



From the Headteacher...

Despite the challenges of the term, we have continued to offer as many activities as possible in school to enable the pupils to be fully engaged and eager to excel. We are very much looking forward to our remote Carol Service on 15th December and the Junior Christmas play on the evening of 9th December.

The children more recently enjoyed participating and supporting in different fundraising activities organised by the sixth form students, raising substantial amounts and at the same time having fun. Thank you for your kind donations.

We held Anti-Bullying Week in November, with the theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week nationally being 'United Against Bullying'. Our community understands that kindness and care for others is an expectation in our Catholic school and that respect and responsibility is one of our Catholic Christian values.



Our sixth form scholarship interviews took place a couple of weeks ago and I will be communicating with all families before the end of this term. There are some difficult decisions to make. Our 11+ interviews continue until the end of this term and preparations are in place for the 11+ assessments.

My special thanks to Ms Ludlam and Mr Peck for running the 4+ taster sessions and to Miss Ridley for organising and enabling the process to happen. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and we look forward to receiving your applications for transition to reception class in September 2021.

Please could I kindly request that if you require any information from the reception desk that you please telephone 020 8460 3546. If you need to drop something off at the office, please could you ring the door buzzer and a member of the office team will assist you. In order to ensure that everyone is as safe as possible, your understanding and cooperation is required.

This is the last edition of the year so I wish you all a safe and very merry Christmas.

Have a lovely weekend.



Paula Anderson – Headteacher
@Challoner_head

Mission Statement

Through faith and a broad education, Bishop Challoner School strives to develop and nurture each child's unique talents. To Live, Love and Learn like Christ and fulfil their true potential in an ever changing world.



Fun filled French

This half-term has been such a busy one with all key stages working incredibly hard to sail through the turbulent times we are currently experiencing. To lighten the mood, I have incorporated a variety of engaging tasks to help our learning.

Year 7 were set the challenge of making a chatterbox and had great fun and amusement when using them to communicate with each other in the target language. Smiles all round!

Year 9 enjoyed playing 'You Say, We Pay'. A brave member of the class comes to the front and faces his/her peers. Meanwhile words in French flash up on the interactive whiteboard. It is up to his/her trusted classmates to suggest clues to unlock what the mystery words are on the board. A great way for pupils to demonstrate their knowledge of vocabulary.



Year 10 had great fun playing 'Vocab Poker'. Students were given mini whiteboards and pens. The aim is to get the words displayed on the interactive whiteboard correct. Here are the rules:

If you know the correct answer, write it, then hold up your whiteboard.

If you don't know it and don't want to play, keep your whiteboard down when it comes to playing; if you don't know it but you want to try to bluff, write something and hold your board up!

Everyone starts with 10 points and if you are asked to show your answer and you wrote the right answer you will get 5 points; if you have played you will get 1 point. If you are asked to show your answer and you wrote the wrong answer you lose all of your points.

The students played with great enthusiasm and it was wonderful to see them so engaged. I have been so thrilled to teach my classes again and thank them for their hard work.

Ms Napier
French Teacher



Practicals in Science

Practicals is one of my favourite areas in A level science. This half term we prepared and looked at garlic roots under a microscope to see different phases of mitosis; the process where one cell divides to make two new identical cells. It was fascinating to see the different phases of mitosis happening in a real plant, because this process also happens in our bodies; it is how we grow, and how our bodies can repair themselves.

When we look at living things, we are not able to see all the tiny structures and processes that happen, which is why looking at ordinary things under a microscope seems like looking through a window to a new world. I am looking forward to learning even more about cells



and how thousands of tiny structures are able to work together to make you and me!

Lizzie
Year 12 Student



Mrs Marpadi ran a lesson looking at plant cells using microscopes and onions and also demonstrations with Eodea (pond weed) explaining how photosynthesis works.

Well done to all our wonderful science pupils who have worked so hard this half term.

Miss Ruston
Science Department

Last week, in science, pupils enjoyed various demonstrations and class practicals.

In physics, students looked at a bell in a vacuum with Mr Nicholls and participated in demonstrations using a slinky.

"In space, no one can hear you scream!" The demonstration showed a bell inside a large bell jar connected to a pump and a lab pack (battery up to 12V). The bell was turned on and was ringing continuously inside and was easily heard outside of the jar by all students. Once the vacuum pump was turned on, the air was slowly removed. As this happens, the sound was quieter until eventually it could not be heard at all.

Miss Aherne ran a class practical using lab packs, compasses and wires to show electromagnetic induction and she also demonstrated the motor effect and the Oersted experiment using the many physics demonstrations available in our science department. Electromagnetism was also discussed and demonstrated.



