



# ST STEPHEN'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Word of God, Guide our steps and lead us in learning.*

SPREAD THE WORD

Inside this issue.....

Residential visits to the Sill and Berwick.

Careers Week

Remembrance Service

Harvest Festival

Young Mathematicians Awards

Meet the Staff Where are they now?

Sports News and much more....



**Welcome** to the Autumn edition of Spread the Word. As usual, it's been a very busy term in school with so much going on, much of which is contained in this edition. Our new starters in Reception and Nursery settled very well at the beginning of the year and our oldest children, who moved into Year six in September, have really risen to the challenge of setting a good example to the rest of the school.

A major piece of work currently nearing completion is on our vision and mission for the school. I urge you to keep an eye out for this next term when it is introduced and, more importantly, why we've embarked on it. Essentially, we're now four years into our new school and it seemed the right time to evaluate what we're about and what we want for our children. Our updated vision and mission statements act as a guide to us all who are involved in the life of the school, children, staff and parents alike.

I hope you enjoy looking back at events from this term and appreciate the range and breadth of activities our children have engaged in. The atmosphere in school this term has been excellent and highly conducive to learning and enjoyment. I am sure that, with your continued support this will continue next term.

As we look ahead to next term we can already start to see the diary fill up with some key work and activities including further residential visits, curriculum developments and extra-curricular clubs. As a partner school with St Mary's High School, we will also be exploring the next steps as part of the 'Teaching School' and the role we will play in the training of future teachers.

As we journey through Advent (at the time of writing) I would like to thank all our staff for their hard work and dedication to our children's learning, in particular our support staff. They play a vital role in so many ways that, without them, our school would struggle to function on some days! I am delighted that Miss Leighton has recently joined us until the end of the year. She brings a wealth of experience of working with young people in a pastoral role having spent time working with the Youth Mission Team and possessing a first class honours degree in Theology!

On behalf of everyone associated with our school, I hope you enjoy this edition of Spread the Word and have a wonderful Christmas with your families and friends.



'For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord' (Luke 2:11-14)

## National Young Mathematician's Award

**Autumn** term brings the time of year where our top mathematicians compete in the National Young Mathematician's Award in conjunction with Explore Learning. Four pupils from Year 6 entered in round one of the competition in early November where they were given a series of challenges around the concept of 'sticky dice' where dice are connected together and the different patterns of numbers connected and numbers visible are explored. It was really quite a meaty problem to solve with various stages to tackle. We were very proud that the children performed well enough to be invited back to participate in round two in December. They were faced with another problem around the topic of number sequences and are now competing at a national level. We are eagerly awaiting the results to find out if the team are through to the final which is held at Cambridge University in January.

More examples of similar problem solving challenges to the ones the team faced can be found at [www.nrich.maths.org/11539](http://www.nrich.maths.org/11539).



## Harvest Festival 2018

### On Thursday 4th October

we held our annual Harvest Festival Mass in school. Our chosen charities were CAFOD and the Trussell Trust food bank. Sadly, Food Banks are becoming normality and a truly sad reflection of the times we live in. Unfortunately, even food banks are sometimes struggling if donations slow down so we were only too happy to try and help out with some food donations. Our support for CAFOD was aimed at the providing financial aid for the victims of the terrible floods in Kerala, India. Many of our Indian families originate from that area and still have homes and relatives living there, indeed some of our families were stranded there whilst visiting as flights in and out as well as other means of transport were impossible.





After a lovely Mass, a group of children actually delivered the food donations to the Trussell Trust and had the chance to see just how big the operation is. As well as being very interesting, it was a timely reminder to us all about just how lucky we are and that there are many people who are really struggling to manage at the moment. Sadly it seems more and more people are having to visit foodbanks on a regular basis. The Trussell Trust is the largest food bank network in the UK, and it handed out around 41,000 food packs in 2009/10 compared to 1.2 million in 2016/17, which illustrates just how bad things are becoming.

