles have had a great start: Mrs Chuck, Mrs Butcher, Miss Moore and Mrs Stratton. Teachers new to the school have strengthened what we do, bring the very latest ideas in to school to share with us.

The whole school team— children, staff and governors wish all our families a Merry Christmas and an oh-so Peaceful New Year.

We return on Tuesday 4th January, *please God*.

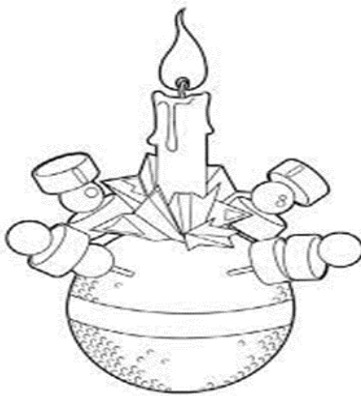
Gary

Weekly Reflection, with Mrs Mackie

In the last two weeks at St Bedes we experienced the story of Christmas in its fullness: the two beautiful retellings of the Christmas story in Reception and Year 2 and our Google classroom carol service in which we all sang, prayed and reflected on the true message of Jesus' birth. In these difficult times we still had the opportunity to share in the wonder of Christmas.

It is very easy with the hustle and bustle of the next week to lose sight of what we are celebrating. I know myself that I have a thousand and one things I need to be doing. But there are ways you can find time to pause and reflect together on the true meaning of the celebration, as a family, at home

One way you can do this is to make a Christingle. The idea of Christingle came from a bishop in the Moravian church in Germany who wanted to give a simple way of explaining the joy Jesus brings at Christmas. Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning and helps to tell the Christmas story.



The orange represents the world

- The red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

The children have also learnt a song – Hope of heaven about Christingle ;(found on their front pages) and also on my reflection page which explains the meaning too. Why not make a Christingle together, , sing the song and pray together? A time of light in the darkness.

It would be lovely to see pictures of your own special Christingle celebration- please send via the admin address.

This Christmas in all the darkness let us spread Jesus: light Amen

Wishing you all a safe, happy and holy Christmas

Mrs Mackie