



December 2021 NEWSLETTER



Achieving and flourishing in our Christian Community



Dear Parents & Carers

It has been a wonderful Autumn term at Collaton St Mary where pupils have continued to flourish and have made excellent progress in their learning.

Despite restrictions impacting on face-to-face events, we have had a magical last few weeks of term with our Christmas jumper day, virtual Christingle service from home, Christmas lunch, Christmas party, digital Advent calendar and our Christmas Service in school.

I am also proud of our pupils who have been developing a greater understanding of the true meaning of Christmas, through thinking of others during this time. Have a look later in the newsletter to see the impact we have had on others and how our 'Giving Manger' has helped to spread true Christmas spirit around our school.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a happy and healthy Christmas and new year. We look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 5th January.

Best wishes,

Ben Nelson-Smith Headteacher



THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS



Christmas is a very exciting time of the year for everyone and we have enjoyed celebrating and having fun in this last week. We have also been learning about how Christmas can be a tough time of the year for some so we should always try to spread Christmas cheer through compassion and kindness.



Samaritans Operation Christmas Child SHOE BOX APPEAL

Thank you to our families that donated a shoe box filled with essential and toys for children around the world. The children received a Worship from Lynsey Williams which showed the pictures of the boxes and how happy it made them feel.



Collaton Giving Manger

Our Collaton Giving Manger was launched on the first day of Advent. Pupils have been placing pieces of straw for acts of kindness and good deeds in school and at home. This will make a comfortable bed of kindness for Baby Jesus during our Christmas Service.

Giving Manger Example – Seren in Year 5 has been completing extra Junior Mealtime Assistant shifts at lunchtime to help the kitchen staff out.



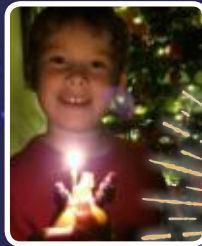
Supporting the Shekinah Mission

Shekinah helps a wide range of adults, youth and ex-offenders living in Plymouth and South Devon to deal with their individual issues and move on. The charity tackles the complex issues of homelessness. Thanks to our school community, we sent off boxes filled with warm clothing and hygiene products to support those living without shelter and in cold housing.

CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who joined our virtual Christingle Service on Tuesday evening. The pupils really enjoyed learning about, and making, their Christingle in school.

Our message from the Christingle is to encourage everyone to be the light of the world, especially in a time that remains challenging.



COLLATON'S CHRISTMAS

in Pictures!



CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Christmas Jumper Day – Well done to all the pupils, and parents, for coming in with your Christmas jumpers. The school looked very festive and even the staff pulled their jumpers out.



COLLATON'S CHRISTMAS

in Pictures!



CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Thank you to our amazing kitchen team who provided a wonderful Christmas lunch to hundreds of pupils and staff over the last week – it was delicious!



COLLATON'S CHRISTMAS

in Pictures!