Our CAFOD donations helped towards the flood relief efforts in Kerala. More than a million people were forced to leave their homes in the Indian state of Kerala after the worst flooding the area had seen in over a century. Nearly **400 people** died after heavy rains during the monsoon season and thousands of other have been left stranded. Obviously at the time of the floods there is much publicity but, as you know, what is news today soon becomes history and the attention and calls for help soon fade. Thankfully, CAFOD continue to offer channels of support to help people whose lives have been destroyed by the floods. The photos to the right show some before and after images and the damage the flooding caused.

Our thoughts and prayers during our Harvest Mass were very much for all people facing hardships in their daily lives and for those people in Kerala, so badly affected by the floods.



# Remembrance 2018

Remembering ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things in serving their country.

**The year 2018** has been a big year for acknowledging the role of women in society. In March 2018, we focussed on the centenary of the suffragette movement and the celebrated the 100-year anniversary of the Representation of the People Act (where women were awarded the right to vote in local and national elections). In November, we continued this commemoration in our Remembrance Day service, by focussing on the role of Women in World War One.

'Remembrance' is a not a word we use every day. In everyday life, we say we 'remember'. Things around us help us to remember people or places. Photos remind us of a party, or maybe a holiday. Old toys or clothes remind us of who gave them to us, or why we liked them when we were younger. But 'Remembrance' is bigger than that. 'Remembrance' is something that can be shared.

November is the eleventh month of the year. And it was at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month that World War One ended back in 1918. At eleven o'clock on a Monday morning the guns fell silent. Every year, Remembrance Day reminds us of this moment. The last soldier, who died during World War One, was killed in battle at 10:58 – just two minutes before the truce.



**Our service of remembrance** took place on Monday the 12th November and, as is the case each year, it was very special. Mrs Swaddle planned it around telling the stories of the sacrifices and struggles of women during conflict, particularly the first world war. Of course this year's remembrance was particularly poignant given that it marked the centenary of the end of the 1914-18 conflict. In the lead up to this, our school has undertaken quite bit of preparatory work. As well as covering the world wars in curriculum time, we have had a range of historical groups come into school to support this through interactive talks and drama activities as well as reading novels based on the Great War. Children have also visited the theatre to see stage

productions of such novels and of course we had our visit to the Battlefields last year when a large group went off to Belgium.

Pupils in Year 6 retold the stories of eight adults, who played different roles in World War One. Ruby retold the story of Emily, a WWI Munitions' Worker, who worked to make grenades. Emily had to pour the toxic ammunition into the metal bomb case and seal them tightly to prevent any ammunition from escaping. The children were astounded to find out that the munitions workers were commonly known as 'canaries' due to their bright yellow appearance from Trinitrotoluene (TNT) – an explosive which turned the skin yellow of those who regularly came into contact with it.

Carly told the story of a WW1 doctor, called Elise Inglis, who set-up field hospitals on the Western Front. When she returned to England, she continued to support those in need by ordering the British to set-up hospitals in abandoned French chateaus.

Lukas continued to explain about life in the trenches and soldiers' day to day routine, while Katie explored the first female police officers, who were commonly referred to as 'Women's Patrols'. Evie described how women needed to fill the roles of bus conductresses and drivers, as men were conscripted to the forces.

Each 'a day in the life of' memory concluded with a poem. Poems included: Alfred Tennyson's Charge of the Light Brigade and Siegfried Sassoon's Attack. Pupils also sang traditional war-time hymns including Onward Christian Soldiers, Abide with me and Amazing Grace. All of the Year 6 pupils also played their violins to accompany the singing. The Remembrance Service ended with a short-video which acknowledged some of the heroic acts of those in our armed services. Two minutes silence, The Last Post and the National Anthem were also included.