It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas

The nursery children are getting in the spirit and started their Christmas activities a couple of weeks ago. The children have been busy using a range of media and materials to create some wonderful Christmas craft; their homes will look beautiful at the end of term. They look so excited.

Covid will not be stopping our Christmas festivities - we are having to do things a little differently, but we will still be having a party and a special remote Christmas celebration for you to watch at home on Tapestry.

Christmas is a special time for children and such an important part of our liturgical calendar that we will still be celebrating with gusto.

Bring on the Christmas songs!

Ms Ludlam
Head of Nursery / EYFS Co-ordinator



PE

PE at Bishop Challoner continues to thrive as Reception participate in Tag Rugby. In Reception, the PE department endeavours to improve pupils' ABCs (agility, balance, and coordination) and Tag Rugby is the perfect sport to improve these core skills. Last term, Reception focused on their coordination skills such as catching, throwing, and processing several pieces of information in a games-based context.

Mr Snadden
PE Teacher



LEARNING SUPPORT

The Learning Support team have been busy supporting the children from years 2 to 6 in a wide range of subjects, particularly in English, Maths and providing pastoral care.

The children are very appreciative of the help they receive, whether as an individual or in a group. This term the children have worked very hard and each and every one of them has achieved great results.

Thank you all for your hard work this term.

Mrs Black and Mrs Andrews
Learning Support Team



CAREERS NEWS

Last month year 11 had a career's talk in which several professionals joined in via Zoom to tell the students about their chosen careers and answer any questions. The students had the unique opportunity to hear from a chemical engineer, an author, an interior designer, and an Oscar winning animator.

Miss Aherne and Mr Snadden
Year 11 Tutors



ECO CLUB

Unfortunately due to Covid-19 and government guidelines, Eco club has not been able to run for a few weeks. I would just like to say a huge thank you to all my Eco club members for all their hard work this term and especially with helping me to put together a whole school assembly focusing on the environment and sustainability at Bishop Challoner. Black history month was also celebrated in Eco club and pupils produced some excellent work. We will be working on our Green flag award after the holidays.

Thank you Eco club and have a safe and restful holiday.

Miss Ruston
Eco Club Co-ordinator



HOUSE NEWS

In the lead up to Christmas, our festive House theme was once again, 'Deck the Halls.' The children were asked to create a small Christmas decoration to be placed on the school Christmas tree in the reception area. The decorations were to be embellished with the child's House colours. The tree looked beautiful. Well done to all who took part

Decoration winners:

Eva in year 4 and Clara in Reception - St Edmund

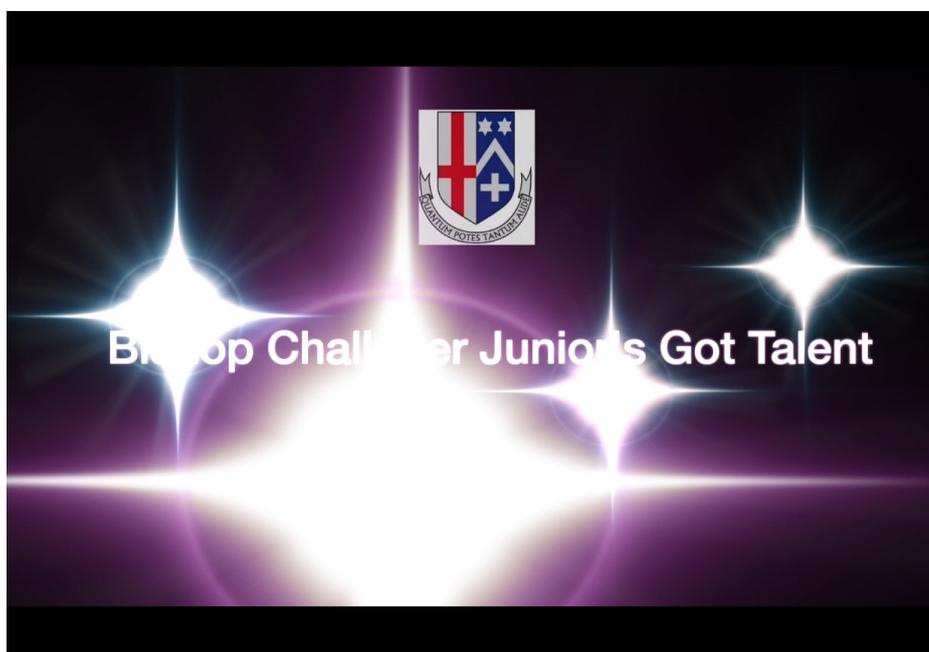
Nathan in Nursey- St Patricks

Nilah in year 1 - St Denis



BISHOP CHALLONER'S GOT TALENT

Remotely, and from a very safe distance, we were able to hold a fantastic, Bishop Challoner's Got Talent competition. The shortlisted 'stars' played to audiences of creative art lovers and House supporters, from all over the school. There were some really great performances and all who took part should be very proud of themselves. One of the judges, Mr S Cowell said, ' I didn't like it...I loved it!' The talent was so good that we couldn't decide on a winner, so we thought that sharing the points with everyone was best. Well done to all, you were amazing!



