



The Prayer

We thank you for good Saint Nicholas who was known for his love and care for children.

Through his intercession we ask you to help us always to take care of children,

to protect and guide them, and to keep them safe.

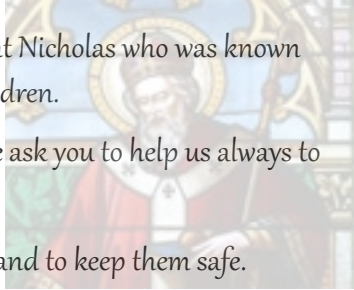
Help us to be open to all that children can teach us about pure joy and unconditional love.

May we, in turn, help our children to grow into the beautiful persons that you created them to be.

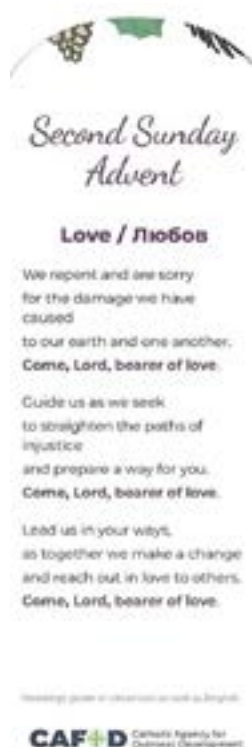
Keep us mindful of the needs of others and to reach out with love and generosity as Saint Nicholas did.

We rejoice in your servant Nicholas and pray that we too may follow you with singleness of heart and mind.

Amen.



2nd Sunday in Advent



Message from the Headteacher

We are now in December and preparations for this season are in full swing. Performances have commenced, decorations are up and the wise men are 'travelling' around school to represent their journey to Bethlehem.

This week I have had the pleasure of joining many of the classes for their child led collective worship. The children reflected on what they hoped for, as it is the theme of the first week of advent, and illustrated so much kindness and consideration for our world.

On Wednesday, Year 4 enjoyed a ball skills tournament at CNS and the KS2 choir visited Willow Gardens care home and performed a range of traditional carols and some songs from their forthcoming Christmas concert beautifully. The children were rewarded with squash and a biscuit and a real sense that they had brought some joy and hope to those in need in their local community.

On Thursday afternoon, we enjoyed the first of our Christmas performances with the Early Years nativity. They all said their lines clearly and sang beautifully. Performing in front of lots of people can be very overwhelming, especially when many of the children are only 4! We are really proud of them all! Thank you to the family members for taking the time to come and see your child perform, it is wonderful to see their faces light up as they see you in the audience. These are cherished memories with your children that will last a life time. A big thank you again to the staff in EYFS and Miss Hickman for creating such a wonderful performance. It takes hours of time and lots of patience to create wonderful performances.

We ended the week with an afternoon of festive crafts in each of the classrooms. It was a wonderfully Christmassy atmosphere all around the school and so lovely to welcome parents and carers in to school. Thank-you for supporting this.

SMART WATCHES

We would like to remind all parents that pupils may not wear smart watches in school. Please see our 'E-Safety Policy' which can be found on the school website under 'school policies'. Even if devices are not connected to the internet during school hours, they can still pose a concern to the safety and well-being of pupils due to their functionality. Should your child bring such a device to school, it must be taken to the school office, as is the case with mobile phones, and collected at the end of day. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Wishing you a wonderful weekend- hoping you are sheltered from the predicted 'Storm Darragh'.

Catholic Life

On Sunday, we will light the second purple candle on the Advent wreath; the candle that represents 'peace'.

We enter the season of Advent full of hope because we are reminded that God is always by our side. However, we all know people who will be feeling sad and troubled during the festive season. One of the titles given to Jesus is 'Prince of Peace' and so we call upon Him to bring comfort to the hearts of those who are suffering at this time - particularly to those in nations that are living in a state of war. We may not be able to physically reach out to everyone that needs a bit of 'hope' but we can pray for them during this Advent Season.



2025 Pilgrims of Hope Jubilee

Pope Francis has announced that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee – an event that happens every 25 years. The theme for the upcoming Jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope". The 2025 Jubilee will begin in Advent 2024 and will run until the Feast of the Epiphany in 2026.



