St. Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School

As disciples of Jesus, we grow in friendship and in our love of learning, and we seek to care for others.

November 2026 Remembering, Reflecting and Preparing

Welcome to our new look monthly RE newsletter. In it, you will find some useful dates for events taking place in school, as well as activities and celebrations organised by our parish that you may wish to attend. We will also share the themes of our school worship and give you an insight into what the children will be learning in Religious Education this half-term.

We recognise that parents are the first educators of their children, and we want to work in partnership with you to support your child's faith journey. We hope this newsletter provides some helpful ideas, information and opportunities for you to continue conversations about faith, prayer and our Catholic life together at home.

November is a special month in the Church's calendar. We remember those who have died, celebrate the lives of the saints and reflect on how we can follow Jesus in our everyday lives. As we reach the end of November, we also celebrate Christ the King and begin the season of Advent, preparing for the birth of Jesus at Christmas.

Catholic Life Dates in School during November

11th November	Remembrance Celebration of The Word
20th November	Choir singing at Good Companions lunch club St Edward's Church
1st Dec	Choir singing Dementia lunch group

Catholic Life Dates and groups in the parish during November

Cultural Friday – On Friday 20th November at 7pm in St Edward's Church. Cheese and wine at 7pm (suggested donation £3), followed by the talk at 7.30pm.	The topic is Artificial Intelligence: A New Challenge for Humanity. An evening of reflection and discussion inspired by Magnifica Humanitas by Pope Leo. Guest speakers are Dr Adriana Wilde - a lecturer in Electronics and Computer Science and Director of the Centre for Health Technologies at the University of Southampton and Dr Richard Gomer - Mayor of Eastleigh and lecturer in Computer Science at the University of Southampton.

The Little Flowers Baby & Toddler Group Meet on Wednesdays during term time from 10am in Holy Cross Resource Centre. The group is for 0-4 years and their grown-ups are welcome.

Stars of Abraham (school years 3, 4, 5 & 6) Holy Cross Saturdays 10.30am to 12Noon; St Edward Tuesdays 4pm to 5.30pm; St Andrew Fridays 4.30pm to 6pm

Voice of Praise - Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group Join us every Thursday evening, 7.45pm, at Holy Cross Church for an hour of lively prayer, music, Scripture, and fellowship. Our charism is evangelisation: sharing the joy of the Gospel and the power of the Holy Spirit. Whether you are new or experienced in charismatic prayer, all are warmly welcome! Every first Thursday of the month there is Eucharistic Adoration. For info please email:voiceofpraise.sswp@gmail.com Families and children are warmly welcome! We have a dedicated children's helper available to supervise and engage the little ones during the prayer meeting, so parents can participate in the prayer and worship.

Worship in school in November		
Week beginning	Theme and what children will explore	How you can help at home
2 November	All Holy Men and Women – Children will learn about the Communion of Saints, explore the Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1–12) and discover the example of St Teresa of Kolkata. They will think about what it means to live a holy life by showing love and kindness.	Talk about a saint you admire, read the Beatitudes together or discuss simple ways your family can show kindness and care to others.
9 November	Remembering Those We Love – Children will reflect on Remembrance and the importance of remembering those who have died. We will be starting our own school Remembrance Book, giving children an opportunity to remember and pray for family members and friends who are no longer with us. Through prayer and quiet reflection, we will think about how we can keep the memories of those we love alive and ask God to welcome them into His loving care.	Talk with your child about someone special they remember or would like to include in our Remembrance Book. You may also like to say the Eternal Rest prayer together and share memories of loved ones who have died.
30 November	Introducing Advent – Children will begin exploring Advent as a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. Through the story of an ordinary hero, a bus driver, they will reflect on faithfulness and how small acts of kindness and responsibility help us follow Jesus.	Introducing Advent – Children will begin exploring Advent as a time of preparation for the coming of Jesus. Through the story of an ordinary hero, a bus driver, they will reflect on to make Advent a time of kindness, giving and prayer.

The Six Branches of Lighting the Path

Praying for All Souls

During the week beginning 2 November, our daily prayers will include remembering those who have died and praying for families who are grieving. Children will have opportunities for quiet reflection and to remember people they love. You may like to share this traditional Catholic prayer together at home:

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen.

RE Learning in school this half term

Our RE curriculum is organised into six branches, which help children explore the story of God's love and His relationship with humanity. Children revisit these themes as they move through the school, building their knowledge and understanding each year.

- 🌱 Creation and Covenant – Exploring God's creation, His promises and our relationship with Him and others.
- ⭐ **Prophecy and Promise – Discovering the prophets and God's promise to send Jesus**.
- ✝️ Galilee to Jerusalem – Learning about Jesus' life, teachings and miracles.
- 🌿 Desert to Garden – Exploring Lent, Holy Week and Easter, including Jesus' death and Resurrection.
- 🌎 To the Ends of the Earth – Discovering how the Church began and how Christians share their faith around the world.
- 🤝 Dialogue and Encounter – Learning about other faiths and worldviews and developing respect for different beliefs.