A roll honour was read out where children and staff were invited to forward the names of family members who died serving their country. Additionally, the names of men from the parish of St Aidan, who were Catenians and whose names appear on a chalice in church, were also read out. The children were arranged around a large red cross and centre focus point upon which were medals, photos and memorabilia. A local church group provided a blanket of poppies which added to the fitting display. The children were extremely attentive throughout and clearly understood the magnitude and importance of such occasions. Overall, it was a very fitting tribute to the ordinary men and women who did extraordinary things in serving their country.



# EXPLORE 4 ALL

In September, our Year 4 pupils were lucky enough to go on the first Explore4All trip of the academic year. We left school first thing on a Wednesday morning and after a short drive, we arrived at Druridge Bay. The children explored the brand new park just built at the visitor centre and the atmosphere was buzzing with excitement about what the next few days would entail. For some pupils, this was their first time away from home but there were a lot of familiar faces from last year's visit to The Sill when the group were in Year 3.

The morning was spent on the beach completing art activities in the sand. The children were creative not only with the resources they used around them to create their piece of beach art, but also with their choice of team names! We had 'The Glitter Dolphins', 'Team Demolition', 'The Sandy Sea Explorers' and 'The Girls Unicorn Star Team'. After a few photographs on the beautiful beach and a spot of lunch, we headed back on the bus where there was a little drive along to Bamburgh. In Bamburgh, the sun was



menu tonight and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. To finish off a great first day, we took a torch lit walk around the walls of Berwick and were fortunate enough to see a harvest moon in the sky just above the river Tweed.

It was a prompt start on Thursday morning and after a delicious breakfast, we headed over to Holy Island. The sun was shining so we made the most of it with a few teamwork sports games including a wheelbarrow race! We then took a walk over to St Cuthbert's island and learned more about the life of St Cuthbert that was spent on this very island. It was a very special moment to sit beneath the cross and appreciate the time that St Cuthbert had lived and prayed in that spot. We had to be quick in getting back from the island before the tide came in and were able to have a rock tower competition on the beach before it was shortly later immersed in water. To conclude our special time on Holy Island, we took part in a very moving liturgy where we created a holy rosary with individual prayers to our mother Mary.



shining and we had our first ice cream of the trip taking in the sights of the magnificent castle.

The next leg of the journey was to the accommodation destination in Berwick upon Tweed. The children had some time to unpack and explore their room for the next two nights before it was time for dinner. Lasagne was on the

After lunch, we headed back to Bamburgh where the afternoon was dedicated to learning about Grace Darling and the sacrifices she made to save others in 1838. We visited the museum where there were a number of artefacts of Grace Darling including the fishing coble, medals given to her and a painting of the rescue. We also watched a video about the foundations of the



Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) that funds the Grace Darling Museum and solely runs on volunteers. We also managed to squeeze in time to visit St Aidan's church where Grace and her family are buried in the grounds and there is a stone memorial to Grace Darling with a carved full length figure.

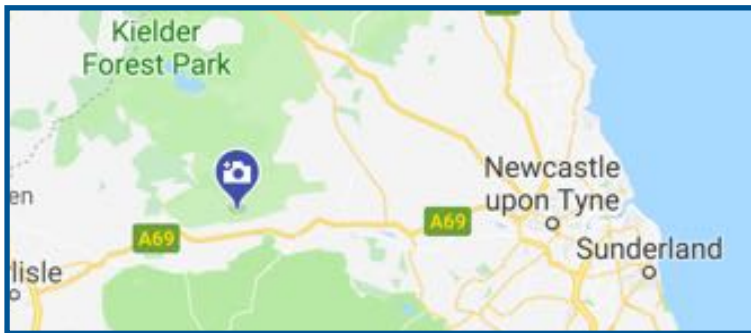
The British weather had kicked in and as it started to pour, we headed back to the youth hostel for sausage and mash! After dinner, we headed out to learn how to safely light fires to toast marshmallows on! It can be quite a difficult task to get the flint to ignite but we were very proud of the children's perseverance and they all managed to get a flame by the end. The best part of the night was definitely the 'Smores'. If you haven't had one before, essentially it is toasted marshmallows sandwiched between two chocolate digestives so that the heat of the marshmallow starts to melt the chocolate on the biscuit. They were delectable!