Miss Hickman will be launching a competition to take part in over the Christmas holidays to produce a piece of artwork or logo to celebrate the launch of this year. Keep a lookout for more information coming soon.

SEN

We are in the process of developing a sensory tool kit. If you have any of the following items that you are able to donate and no longer need, we would really appreciate your generosity... Small pillows or scatter cushions, blankets, soft, cuddly toys or fidget toys.

Outdoor Play Zones

If, over the coming weeks or festive period, you are sorting any books, children's magazines, puzzles, small world toys, cars, dinosaurs or games; and are able to donate them to the lunch time play zones, we would be extremely grateful.

'Well Done'

to the following pupils who received Learner of the Week awards:

Reception - *Whole Class* for their fantastic Nativity performance.

Year 1 - *Luna* for determination and resilience in reading.

Year 2 - *Emily* for giving 100% to everything she does (and with a smile).

Year 3 - *Bam* for showing great perseverance and, as a result, independently answering a 'dig deeper' question in Maths

Year 4 - *Minnie* for going over and above in everything she does.

Year 5 - *Sarah* for her conscientious nature and developed confidence in public speaking.

Year 6 *Oscar* for lovely work presentation throughout the week.

Headteacher's Award

Reception For the effort, enthusiasm and sheer joy brought to the school community as they performed their very first nativity.

Attendance Award

Year 4 - Well done Y4 on achieving 99% attendance this week.



This Week in Photos

The Choir Visit Willow Gardens



Year 3 & 4 Ball Skills



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Dates for Michaelmas Term	
Monday 9 th December	Year 3 Christingle Assembly - 9am
Wednesday 11 th December	KS1 Nativity Performance
Thursday 12 th December	Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day - Don't Forget Your Cracker!
Friday 13 th December	Whole School Panto Trip
Monday 16 th December	Reception to Watson Place - Carol Singing
	KS2 Carol Concert (1.30 & 5.30pm) - CHANGE OF DATE
Tuesday 17 th December	KS 1 to Willow Gardens - Carol Singing
Thursday 19 th December	Whole School End of Term Mass - 9.10am
Thursday 19 th December	School Closes at 12.05pm for Christmas
Monday 6 th January 2025	Back to School
Thursday 9 th January	Whole School Epiphany Mass
Monday 20 th January	SEND Coffee Afternoon
Monday 3 rd February	Reception & Year 6 Height and Weight Check
	Year 3 & 4 Trip - Ashmolean Museum, Oxford
Monday 17 th February	Half Term Holiday

Reception Applications for September 2025

If you are a parent or carer with a child reaching the age of 4 between 1st September 2024 and 31st August 2025, they will be due to start primary school in September 2025 and you have until 15th January 2025 to apply for their school place.

Please ensure that you apply in good time as, if you miss the deadline, you will reduce the chances of getting one of your preferred schools for your child.

Winter WATER SAFETY

In winter, more people who are walking or running alongside water fall in and drown than in any other season.

Slippery paths, patches of ice and a lack of daylight can make being near water more dangerous than in the summer months. If you fall into the water, the cold temperatures make it difficult for you to control your breathing, to use your hands to climb out and can even cause you to have a heart attack.

So, follow our safety tips to make sure that your winter walks are enjoyable and safe.



KEEP BACK FROM THE EDGE

When walking alongside water keep back from the edge.



ONLY USE WELL LIT AREAS

Time your walks to make the most of the daylight; if you need to walk in the evening only use well-lit areas or take a route not alongside water.



KEEP DOGS ON THEIR LEADS

Keep dogs on their leads when near ice and don't throw sticks or toys onto the ice.



TEACH CHILDREN NOT TO GO ON TO THE ICE

Teach children not to go onto the ice under any circumstances.



DON'T GO ON THE ICE TO RESCUE A DOG

Don't go onto ice or into the water to rescue a dog, move to somewhere that the dog will be able to climb out and call them towards you.



For more information visit [rlss.org.uk](https://www.rlss.org.uk)