Advent Services at St Faith's

On Tuesday, our school community came together to celebrate the Advent services, marking the beginning of this special season of preparation. These services are an important moment in the Christian calendar which are marked at St Faith's. While Advent holds particular significance within Christianity, the Advent services also offer a shared space for reflection, kindness and the spirit of anticipation, that resonates across many beliefs and perspectives within our diverse school. We reflected on the symbolism of the Advent wreath: its circular shape representing God's unending love, and its four candles signifying hope, peace, love, and joy.

A tradition at St Faith's is for two Reception children to light the first candle, signifying the start of our Advent journey—a time of waiting and reflection, during which Christians anticipate the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day. During the service, we listened to a Bible reading encouraging us to "Be Ready," reminding us that Advent is not only about waiting, but also about reaching out to help others.

Our Junior Voices choir enriched the first service with a moving rendition of *Just Another Star*. In the second school service for the older years, we joined together in singing the hymns *People Look East* and *Christ Be Our Light*. Reverend Coleman's reflection echoed the theme of Christ bringing light into the world, drawing on a moment described in the Bible where Anna and Simeon acknowledged the baby Jesus in the temple at Jerusalem. Reverend Coleman's message encouraged us to think about how each of us might bring light, optimism and generosity into the lives of others.

The service concluded with an Advent prayer, read by our House Captains, which was a fitting close to a thoughtful and uplifting occasion for our whole community.

This Week at St Faith’s



This Week at St Faith’s





Christopher Columbus

Miss Dow writes,

"In Humanities, Year 5 pupils are learning about Christopher Columbus and the positive and negative impacts of his 'discovery' of the New World. We were treated to a talk by Mrs Critchley about her participation in a tall ships race in 1992, to mark the quincentenary of Columbus' first voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. Pupils learnt about the safety features, cooking facilities, conditions and chores on board her yacht, the Francis Drake, and also about their rapturous reception in New York City on American Independence Day. We reflected on the stark contrasts between Mrs Critchley's boat and Columbus' boat (the Santa Maria), and how incredible it was that anyone survived the 15th century voyages!"

The pupils were fascinated by the real-life connection Mrs Critchley provided, and the session prompted interesting discussion about exploration, perspective and the realities of life at sea.

Primary Maths Challenge

Mrs Rainsford writes,

"In November, pupils in Year 6 took part in the Primary Maths Challenge. The paper consists of 25 questions; 20 are multiple choice with questions gradually becoming more difficult, ending with five questions where an answer is required and no choice is provided. The questions challenge pupils' problem-solving skills and ability to think outside the box. Congratulations to all the pupils that took part, with a special mention to those seven pupils who achieved a Gold certificate. Next term, pupils with the highest scores will be invited to participate in the Primary Maths Challenge Bonus Round."

Statistics for this year: 7 Gold, 15 Silver and 14 Bronze.

This Week at St Faith’s



Music Tea-time Recital

Ms Elcome writes,

"On Monday we were treated to a wonderful hour of inspiring performances given by some of the promising young musicians at St. Faith's in our November Tea-time Recital. The evening began with great flair as we were treated to an uplifting performance of 'Golden' from K-Pop, arranged by Mrs Cobb and performed by the Junior String Ensemble. Many solo performances were then given by pupils in Years 3 to 8 culminating in a beautiful interpretation of Philipp Sparke's 'Berceuse' played on the tuba by one of our oldest pupils."

The recital was a warm reminder of the musical talent and energy within our community, and it was a pleasure to see pupils of all ages performing with such confidence and enjoyment.

This Week at St Faith's



This Week at St Faith's





Year 5's Performance of 'The World's Worst Children'

Mrs McGregor writes,

"On Thursday our busy Year 5 pupils were showcasing their acting talents. In their tutor groups, the children performed their interpretations of some of the iconic characters from David Walliams' '*The World's Worst Children'* books, with the characters of Mrs Splatt, Nigel Nit Boy, Belinda Brag and Bertha the Blubberer, bursting onto the stage. More than a collection of silly stories, it's a reminder that being different is wonderful and that sometimes the "worst" characters can teach us the best lessons. Each of the productions were extremely well delivered, with great expression and skilful choreography."







General Knowledge Quiz Club Championships

Earlier this term we reported on the success of one of our quiz teams, who had gone through to the semi-final of the national competition from their regional heat. In their latest round, the team tackled some extremely challenging questions as they aimed to repeat last year's success and reach the finals in Oxford.

Although they narrowly missed out on qualification this time, their determination, excellent teamwork and calm approach were exemplary. They should be very proud of their efforts, and I have no doubt they will already be contemplating next year's competition.

This Week at St Faith’s



Year 3 Taster Morning

On Monday, we were delighted to welcome prospective pupils for Year 3 entry in September 2026 to St Faith's for a special Taster Morning. The children enjoyed a variety of engaging activities, including Art, Engineering, Maths and Gymnastics, and had the chance to sample a delicious St Faith's lunch! We look forward to seeing them again in January for our Assessment Day.

And Finally…

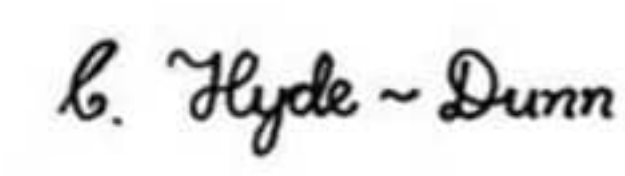
As we reach the end of a busy and enriching week, I am looking forward to this evening's Speech and Drama Tea-time Recital. For pupils preparing for their New Era Examinations, performing to a warm and supportive audience is a valuable moment to share their creativity and hard work.

Then, on Saturday, St Faith's takes centre stage as we host the first day of the IAPS National Gymnastics Championships! With 18 schools competing, this is a highlight of the gymnastics calendar. Our pupils will not only have the thrill of competing at a national level, but also the opportunity to extend a warm St Faith's welcome to visiting schools—showcasing their talent, sportsmanship, and 'best selves' throughout the day. We are looking forward to an inspiring weekend of performance and competition!

Next Friday immediately after school, we are excited to host the SFPA Christmas Fair. This festive event is always full of cheer, and it provides families the perfect opportunity to enjoy the seasonal atmosphere while picking up some early Christmas gifts. We are hoping for an early visit from Father Christmas, and we look forward to seeing you there!

More immediately with Advent upon us, although the season traditionally invites reflection, I appreciate that families are also extremely busy as we prepare for Christmas. Even so, I hope the weekend brings you one or two moments that feel quietly restorative.

With all best wishes,



Crispin Hyde-Dunn