Friday morning had come round so quick and after breakfast, we had to get our rooms in order and strip the beds ready for our departure from the hostel. We took a lovely walk around Berwick and explored the town in daylight. Many of us were on the lookout for seals that have been seen before as the river Tweed meets the sea, we thought we'd spotted one at one point that turned out to be a duck, but kept looking all the same! There was a fantastic park that we explored before lunch, taking turns on the slides and built in trampoline. Finally, we headed to Seahouses on the journey home for a little souvenir shopping and of course a final ice cream! Once again, Year 4 had packed so much learning and fun into a few days and explored many places along the way. Thank you to Explore4All again for organising another memorable trip for the children.

**Well done Year 4 - great job!!**



# Year 3 Advent Retreat to The Sill



**Our second residential** visit of the term took place recently when Year 3 visited The Sill on Hadrian's Wall as part of an annual Advent Retreat. The visit started with a short journey to Newburn Riverside Park and a reindeer hunt in the woods. A walk along the banks of the River Tyne was used as the basis for some geography work before lunch outdoors. Although the weather was unseasonably warm, the children still managed to find lots of mud and puddles to entertain themselves.

After lunch, it was back on board the bus and a trip to St Mary's RC Church in Hexham where we enjoyed an Advent liturgy. The children shared responsibility for the readings and prayers whilst Heather, from Explore4All, provided the music. The liturgy was very moving and helped set the tone for the main purpose of our residential; to better understand our journey through Advent. After our liturgy, we were back on the road and headed towards our final destination, The Sill. However, by now, after a day packed with outdoor activities, some children were beginning to tire with several drifting off to sleep on the bus! Upon arrival at The Sill, the group gained a second wind and excitement took over as children went to their rooms in order to unpack.

Some children decided it was bed time and actually got ready for bed after showering without realising we had a full programme of evening activities to embark on as well having dinner. These activities included Christmas crafts, a Christmas sing-along with Kevin and a truly stunning evening liturgy after a star gazing walk in the grounds of the hostel which was unbelievable. The Sill is located in a 'dark skies' area and, with the night sky being so clear, the view of the stars was fantastic.





After a very busy day, it was time for bed and it wasn't long before the children were fast asleep in their rooms.

The beds were clearly very comfortable as, next morning, quite a few children had to be woken up! After a delicious breakfast, the children took part in Advent prayer stations before a walk up onto Hadrian's wall and more muddy encounters. There was still some time for some shopping at the gift shop before lunch and then the return home. Throughout the visit, the children were amazing. Their behaviour, attitude and willingness to engage in the activities was excellent. They demonstrated far more responsibility than we perhaps give them credit for as they managed themselves so well from unpacking and packing bags, keeping rooms tidy, being very sensible at bed time and working really well together. As a result, they made this visit thoroughly enjoyable and extremely worthwhile. The journey home was relatively quiet with some very tired children! Another great trip with Explore4All to home we offer our thanks but therein thanks must go to the children who were superb throughout!





**Well done to everyone who took part!!!**



# SPORTS NEWS

It has been a busy term for school sport. The school were again awarded the Gold Sports Mark award for our commitment to the development of participation and competition across school and into the community.

The football team have had a difficult start to the year getting knocked out of both the Bishop's Cup and the Bishop Cunningham Cup, despite beating St Joseph's 2-1 and drawing with St Mary's 2-2. The girls however fared better, winning their first round group of the Northern Cross Cup, progressing to the next round which will be played after Christmas.

Year 5 have taken part in the Track and Trail Challenge, where they had to orienteer around the Rising Sun finding various check points on the way. The weather was cold and wet but it didn't dampen our spirits – all the children had great fun and learned some life skills too.

Year 5 have also competed in the Sportshall Athletics Competition, which was held at Longbenton High School. Again all the children had a great time competing against other schools, with many children winning their events despite it being a Year 6 competition.





