

'Spurring each other on with love'

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Year Six Shine in MP's Christmas Card Competition!

A couple of weeks ago, our Year Six pupils were invited to take part in a very special challenge: designing a Christmas card for our local MP, Rebecca Smith. This exciting opportunity tied in perfectly with their RE unit on *Incarnation* and the story of Christmas. The children were asked to think deeply about the historical context and the key figures in the nativity scene, combining their creativity with their RE knowledge. We are thrilled to announce that *Rosie from 6R* produced a stunning design that captured the true spirit of Christmas. Rebecca Smith chose Rosie's artwork as her official constituency Christmas card for 2025! Rosie's design will now be printed and sent across the country to share festive wishes—a wonderful achievement that we are all incredibly proud of. To celebrate, Rebecca visited Year Six to present certificates to every child who took part and to talk about her role in the House of Commons. Rosie received a very special prize: a Speaker Bear—a teddy dressed as the Speaker of the House of Commons! It was a fantastic experience for the children, who not only showcased their artistic talents but also learned more about democracy and the work of MPs. During her visit, Rebecca was given a tour of the school by representatives of our Pupil Leadership Team. The tour was a wonderful opportunity for Rebecca to see our school in action and meet some of our inspiring young leaders. We would also like to say a big thank you to *Miss Freeman* for supporting the children in designing their Christmas cards and ensuring all entries were submitted to Rebecca Smith. Finally, a huge thank you to all our Year Six pupils for their creativity, effort, and enthusiasm.







Christingle Lights the Way - A Beautiful Beginning to Advent

We would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all the families who joined us on Sunday, 20th November for our Christingle Service in St Cecilia Hall. It was wonderful to see you come together to celebrate this special occasion. The hall was filled with warmth, light, and a real sense of community; your presence made the event truly memorable.

A special thank you to Reverend Jo Northey for organising and leading the service. In addition, special thanks to the members of St Mary's Bickleigh and Shaugh Prior Church for their support in making this event so meaningful. Your contributions helped create a beautiful atmosphere for reflection and celebration.