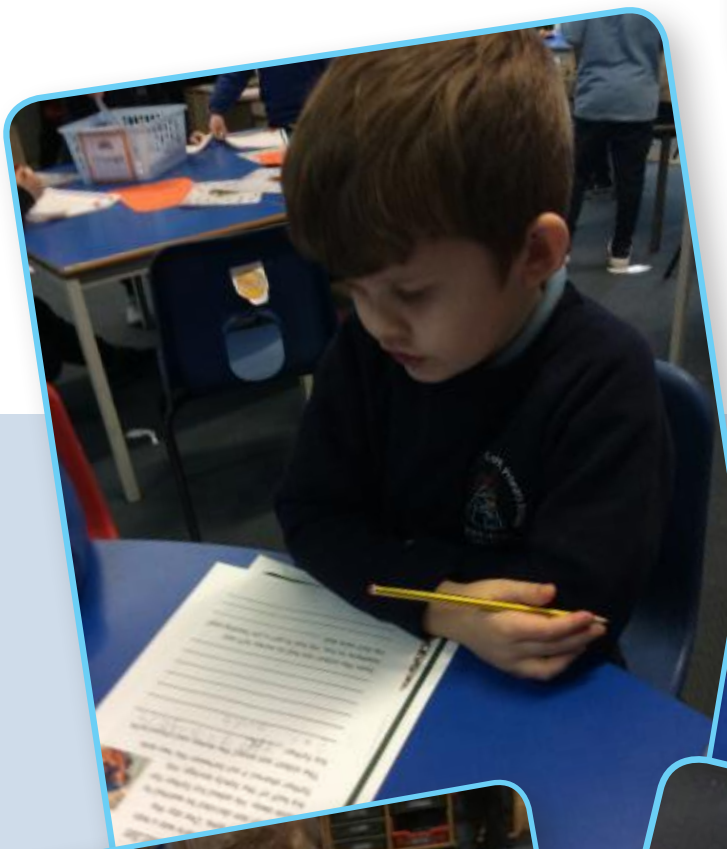
DIGITAL ADVENT CALENDAR

Thank you to Miss Postlethwaite who orchestrated the content for the digital Advent Calendar. If you haven't seen it, don't worry! You can see all the days on our website, including Christmas stories, children singing and readings.



Year 1

In year 1, we have been looking at the parable of the lost son. Miss Chivers retold the story using 'Godly play'. We then wrote parts of the story. We used this parable to discuss how the father in the story showed forgiveness to his son. This helped us understand that God is a forgiving and loving father. We then looked at how our parents show that they love us and how we can show that we love them!



Year 3

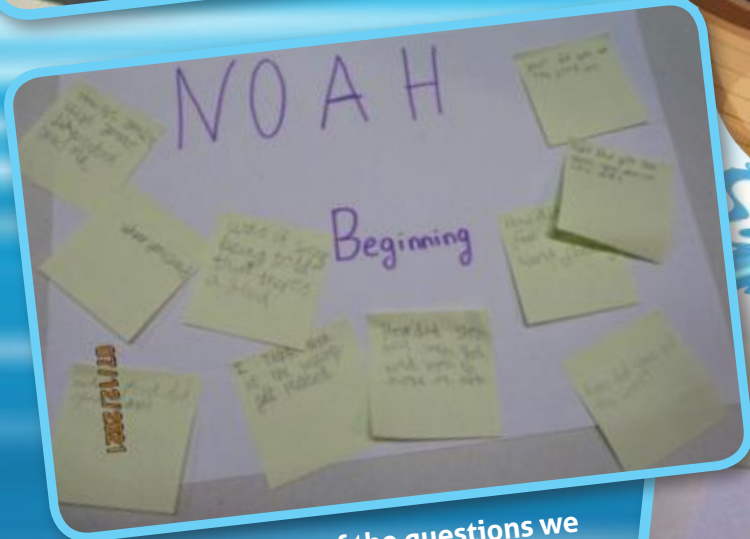
Today we put Noah and his wife on the hot seat and asked them questions. We asked Noah questions about the beginning of the flood and at the end.