I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas.

Mr Peck
House Co-ordinator



JUNIOR STARS OF THE WEEK

Week commencing Monday, 16th November

Reception: Clara for her outstanding flag creation in PHSE, looking at British Values.

Year 1: Faith for lovely work in English. Always contributing and staying focused in class.

Year 2: Georgina for working hard and having a fabulous week.

Year 3: Thaddeus for great work with understanding fractions.

Year 4: Harry for great effort in English with instruction writing.

Year 5: Cillian for effort, attainment and engagement in Maths.

Year 6: Jehan for excellent work in English.

Week commencing Monday, 23rd November

Reception: Olanna for outstanding effort in using her sounds to write words independently.

Year 1: Sanaa for excellent work in maths.

Year 2: Alex for having a wonderful week, working hard and being helpful.

Year 3: Amaju for excellent progress and effort throughout the week.

Year 4: Eva for a superb dream and making a fabulous dream jar!

Year 5: Melvin for listening to advice and applying it when solving disagreements on the playground.

Year 6: Eden for her hard work, effort and good humour when learning the Venezuela dance.

Week commencing Monday, 30th November

Reception: Charlotte for excellent writing.

Year 1: Luca for having a wonderful week.

Year 2: Daisy for being kind caring and enthusiastic and for making fantastic progress in maths.

Year 3: Rhys for excellent achievement in maths.

Year 4: Myles for having a really positive attitude throughout the week.

Year 5: Imogen and Megan for fantastic achievement in maths.

Year 6: Annabelle for an excellent RE assessment.

Well done to all our stars for their excellent achievements.

Ms Barker

Head of KS1 and KS2



BISHOP CHALLONER FACE COVERINGS NOW AVAILABLE

Miss Ruston and Miss Ridley will be selling our (adjustable) branded face masks on Tuesday 8th December from 8.15am to 9am under the canopy by the main school office. The cost is £3 per mask. Contactless payments can be made by card or cash (please bring the correct amount). If you are unable to attend in person to purchase your mask(s) please do contact the school office to arrange an alternative time.



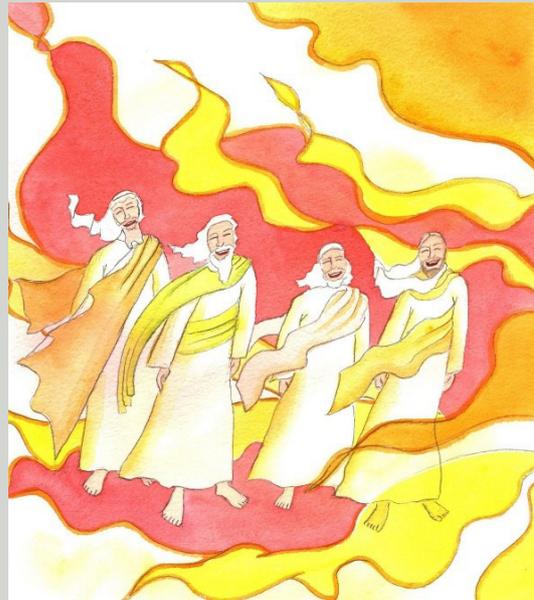
CHAPLAINCY

On Sunday, 29th November, we celebrated Advent which is the beginning of the Church's New Year and a time of preparation. Throughout this peculiar year we have tried to make preparations for many different things, not just birthdays or special days but even to meet with family and friends. There has been so much unpredictability and we've often had to cancel events and make sudden changes, even things we took for granted, like going to school or meeting up with friends.

There are hundreds of self-help books telling us how to be in control of our lives and up to this year many of us really believed that we were. We made firm plans predicting what we would be doing tomorrow, next week, next month or next year. Now we realise that we are not in control and this can make us feel vulnerable or afraid.

Throughout history people have lived with unpredictability, whether it was because of famines caused by weather, earthquakes, wars or illnesses. Today our world is also full of unpredictability and sadly unless something affects us directly we often overlook the things that we hear and read about other people's misfortunes. If this pandemic has taught us nothing else, it has taught us that we are all connected, one human family, and that we need one another to survive!