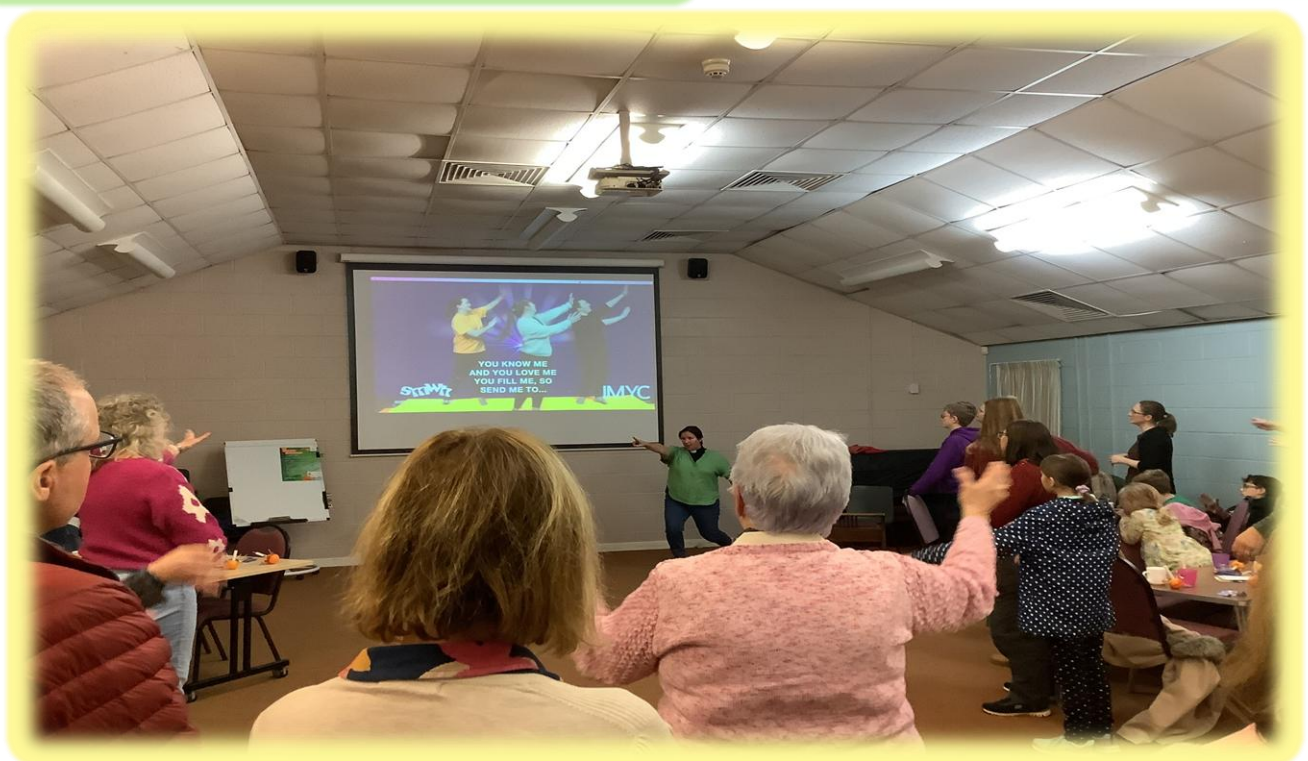
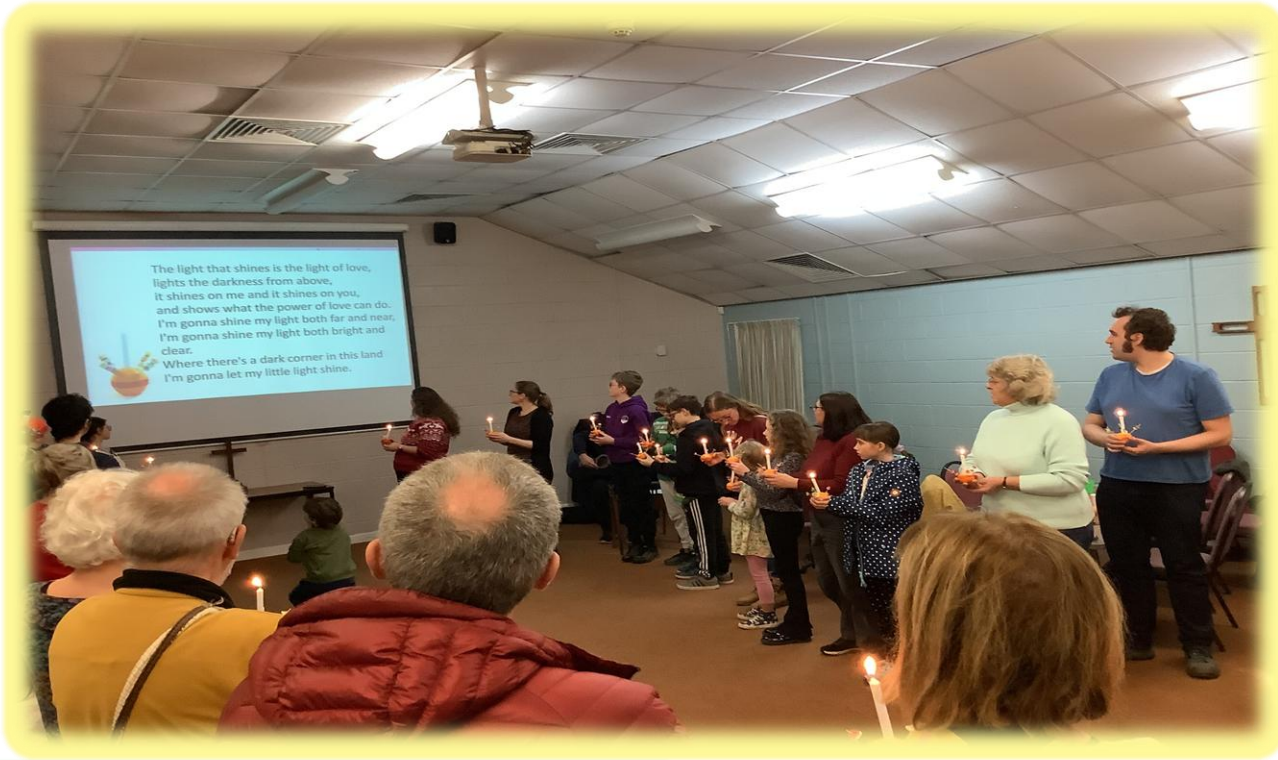
The Christingle Service is a cherished tradition that helps us reflect on the message of hope and light during the Advent season. Each element of the Christingle carries a special meaning:

- **The Orange** represents the world.
- **The Red Ribbon** wrapped around the orange symbolises the love of God and the sacrifice of Jesus.
- **The Four Cocktail Sticks** with dried fruits or sweets remind us of the four seasons and the goodness of God's creation.
- **The Candle** placed in the centre signifies Jesus as the Light of the World, bringing hope even in times of darkness.