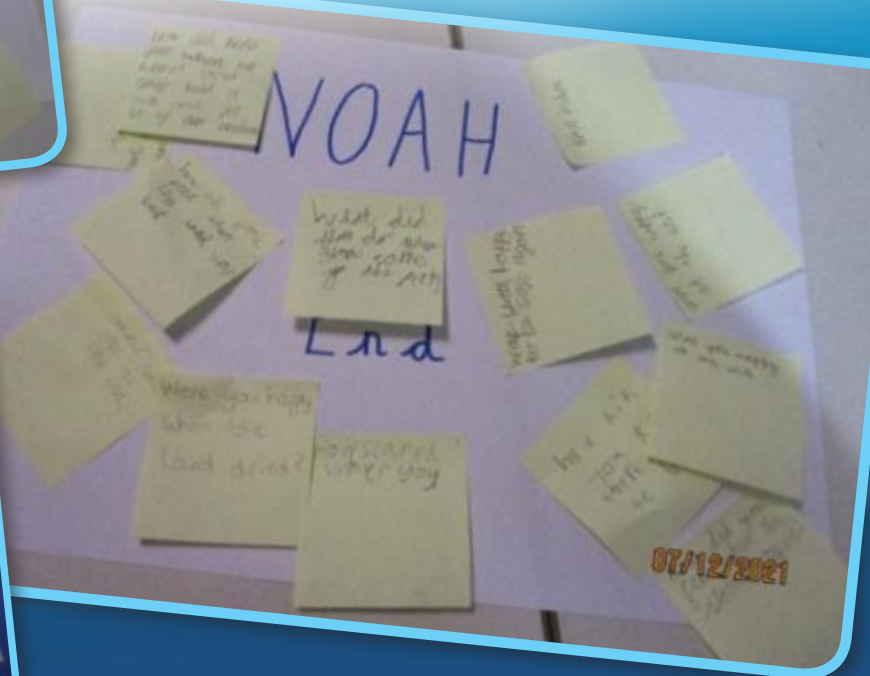
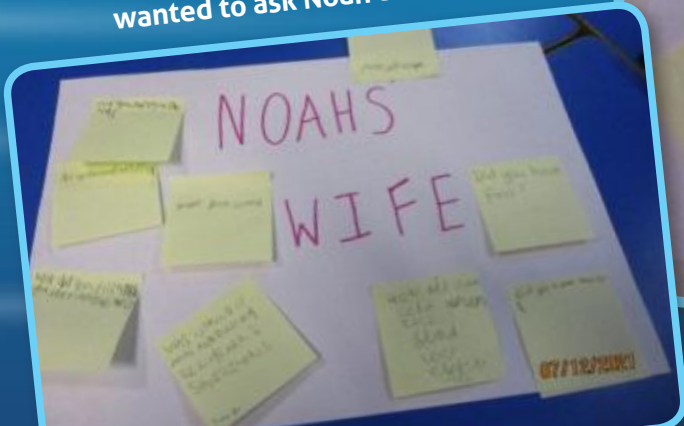
Noah (at the beginning)



Noahs wife



These are some of the questions we wanted to ask Noah and his wife.



CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Sunday 19 December

4:00pm – Carols by Candlelight (*Collaton St Mary*)

Christmas Eve (Friday 24 December)

4:00pm – Christingle Service (*Goodrington*)

4:00pm – Crib Service (*Collaton St Mary*)

7:30pm – Carols by Candlelight (*Goodrington*)

11:30pm – Midnight Mass (*Goodrington*)

11:30pm – Midnight Mass (*Collaton St Mary*)

Christmas Day (Saturday 25 December)

10:00am – Eucharist of Christmas Morning (*Goodrington*)

10:00am – Eucharist of Christmas Morning (*Collaton St Mary*)

Boxing Day (Sunday 26 December)

10:00am – Eucharist, followed by sponsored swim in the sea
(*Goodrington*)

When parents and carers finally have the chance to spend some quality time with their child over Christmas, many face a familiar struggle to prise their young one's attention away from their phone, console, tablet or computer. Fun family bonding over the festive period, however, doesn't have to exclude devices. There are sackfuls of Christmas activities and ideas online which grown-ups and children can enjoy together. We've compiled our own 'nice list' of seasonal suggestions for how to ...

MAKE THE MOST OF THE ONLINE WORLD THIS CHRISTMAS

1 EAT, DRINK AND BE MERRY

Budding bakers will relish helping out in the kitchen with some tasty festive treats. Spend some time together researching child-friendly Christmas recipes online (the BBC Good Food site is an excellent place to start), and then you and your little elves can rustle up gingerbread santas, marshmallow snowmen or reindeer shortbread. The only thing that's more fun is eating your creations afterwards!



WHEN THE SNOWMAN BRINGS THE SNOW...