**Year 2** also took part in the Sports hall athletics at The Parks. The range of activities allowed them to practise their co ordination, agility, balance, speed and aim. They all thoroughly enjoyed it and, although no results were officially given or awarded, St Stephen's totals made us first place.

At the start of October, 15 Children across year 3, 4, 5 and 6 competed in the **NSAA Cross Country School Competition**. All the children were fantastic but a special mention must go to one pupil who finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in a race containing 124 other children.

**As part of the Year 5's PSHCE** curriculum, the children took part in an event organised by 'Show Racism the Red Card'. The event took place at St James' Park and saw them take part in educational workshops about racism and gender equality; a stadium tour; and an opportunity to ask current and former football players questions about racism, during a question and answer session.



At the start of this term we introduced Ski Club for Year 6 pupils. Each week they head off to Silksworth sports complex for lessons on the dry slope. This has been a real success with children making rapid rates of progress in such a short space of time. To begin with, children spent time getting used to the wearing the boots and moving around with skis on before side-stepping up the slope and then sliding down. Once this was mastered, they moved on to snowplough skiing, learning how to control speed, turn and stop safely. As confidence levels have grown, the children are now skiing on the main slope using the lift system. As well as learning these new skills, the children have really built their levels of resilience as it can be quite tricky learning to ski, especially knowing you're not far from a tumble or fall. Despite this, and several falls, they've been superb in sticking with the learning and overcoming obstacles. In March 2019, they'll have the opportunity to put their skills into practice on the real snow as we're going to Glenshee, in Scotland, for two days of skiing on real snow!



### They say a dog is man's best friend.....

This term, Year 1 had a visit from two very special visitors; Vernon the dog and his owner Michelle. Vernon is a therapy dog. We learned that he does important work visiting people in hospices and hospitals, supporting them as they receive treatment. He also visits children in schools, helping them learn about the charity Pets as Therapy.

We thought of lots of questions to help us find out about how to look after Vernon, then when he visited us again, we interviewed Michelle. This helped us to write instructions for 'How to Look After Vernon.' Vernon has certainly become good friend of Year 1 and we look forward to seeing him again.



## Where are they now?

### Sergeant Toby Joyce, Coldstream Guards.

For this article we're looking to track down ex-pupils and find out what they're up to these days. In this edition of Spread the Word, we've caught up with Sergeant Toby Joyce who attended St Stephen's from 1995 to 2003 and, after finishing secondary school went on and joined the Coldstream Guards at the age of 16. We put some questions to Toby about his time at St Stephen's and, more importantly, what life is like in the army.

As a soldier in the Coldstream guards, Toby's regiment share the duties of looking after the Queen with four other regiments and you can see them standing in their red uniforms outside Buckingham Palace when on duty. Toby is actually a sergeant and has responsibility for commanding a platoon of thirty soldiers, leading them and giving them orders, essentially helping them to do their jobs. The regiment don't just guard Buckingham Palace, they have lots of overseas postings too and Toby has been all over the world, visiting countries such as Kenya, Belize, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. He told us his favourite posting so far was in Kenya where he was able to see so many animals in their natural habitats although it got a bit scary when he encountered a group of Lions whilst out on patrol. Luckily for him they were more interested in hunting down a zebra! His proudest moment, he tells us, was completing a tour of duty in Afghanistan, knowing he'd served his Queen and country in a very dangerous and hostile place.

It's easy to get the impression that Toby enjoys life in the army, and it's certainly provided him with lots of adventure, but it does have its difficulties. He especially finds it hard leaving his family and friends at home when he has to go overseas, the longest posting being six months.

Thinking back to life at St Stephen's, he recalls his favourite teachers as Mrs Dunn who was strict but fair and Mrs Candlish, who he said was always kind. He did get into trouble once after throwing a rock through his own back door window at home although it's clear it did him no harm! Toby told us he still keeps in touch with his friends from school who are no doubt very proud of what he has achieved. His advice to any youngster is to always stay positive, no matter how hard things might be.