Together, these symbols reminded us of God's love and the importance of sharing that light with others.

Thank you once again for making this service so well attended and meaningful. We look forward to welcoming you to future events as we continue to strengthen the bond between our school, church, and wider community.





Turning Wet Play into Wow Play – Thanks to PFA!

We are delighted to share some wonderful news! Our Parent and Friends Association (PFA) has generously donated a fantastic selection of games for our classrooms. These have been a huge help during *wet play*—those times when inclement weather makes it unsafe for children to play outside.

On such occasions, children stay indoors and enjoy activities like crafts or board games. Thanks to the PFA's thoughtful contribution, we now have an even greater variety of games to keep everyone engaged and happy. The children are already loving them! This generous gesture is a true testament to the PFA's active involvement in school life and their commitment to responding to the needs of our children. A special thank you to the PFA committee for your hard work and dedication. We encourage all parents and carers to continue supporting the PFA in any way you can—your involvement makes a real difference! Thank you once again for helping us create a fun and nurturing environment for our children.







Important Dates and Events for Parents and Carers



December 2025 Gee Wee It's Christmas

Monday 8th: Non-Pupil Day

Thursday 11th: PFA Christmas Raffle

15th - 19th: Pupils are allowed to bring in and exchange Christmas cards

Monday 15th: KS2 Rock Steady Band Concert @ 2.30 pm in St Barnabas Hall

Monday 15th: Foundation & Key Stage One Nativity @ 6 pm

Tuesday 16th: Foundation & Key Stage One Nativity @ 2 pm

Wednesday 17th: Christmas Dinner & Jumper Day (Food Bank Collection)

Thursday 18th: Key Stage Two Carol Service (2:00 and 6:00 pm)

Friday 19th: Dismissal at 1.15 pm

January 2026

Wednesday 7th: All pupils return to school

Monday 19th: Fire Rescue Service in - Collective Worship, Year 2 and Year 5

Tuesday 20th: High 5 Nerf After School Activity (contact High 5 for details)

Wednesday 21st: PFA Movie Night

February 2026

Wednesday 4th: PFA Spring Disco: Foundation, KSI & KS2

Thursday 12th: High 5 Inflatables After School Activity (contact High 5 for details)

16th - 20th: Half Term Break

March 2026

Thursday 5th: World Book Day Celebration - Non-Uniform

Monday 2nd - Friday 6th: Foundation Balanceability Training Sessions

Monday 9th - Friday 13th: Year Five Bikeability Training Sessions

Thursday 12th - Friday 13th: PFA Mother's Day Present Room

Tuesday 24th - Thursday 26th: Parents' Evening

Wednesday 25th: Class Photos

April 2026

Wednesday 1st April: Spring Music Festival for Foundation, KSI & KS2

Thursday 2nd: Last Day of Term Early Dismissal @ 1.15 pm

3rd - 17th : Easter Break

Monday 20th: All pupils return to school

Friday 24th: Military Family Breakfast @ 8.10 am (All pupils wear purple accessories (purple hair accessories, socks etc) in celebration of Month of the Military Child)

May 2026

Monday 4th: Bank Holiday

Monday 11th - Thursday 14th: Year Six SATs Assessment Week

Wednesday 20th: PFA Summer Disco for Foundation, KSI & KS2

Thursday 21st: New 2026 Foundation Intake Meeting @ 5pm

25th - 29th : Half Term Break

June 2026

Wednesday 3rd: All pupils return to school

Wednesday 3rd - Friday 12th: Year Four Multiplication Tables Check

8th - 12th: National Phonics Screening Check

Monday 15th: Foundation & Key Stage One Sports Day

Wednesday 11th: Key Stage Two Sports Day (Years Three to Six)

Thursday 18th: PFA Father's Day Present Room

Friday 19th : PFA Father's Day Present Room

Tuesday 23rd: 1st Visit: New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

