

St. James' Lanehead Church of England Primary School



"All Special in God's Eyes"

Our Church school seeks to inspire each individual to flourish, grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.

As we learn about Advent the school has transformed; the poppies from our remembrance display are now stars to represent the star of Bethlehem and our remembrance tree has become a celebration tree. In the Christmas story, a star guides the shepherds and the kings to the stable where Jesus was born. The celebration tree has incorporated this story by having little stars for people to write on.

We have had many acts of worship based upon advent; how advent is the process of waiting, the significance of lighting candles and the comparison between advent in the nativity story and the advent we experience today as we wait for Christmas Day. The collective worship also looked at the significance of the candles on the Christmas wreath and the process of lighting the candles. Our worship leaders have been planning the worship this term and have been working with the staff to reflect upon the worship.

The Key Stage 1 children have been looking at the Christmas Story with the use of drama in their nativity and in their artwork too which has been used to make displays around school and for calendars to go home with the children. In Religious Education, the children have been looking at the delivery of good news and comparing the delivery of good news in our lives today to the delivery of good news from God.

At the beginning of this month we had the KS1 Nativity performance. The children and staff have all worked really hard on the performances and the feedback from parents meant that all their efforts were well worth it. Thank you to Miss Parkinson for directing the Nativity performances.

Our 'Family Friday' events have been very festive this month. Our first one involved mince pies, warm drinks and a choir performance for our parents, the second was a craft afternoon with Christmas themed activities for parents to do with their children. Both events were lovely to see children enjoying crafts with their parents.

Our school choir have been very busy this month. They did so well during their performance at Blackburn Cathedral that they were invited to sing at the local Community Centre and Burnley Hospital too. They represented St James' Lanehead brilliantly at both events. Last week the children also attended the Churches Together Carol Concert at Burnley Football Club. They stole the show again with their voices.

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Our school council have been hard at work recently, making plans towards the changes they would like to see around school as well as looking into charities to donate to this year. They decided on donating £300 to Pendleside Hospice, a charity that is well known in the local area for their compassion and generosity. Our Head Boy and Girl, Harrison and Rebecca, presented Pendleside Hospice with the cheque on Wednesday and they were delighted! We are very happy to be giving the money raised to such a worthy cause.

Two pupils in particular have been on the local news for their acts of kindness. Joshua, Year 6, won a Burnley Football Club shirt whilst being a mascot for the club at a match and appealed to the local news 2BR station to help him give the shirt to a young Burnley fan who wouldn't be getting a gift this Christmas. Also, Anya in Year 5 cut her long hair off and donated it to The Princess Charity for young people and children who have lost their hair. It is so lovely to see the children being so charitable and living out our Christian Values.

St James' Lanehead would like to thank Mrs Anne Kelly, our school Governor, for her time and generosity over the 4 years she has been a Governor for our school. Anne attended her last Governing Body meeting last week as she will be focusing more time on her roles as Deputy Mayor and councillor for Burnley Borough Council. We wish her the best of luck as Deputy Mayor and will miss her presence greatly. We know that she will continue to volunteer in a different capacity and help the school with our visits to the community.

This month we have had two year groups attend the Jack and the Beanstalk pantomime at Darwen Library Theatre. The Year 2 children attended on Tuesday 11th December and our Year 1 children attended on Wednesday 19th December. Both trips went really well and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our Deputy Head Girl, Evie, has a part in the Pantomime and we are so very proud of her. The children went via coach and were escorted to their seats where they watched the story of Jack and the Beanstalk being told with a twist by Fairy Cupcake. The story followed Jack's brother Billy who was very comical and kept us all entertained with his dancing and jokes. He, Jill, Jill's father (the King) and Jack all worked together against an evil villain called Fleshcreep and his big, scary giant. The giant eventually turned out to be nice and even went to Jack and Jill's wedding at the end! The children really enjoyed the spin on the story.

In sporting news, this month we have had both the Athletics Final and the Hartley Cup football final. The children performed brilliantly, they were great team players and never gave up! The family support we have received at both events has been really good too; parents, pupils and staff alike have proven that the team spirit of St James' Lanehead is a strong one!

We have had various Family events in the school and it is always excellent to see so many wonderful families and the school working so hard together. We have attended a fabulous session at the Wednesday Club and the children are looking forward to visiting the ladies and gentlemen again, the children loved the company and of course the biscuits.

As always, I am proud to be the Head Teacher of such a wonderful school, with highly skilled and a dedicated staff team, where everyone works hard together and as one team with the goal to inspire each individual to grow and learn with Jesus at the heart of all we do.

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It is at this time of year where the Senior Leadership have reflected that they feel so truly blessed to work and lead a school where the children are simply wonderful.

The Senior Leadership Team of the school wish our colleague Katie and James all the very best as she Katie commences her maternity leave and welcomes Mrs Lucy Hargreaves to join the Key Stage 2 Teaching team.

May we take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas,

Yours faithfully,

Michelle Stott

Headteacher

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