The Old Testament readings that we have during Advent also remind us of this. The Prophets wrote them during times of great unpredictability. Many people lived in fear



and terror wondering whether God loved them or if he was even there. Some felt that they had been abandoned by God but the Prophets were different, even when everything around them seemed to be falling apart, they had faith and hope believing that God would save his people.

The Prophets prayed and listened for God's voice, they searched for his presence in every day events and were rewarded as God spoke to them and they then became his messengers of hope.

'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone... For there is a child born for us, a son given to us, and authority is laid on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.' Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Isaiah's promise took 700 years to fulfil in the birth of Jesus. Yet when Jesus came it was the greatest gift that humanity could ever receive, for those who had gone before and those who came afterwards, as God's grace is not limited by time or space. Remember God acts at just the right time!

Advent also gives us hope as we wait for that little child who comes as the brightest light into a world of darkness. Let us not give up hope that God has a plan and that when the time is right he will come and deliver us from every trial and from all evil. I invite you to pray and to stand ready as we 'wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour Jesus Christ.'

Mr Lohan
School Chaplain



CHARITY WEEK 5TH TO 13TH NOVEMBER

On Friday 5th November to Friday 13th November we ran a Charity Week along with the sixth form students. Our pupils chose three charities to support this year:

The Passage works with over 2,000 homeless people on the streets each year. Of every £1 raised 93p goes directly towards helping those in terrible situations.

Royal Marsden Cancer Hospital. The Cancer Prevention Research Trust has been supporting research into the prevention of cancer to help reduce the risks of developing cancer by leading a healthier lifestyle, for example, identifying foods that prevent or fight cancer.

Mind offers information and advice to people with mental health problems and lobbies government and local authorities on their behalf. We know that many people are suffering with mental health problems made even worse because of the pandemic.

I would like to thank the sixth formers for their enthusiasm in running the events during Charity Week. Also a special thanks to Mr Bryson and staff who supported the events and the site team who helped us to set up.

In addition to the daily events, we also ran two competitions, a raffle to win one of three cuddly toys and a competition to guess the amount sweets in the 5KG tub.

Congratulations to Bronte in Year 5 who won the hedgehog and the giraffe.

Congratulations to Kayden in Year 6 who won the rabbit.

There were 544 sweets in the tub. Congratulations to Ayden in Year 5 who was the closest and guessed 550.

We also had our annual Poppy Appeal and we are grateful to the office reception for running this. We are delighted to announce that we raised £470.39 during Charity Week and £207.89 for the Poppy Appeal, which is a total of £678.28.

Thank you to all of our pupils, families and staff for your continued generosity and support.

Mr Lohan
School Chaplain



SAFEGUARDING ESSENTIALS

Introducing Ollee – a virtual friend (ParentZone/BBC Children In Need)

Ollee is a digital friend for children aged 8-11, created by Parent Zone and funded by BBC Children in Need's A Million & Me initiative, which aims to make a difference to children's emotional wellbeing.

It is designed to help children reflect on how they feel and to process their experiences with the support and help of their parents and carers – and it does this by offering them advice about a range of subjects: school, family, friends, their body, the internet and the world.

For each of these subjects, children can choose an emotion that matches how they feel about it: happy, angry, sad, confused, frustrated, stressed or worried.

Next, they can choose from a list of topics – for instance, a child who was worried about school might be able to select 'I have not done my homework' as the cause of their worry. Finally, they will see a page of advice about the topic, presented in child-friendly bite-sized chunks they can read then or save for later.

You can find more information and download the Ollee app here: <https://parentzone.org.uk/Ollee>

Mrs Woolaway
Designated Safeguarding Lead

REPORTS

Please be aware that reports for the senior school will be available from your My Child at School account during the week commencing Monday, 14th December. An email will be sent to notify parents when they are ready.

A FINAL PRAYER

Dear Lord,

Thank you for this time of Advent, a time for us to reflect, to think, and to prepare for the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel, which means God-With-Us. A time for us to place our trust in your love and mercy. A time for us to hope that you will come, soon, to save us. Help us to remember that you are always with us and fill us with your love and light which casts out all fear. We make our prayer through Christ Our Lord.

Amen

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Wednesday

9 DECEMBER

- Christmas lunch for juniors, 11.50am
- Junior Christmas production, 2pm

Friday

11 DECEMBER

- Year 4 Chapel Reflection
- EYFS Christmas party, from 10am

Monday

14 DECEMBER

- Christmas jumper day, all day

Tuesday

15 DECEMBER

- Virtual Carol service, 7pm

Wednesday

16 DECEMBER

- Term ends, 12noon