Wednesday 24th: 1st Visit New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

Friday 26th: PFA Mufti Day

Tuesday 30th: New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

July 2026

Wednesday 1st: 2nd Visit: New Foundation Intake Induction Day @ 1.30 pm

Friday 3rd: PFA Mufti Day

Friday 10th : PFA Mufti Day & Summer Fayre

Friday 17th: Year Six End of Year Trip to Woodlands

Tuesday 21st : Year Six Production @ 6 pm

Wednesday 22nd : Year Six Production @ 2pm

Year Six Leaver's Disco @ 5pm - St Barnabas Hal

Friday 24th: Last day of term 1.15 pm dismissal

Sharing Christmas Kindness: Sending Hope to Jamaica

Amara in Year Four reached out to Miss Freeman and the Spirit Detectives because she was deeply concerned about the people in Jamaica after Hurricane Melissa devastated the country in October. Many families have been left without food or homes and Amara wanted to do something to help.

The Spirit Detectives have decided that all collections from our Nativity and Carol Concerts will be donated to the **Red Cross** to support those affected in Jamaica. We've been busy creating posters to remind everyone that this Christmas, we can share a little of what we have with those in need.

How you can help:

Please ask your adults to bring any spare change to the performances and place it in the buckets as you leave. We will also create and share a JustGiving page for those who would like to donate online. Every little contribution will make a big difference, and together we hope to raise lots of money to help these families rebuild their lives.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

From the Spirit Detectives



Christmas Dinner Day – Donations to Shekinah Mission

On the 17th December, we will be having our school Christmas lunch. We want to help people who do not have much at Christmas time so we have been in touch with Shekinah Mission about how we can share a little of what we have with the homeless.

On Christmas Jumper Day, we would love it if you could bring in long life cupboard foods like jam, honey, marmite, pasta, noodles, tinned items or even biscuits. We will then collect these up and give them to Shekinah.

We hope that, while we enjoy our yummy Christmas dinner, we will also be able to give something lovely to someone else who might not be as fortunate as we are and spur them on with love.

From the Spirit Detectives.

Rising Community Complaints Regarding Parking

We have recently received a number of complaints from local residents regarding inappropriate parking near their homes during school drop-off and pick-up times. In addition, there have been reports of parents responding rudely when approached about these concerns.

We kindly remind all parents to adhere to road traffic regulations and to park considerately, ensuring that driveways and access points are not blocked. Please remember that we are part of a wider community, and maintaining positive relationships with our neighbours is essential.

Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Together, we can ensure the safety of our children and foster a respectful environment for everyone.

Thank you for your understanding and support. 😊

Special Thanks from Royal British Legion – Poppy Appeal 2025

The Royal British Legion Crownhill Branch, Plymouth, extends heartfelt thanks for your generous donations totalling **£549.19**. Every penny will go directly to the National Poppy Appeal, supporting the welfare needs of those who have served – and continue to serve – in the Armed Forces.

A special mention goes to the MK Heroes Club, led by Mrs Conday, for their outstanding efforts in organising and supporting the Poppy Appeal 2025, and for ensuring all contributions were carefully managed. Your dedication truly makes a difference. Together, we honour the past, support the present and secure the future for our Armed Forces community.



Should I keep my child off school?



Yes

Until...

Chickenpox	at least 5 days from the onset of the rash and until all blisters have crusted over
Diarrhoea and Vomiting	48 hours after their last episode
Cold and Flu-like illness (including COVID-19)	they no longer have a high temperature and feel well enough to attend. Follow the national guidance if they've tested positive for COVID-19.
Impetigo	their sores have crusted and healed, or 48 hours after they started antibiotics
Measles	4 days after the rash first appeared
Mumps	5 days after the swelling started
Scabies	they've had their first treatment
Scarlet Fever	24 hours after they started taking antibiotics
Whooping Cough	48 hours after they started taking antibiotics

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No

but make sure you let their school or nursery know about...

Hand, foot and mouth	Glandular fever
Head lice	Tonsillitis
Threadworms	Slapped cheek



SCAN ME

Advice and guidance

To find out more, search for **health protection in schools** or scan the QR code or visit <https://qrco.de/minfec>.

Attendance Matters!

Every school day counts. Regular attendance helps your child build strong learning habits, stay on track and achieve their best. Please ensure your child is in school every day, on time—because every minute matters!