We're very grateful to Toby for taking the time to answer our questions and wish him well for the future. To say we're proud that an ex pupil is doing such great things is an understatement. Incidentally, there are two other ex-pupils also serving in the Coldstream Guards, Liam Gallagher and Callum Ward. Well done to all three of them and keep up the good work!!



## Meet the Staff - Miss Celardi our school business manager

**Nickname:** Fran

**Born:** Slough, Berkshire

**Family:** Mam, Dad and two brothers, oh and a hamster called Poppy

**Education:** University of Newcastle - BSC in Maths and Psychology

**Favourite food:** Pasta - my Dad is Italian so I had to say that!

**Favourite book:** Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets

**Favourite film:** Forrest Gump

**Favourite holiday destination:** Sicily -I was saying my Dad is Italian....

**Favourite subject at school:** Maths

**Proudest moment:** At university I won a special award for deriving the proof of Black-Scholes Formula!!!

**Biggest inspiration:** My Dad

**If you didn't work at Stephen's, what would you do?**

I couldn't imagine anything else.....probably a maths lecturer at university

**What would you sing at Karaoke?** A song by B\*Witched, ' C'est la vie'

**Two pet dislikes:** Lateness and laziness

**McDonald's or Burger King?** McDonald's - she had to be pushed on this one!

**Dog or Cat?** Cat - urghhh!

**Newcastle or Sunderland?** Newcastle

**What's the most daring thing you've done?** Spent a month volunteering in Ghana! We thought it might be skiing at Silksworth!

**Biggest fear?** Needles and injections.....

**Tell us a joke....**she was clueless on this but did you know Miss Celardi is an ex-pupil of St Stephen's!!



$x$ – the value In this case, the value above the strike price	$\mu$ – mean of our normal distribution In this case, a function of volatility, it reflects the risk-free rate + spread of possible options over time
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$$d_1 = \frac{\ln \frac{S_0}{K} + \left( r + \frac{\sigma^2}{2} \right) (T - t)}{\sigma \sqrt{T - t}}$$

$\sigma$ – standard deviation In this case, a function of volatility over time
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# Careers Week at St Stephen's

Monday 12th - Friday 16th November

It is a fact that, at some point in the future, our children will take their place in the big wide world. Whether they continue in education via sixth form, college, university or take an apprenticeship or training scheme, at some point they will take a job. Research suggest that, by the age of forty, the average person will have had ten different jobs and this is forecast to grow. Interestingly, what is difficult to comprehend is that some of the jobs our children will take don't even exist yet. With this in mind, we think that our children need to understand that the world of work exists and that their journey, although the destination is unknown, can begin now. So, for the last ten years now, Key Stage 2 have enjoyed an annual careers week. This is when we bring the world of work into school and, in some cases, we take children out to see the different occupations and jobs in action. Every afternoon, from Monday through until Friday, the children will choose the jobs and professions they want to find out more about. The 'menu' is extensive as you can see below with a whole host of people coming into school to share a 'day in the life of a .....

Each visitor spent about twenty minutes or so with three groups of children and basically described a day in the life of his or her job. They shared the good parts, the not so good parts and any training or qualifications needed for their job.. Above all, each visitor stressed to the children that hard work and dedication is required. The children had opportunities to ask lots of questions to each visitor and they demonstrated a real eagerness to find out more. On the visits out of school, the same principle applied with children invited to ask as many questions as they wished whilst seeing the jobs in action, for example, children visited hair stylists and actually saw the job in action, they visited Jamies Italian and observed at firsthand how the restaurant operated. The week, as always was a great success and we owe a great deal of thanks to the people who shared their time with us.

In terms of impact, our children understand that whatever they might do in the future, hard work and commitment is required. They also understand that someone has to be a plumber, or an airline pilot or an engineer or a nurse etc..... why can't it be them!

The timetable for the week was as follows.....