4 A WORLD OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

From turkey on the beach in Australia to roller-skating to church in Venezuela, Christmas is celebrated in a variety of ways worldwide – curious youngsters might enjoy discovering other nations' festive traditions online. Google's Santa Tracker is a brilliant (and free) starting point, with games, activities and animations to help children enjoy learning as they count down to the big day!



2 THE OLD SONGS ARE THE BEST?

We've all had that Christmas compilation CD that was almost perfect, if it wasn't inexplicably missing one of your best-loved tracks. In this era of music streaming, however, your little helpers can assist you in compiling a definitive playlist of all your favourite seasonal songs – no more pining for The Pretenders or wishing for Wizzard.



5 THE NEAR AND THE DEAR ONES

Between time constraints, distance, the weather and Covid precautions (or a combination of all four) for many families it just won't be possible to physically spend time with everyone they'd ideally like to this Christmas. Video calling technology, of course, takes some of the sting out of the disappointment by virtually transporting loved ones into your living room.



3 DECK THE HALLS

There's no such thing as 'too many' Christmas trimmings! Let your child channel their excitement into some creative crafting, and you'll make memories as well as your own DIY decorations. There are loads of step-by-step guides online (including video walkthroughs on YouTube) for seasonal showpieces like paper plate angels, handprint wreaths and cupcake wrapper Christmas trees.



6 KIDS FROM ONE TO 92

If Santa's brought your young ones a console this year (or they already had one), it's a perfect excuse for some quality time while they gleefully trounce you at FIFA or Mario Kart. Digital versions of traditional board games like Monopoly and Cluedo are available on most platforms, too; get the whole household together for a modern take on some old-school family fun.



7 A WINTER'S TALE

Everyone enjoys a story at this time of year: after all, the whole celebration is based on an engrossing yarn. Sites such as Audible are an excellent way of entertaining excited young ones, with classics like Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and seasonal short stories by Enid Blyton alongside more contemporary Christmas tales by the likes of Tom Fletcher, JK Rowling and Ben Miller.



8 CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THOSE FACES

People used to express their gratitude for a thoughtful Christmas gift with a thank you card or a dutiful phone call. Not in the digital age: now your relations can see first-hand on video calls how delighted the children are with their presents – and even how they look in that slightly questionable hand-knitted pullover.



9 BROUGHT ME SOME CORN FOR POPPIN'

Snuggling up against the winter weather with the family (and a generous helping of chocolates) to enjoy a well-loved movie is a delightful Christmas tradition. The usual streaming services have some classic candidates on offer: *Home Alone* and *The Santa Clause* are on Disney+, while Amazon Prime has *Elf* and *The Grinch*, and Netflix goes with *The Princess Switch* and *The Christmas Chronicles*.



10 GUESS WHAT I FORGOT?

Friends and family pitting their wits against each other on Zoom, Teams or Skype really took off during lockdown, so why not revive the tradition over the holidays? Your questions could be on the biggest news, sport and showbiz stories of 2021, or be Christmas themed, or you could stick to classic general knowledge. Ideal for those days between Christmas and New Year.



National Online Safety®

#WakeUpWednesday

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE EVERY DAY?



Have you considered teaching?

We have helped people just like you start a successful career as a Primary School Teacher.

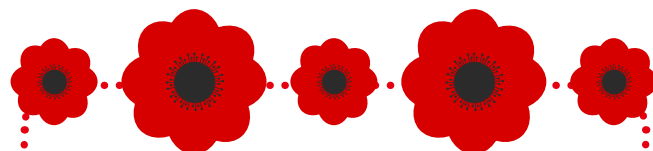
Find out more about the DPSCITT course by joining us for one of our open evenings:

12/01/22	Exeter	Trinity Primary School
31/01/22	Barnstaple	Roundswell Primary School
01/02/22	Ivybridge	Manor Primary School
30/03/22	Online	Join us via Zoom

Book your place now at: www.dpscitt.ac.uk

DPSCITT Interview Dates 2021/22

Date	Host School
Thursday 6th January	Lipson Vale, Plymouth
Monday 10th January	
Thursday 13th January	Feniton Primary
Tuesday 25th January	
Weds 16th February	
Thursday 3rd March	South Brent Primary
Thursday 17th March	
Thursday 31st March	St Peters, Budleigh
Thursday 28th April	
Friday 6th May	



POPPY APPEAL

Thank you very much for helping with our Appeal.

