



St Mary's Catholic Primary School
'Love God, Love Others, Love Ourselves'

Miss Egan writes.....

This weekend we begin the season of
ADVENT.

Each of the candles on the Advent wreath
symbolise a different virtue, which I feel
are more relevant than ever this year. In

lighting each candle, we have the
opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the

Hope
Love
Joy and
Peace

we have in Jesus Christ and how we can
share this with those around us during
this time.



Today the children have received a letter inviting them to participate in an activity at home called 'The Giving Manger'. This lovely idea, which originated in America, is a beautiful way for them to reflect on how they can share love and kindness with others as they prepare for Christmas.

Christmas will be slightly different in school this year. We are recording a whole school reflective Christmas Celebration and you will be sent a private link to view this for personal use only. We hope that this will be available in the last week of term.

Christmas Cards

We will not be able to use our school post box this year. Instead, we are inviting the children who would like to, to send cards in for their classmates and we ask that these be sent into school between Wednesday 9th and Friday 11th December only. We will not be able to receive any cards outside of these dates. These will be quarantined in each class for 72 hours before being given to the children to take home on Tuesday 15th December. It will not be possible this year for us to distribute cards from one class to another so please help your child to understand this.

Bullying Awareness Week - 'United against Bullying'

Reception learnt all about kindness and being a helpful friend. The children discussed what they would like to see in a good friend and what they could do to be a good friend.

They enjoyed playing their 'How to be a kind friend' game in class and each child took their own board game home to play with their families.

Y1 began by talking about why they were wearing odd socks and how this showed that they are all individual and wonderful as they are!

Throughout the week, the focus of their English lessons was the book 'The Cloud Spotter' that looked at the importance of friendship. The children thoroughly enjoyed this and produced many fantastic pieces of writing from.

They also role played scenarios and discussed how they would deal with each one and finished the week by creating a class friendship wreath, writing on each finger of their hands what makes a good friend.

Y2's busy week started on Monday, when they took part in Odd Socks Day. They discussed how everyone is different and unique, and that even though we are all different, we can still 'pair up' and work together, just as odd socks do. They explored this year's theme of 'United against Bullying' and listened to the song by Andy and the Odd Socks, 'Kids are United'.

On Tuesday, they used an informative text to learn more about what bullying really means. It was great for the children to add that someone who might act like a bully can change!

On Wednesday, they came up with ways to show that we are United Against Bullying and made puzzle pieces to show that we each play a part.

On Thursday, they created a recipe showing how to be a good friend, and thought about their own friends and what they appreciate in them.

On Friday, they made their own board games, pulling together everything they had learned during the week and reflecting that they are 'United Against Bullying'.

Y3 focused on writing and then reading out their persuasive speeches that focus on why people should not bully.

They also made anti bullying board games that can be played at home.

Y4 discussed bullying scenarios, considered ways to resolve issues and wrote diary entries linked to bullying. They used the iPads to take pictures of their hands and annotated these with the characteristics of good friends. These are on display around the classroom. They reflected on times we have been mean to others and everyone contributed to a class puzzle to show that they are "united against bullying".

Y5 began the week discussing this year's theme for Bullying Awareness Week and used discussion cards to talk about the different types of bullying, how to recognise these and how to respond. On Wednesday, they made Kindness Hands to show how they will stand United Against Bullying. On each finger, they wrote down an action that they could take to prevent bullying at St Mary's. Thursday saw them writing letters to the victims of bullying. In the letters, they showed compassion to the victim, then offered support and advice on how to stop bullying at school.

Year 6 learnt exactly what bullying is, focusing on the different roles people may take in a bullying situation (including assistant, reinforcer, defender and outsider). They planned and wrote their own poem from a chosen perspective - that of the bully or the victim - or chose to base their poem around preventing bullying.

The Year 6 children also worked hard to create the own 'Monopoly' style board game, complete with 'True or False' and 'Scenario' cards. They used the information they learn this week to create the game and designed it in a way that represented them. This was to remind them of their uniqueness and the fact that we are all different and that it is this that makes the world such a wonderful, interesting place!

The children also created 'stand united' hands, on which they wrote five different ways in which they can help to stand united against bullying.