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Paramedics	Solicitor	Sports Centre Staff	Driving Instructor	Computer technician
Scenes of crime officer	Dogs Trust Charity	NUFC coaching & education staff	Airline Pilot	Catering Services
Plastic Surgeon	BBC Radio sports presenter	British Transport Police	Criminal Investigator	Architecture & Town planning
Teacher	Community Nurse	Hilti Construction	Counsellor	Traffic Collision Investigation
Optician *	Vets *	Hays Travel *	Beauty Salon*	EE offices at Cobalt*
Florist *	Dog & Cat Shelter *		Jamies Italian*	

\* denotes visits out of school

*Success is no accident. It is hard work, perseverance, learning, studying, sacrifice and most of all, love of what you are doing or learning to do.*

Pele

Some photos from careers week.....



## Operation Christmas Child

As well as raising money for Cafod and supporting the Trussell Trust food bank, our children and families also supported the Operation Christmas Child annual appeal. Well over fifty boxes containing essential and useful items were donated by our school community. A delegation of children helped deliver them to the warehouse where they witnessed a truly huge operation in action with boxes being organised and prepared for distribution across the globe. We can take great comfort that, because of our efforts, some children will wake up on Christmas morning with some gifts to open and experience that magical feeling. A huge thank you to everyone who donated.



## What is Operation Christmas Child?

The mission of Operation Christmas Child is to show God's love in a tangible way to children in need around the world, and together with the local church worldwide, to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Since 1990, more than 157 million children in over 160 countries have experienced God's love through the power of simple shoebox gifts from Operation Christmas Child. To know that St Stephen's school community is part of this massive gesture of love and goodwill is deeply comforting.

## Early Years visit Kirkley Hall Zoological Gardens.



In September, to hook into our topic 'On Safari', Nursery and Reception went on a visit to Kirkley Hall Zoo. The main focus for this visit was to become more aware of different types of animals and their needs. While we were there, we experienced observing animals such as wallabies, meerkats, bush dogs, Emperor monkeys and kookaburras, in their different habitats.

Children also had opportunity, to pet other animals and ask questions. On returning to school, they created an information sheet on how to care for animals and used the internet to find out more information about some of the animals encountered on the visit.

## Advent 2018

At the time of writing we are in the midst of our Advent journey. The atmosphere in school is building as each day passes and Christmas draws near. Our Early years and Key Stage one children have already performed their nativity services to packed audiences, which is very encouraging. This is a very important time for us. As a Catholic primary school it is our chance to tell our story and remind ourselves why we enter this season with such excitement - we are celebrating the birth of Christ. At a time when you could say the true meaning of Christmas has been lost amid a commercial frenzy, it is vital that we keep a sense of perspective and, above all else, remember whose birthday it is we celebrate. It also provides us with an opportunity to fulfil our mandate as a school and Christian community in looking out for the 'least, the last and the lost,' hence our work at Harvest time and support for Operation Christmas child. In addition to this work, we have permanent collection points in school for the food banks and we also took part in Children in Need. Advent and Christmas often brings out the best in people - something which we've seen in abundance over this term.



## **A final few words....**

On behalf of the staff and governors could I wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas holiday. It has been another very busy term in school and I hope this magazine give you a flavour of that. Sadly we say goodbye to Mrs Yeo who has worked extremely hard in our EYFS setting, proving to be a very good teacher. We wish her well for the future.

Next term looks like it will be the same again with a wide range of activities and opportunities for our children to engage in. Please look out for our new mission and vision statements which are now in the final stages of review. Additionally, our Poverty Proofing report will be published and the findings will form the basis of policy review where appropriate. Catering Services are busy planning an open day when parents can come into school and sample the food on offer to our children. We have more residential visits with Explore4All planned with Year 5 visiting Stratford whilst a group of Year 6 pupils will be heading to Glenshee in Scotland and many more curriculum initiatives to pursue. In the meantime, enjoy the Christmas break and I look forward to seeing you all in January and the start of a new term.