£ 287.38
was collected by you.

Without your help, we would be unable to continue our vital welfare and benevolent work.

Yours sincerely
[Signature]
Local Honorary Organiser

District Total (if available) £

Registered Charity No. 219279



Safeguarding



Unfortunately, safeguarding incidents do not stop over the Christmas period. Despite school be closed, there are plenty of options and contacts to keep yourself, your children and other children safe over the Christmas Period. As always, if you or someone is in immediate danger, call 999.



Useful Contacts List

Parent Directory 2020 / 2021

Collaton St Mary C. of E. Primary School

Please see the school website for information

www.collatonstmaryprimary.org

For any urgent enquiries please call

01803 556433 and leave a message.

CAP Torbay Debt Centre

Christians Against Poverty is a charity that gives free debt help to anyone in debt.

0800 328 0006

Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Worried about a child's safety?

If you are concerned about a child or young person in Torbay and want to speak to someone call MASH on **01803 208100**

Out of hours number **0300 4564 876**

Torbay Domestic Abuse Service

Outcome focused domestic abuse service for high and medium risk victims, survivors and members of their household including children. The service will enable people to make informed choices about their safety, health, housing and other identified individual needs. **0800 916 1474**

Brixham Food Bank

(Based at Brixham Library)

Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday
2pm – 4pm **07873 164211**

The Edge Food Bank

Boulton Street, Brixham

Monday Friday 11am – 5pm **01803 851414**

Torbay Food Alliance

If you need to access the Food Bank in your area because you cannot afford to pay for food please call the Torbay Community Coronavirus Helpline on **01803 446022**

Torbay Checkpoint

Provides a range of free and confidential information, advice and support services to children and young people aged 8 to 17.

01803 290330

The Torbay Community Coronavirus Helpline

01803 446022 from 10am- 6pm

Monday to Friday and on

Saturdays only from 9:30am-12:30pm

or online via www.bit.ly/torbayhelpline

Torbay Children's Centres

Call **01803 210200** or email:

TorbayChildrensCentres@actionforchildren.org.uk

Torbay Safeguarding Children Board

www.torbaysafeguarding.org.uk contains information, advice, guidance and referral routes if someone has a concern over a child or young person. **01803 207176**

email: tscp@torbay.gov.uk

Torbay Council Housing Options

In the event that you have had to leave your home quickly and without any planning, the team will find you short term emergency accommodation.

01803 208723

or out of hours **0300 456 4876**

TALKWORKS

We are a local, free, confidential, NHS talking therapy service for people (aged 18+)

www.talkworks.dpt.nhs.uk

Childline

Childline offers free, confidential advice and support whatever your worry, whenever you need help. **0800 1111** (Under 18)

SHOUT/ Crisis Text Line

Shout is the UK's first 24/7 text service, free on all major mobile networks, for anyone in crisis anytime, anywhere. It's a place to go if you're struggling to cope and you need immediate help. **Free text 85258**

KOOTH

The Kooth team provide free, safe and anonymous online support and counselling. The whole team are made up of friendly and experienced individuals who want to help.

www.kooth.com

If you are worried about a child or young person please contact the police on **999** emergency or **101** non emergency.



Remember – it could be nothing, **but it could be something!**

Collaton St Mary Primary School

Diary Dates 2022

Wednesday 5th January 2022

School Returns

13th January 2022

Year 4 Swimming

Monday 17th January 2022

Bag 2 School Collection