Together, these six branches provide a journey through Scripture and the story of our faith, helping children deepen their understanding as they progress from Reception to Year 6.

RE learning- Lighting the path Branch **2 Prophecy and Promise**



Hedgehogs (Reception) This half-term, Hedgehogs will be learning about how God sent Jesus to show His love for us all. They will explore the story of the Annunciation and how Mary was chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus. They will then discover the story of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem and learn how angels told the shepherds the wonderful news and guided them to visit baby Jesus.

Throughout their learning, children will also explore how special and precious every person is because God made us all. They will think about how we can show care and love for ourselves, our families, others and God's world, remembering that everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect.



Rabbits (Year 1) This half-term, Year 1 will be exploring the Christmas story, discovering how it reveals God's love for us through the gift of His Son, Jesus. They will learn about the Annunciation and how Mary said 'Yes' to God's call to become the mother of Jesus. Children will explore the events leading up to Jesus' birth, including the visit of the shepherds and the important message brought by the angels.

They will also be introduced to the Bible as a special book, begin learning the words of the Hail Mary and explore different artistic representations of the Nativity from around the world. Through their learning, children will develop their understanding of why Mary, the angels and the shepherds are such important parts of the Christmas story.



Foxes (Year 2) This half-term, Year 2 will be exploring the messages of the prophets Isaiah and John the Baptist, learning how they shared God's message and prepared people for the coming of Jesus. They will discover how Isaiah used the imagery of light shining in the darkness to speak about the promised Saviour, and understand that Christians believe these words pointed towards Jesus long before He was born.

Children will also explore the stories of the Annunciation and the births of John the Baptist and Jesus, learning about Mary's special role as the mother of God and reflecting on her prayer, the Magnificat. They will consider how Mary's words encourage us to think about fairness and caring for others. As we approach Christmas, children will also learn about the season of Advent, the meaning of the Advent wreath and how Christians prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.



Deer (Year 3) This half-term, Year 3 will be exploring how God speaks to us through Scripture and how Christians respond to His message. They will begin by learning why Sunday is a special and holy day for Christians, making links

with the Creation story and understanding why Catholics gather to celebrate Mass. They will explore the different prayers, signs, actions and symbols used during Mass, with a particular focus on the Liturgy of the Word.

Children will then explore the Christmas story through the accounts of St Matthew and St Luke, learning how angels bring God's messages. They will focus particularly on Joseph and how he trusted God when the angel appeared to him. They will also make links between the angel's message and the prophecies of Isaiah, discovering how God's promise of a Saviour was fulfilled through the birth of Jesus. As we approach Christmas, children will reflect on the meaning of Advent and Christmas symbols and respond creatively to the messages of hope found in the story.



Badgers (Year 4) This half-term, Year 4 will be exploring the role of prophets and how they shared God's message with His people. They will learn about Elijah and John the Baptist, considering why people needed to be reminded of God's covenant and how the words of these prophets are still relevant today. Children will compare the Gospel accounts of John the Baptist and explore how his preaching links with the words of the prophet Isaiah and the season of Advent.

They will also discover the ancestry of Jesus and explore the Jesse Tree, learning how it helps Christians understand the story of God's promises leading to the birth of Jesus. As part of their learning, children will consider the Feast of Christ the King, which marks the end of the Church's liturgical year. They will reflect on what kind of king Jesus would be and what it means to be a good leader, making links with leadership in their own lives.



Hares (Year 5) This half-term, Year 5 will be exploring the life of King David and what it means to be a good and faithful leader. They will study passages from Scripture about David's life and kingship, learning how he was chosen by God and how his leadership reflected the image of a shepherd who cares for his people. Children will consider what makes a good leader today and explore how God values those who may sometimes be overlooked by the world.

They will also discover how Jesus is seen as the fulfilment of God's promise to David, making links with God's covenant with Abraham. As part of their learning, children will explore David as a model of prayer through the Psalms, learn about the Rosary and the Joyful Mysteries, and discover the meaning of the O Antiphons, which help Christians prepare for the coming of Jesus during Advent.



Otters (Year 6) This half-term, Year 6 will be exploring the important role women have played in God's plan of salvation. They will study the stories of significant women from the Old Testament, such as Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah and Esther, considering how they responded to God's call and helped shape the story of God's people. Children will reflect on why these women are described as important figures in salvation history and consider how their courage and faith can inspire us today.

They will then focus on Mary, exploring the Annunciation and how her 'Yes' to God fulfilled the promises made throughout the Old Testament. Children will deepen their

understanding of Mary as the Mother of God and explore her prayer, the Magnificat, considering its powerful message about justice, equality and God's care for those who are overlooked. They will also learn about women who continue to respond to God's call today, including those serving in religious orders, and reflect on the important contribution women make to the life of the Church.