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Pield Heath House School Autumn Newsletter - December 2020

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## Autumn Newsletter December 2020



Dear Friends of Pield Heath

As we come to the end of the 2020, they say that the word that has been used more than any other, to describe the year is, unprecedented. It is not hard but impossible to sum up the range of emotions we have all gone through.

Our students as always, have surprised us by the way they have coped so well with all the changes and remain our best Ambassadors. The Staff have been amazing, they have gone above and beyond and have risen to every challenge. Thanks also to all our Parents for your cooperation during the year.

This term we are saying farewell to two members of staff. Firstly, Priyanka Kunwar an NQT. We wish her well and every success as she continues her career. Secondly, to Temi Adentunji who is leaving us to start a new venture. We thank them both for their contribution and wish them well for the future.

I hope that when you look through this newsletter, you will enjoy some of the special moments we have experienced. We believe that Christmas isn't just a season, but is a feeling. Although we have not been physically altogether, we have been united in so many other ways and above all, we have managed to keep our community spirit, encouraged by the words of Pope Francis 'Do not be afraid to dream great things'.

I recently came across this verse called – *May I never*

*May I never ... grow weary of this mystery.*

*grow too old to believe.*

*forget the beauty of a baby.*

*fail to bring gifts to the saviour.*

*fail to stand in awe of God's presence.*

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On behalf of everyone at Pield Heath, I would like to thank you for your support and wish you and your family Peace, Happiness and Joy at Christmas and every blessing in the New Year.

We look forward to seeing our staff on 4<sup>th</sup> January for a Training Day and to welcoming back our students on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Eryl D'Souza

Associate Principal - Community & External Partnerships



### Journey to Bethlehem

As we were unable to have a Christmas Performance this year we still felt very much that we wanted to share the Christmas Message with everyone. As we are still in a special year - The Year of The Word, The God who Speaks, The RE Department with the RE Ambassadors and Tutors made a Presentation called 'Journey to Bethlehem'. It tells the Traditional story of Christmas however there are also some modern day adaptations. Thank you to all the Tutors who responded so enthusiastically with this project that Agnes Komasiak coordinated. The RE Ambassadors and students enacted various scenes of the story. Thanks also to Sahil and Josley for their IT support. We hope that you will enjoy watching it, join in with the Christmas Carols and that it brings happy memories of past Pield Heath Performances. You can watch The Journey to Bethlehem on our Website by clicking on this link:

[Slide 1 \(pieldheathschool.org.uk\)](https://pieldheathschool.org.uk)

**Class and Subject News**

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This term has seen 2B take part in the Positive Engagement week. Since we have been back we have been getting ready for Christmas by making arts and crafts themed to different lessons. For example in RE we made a crib. In cooking we baked Christmas cupcakes which the class thoroughly enjoyed making especially with the snowflake sprinkles which went down a treat. 2B has also spent a lot of time decorating the classroom for Christmas which included painting and building our own Christmas tree which was a good team bonding activity linked to Thrive.



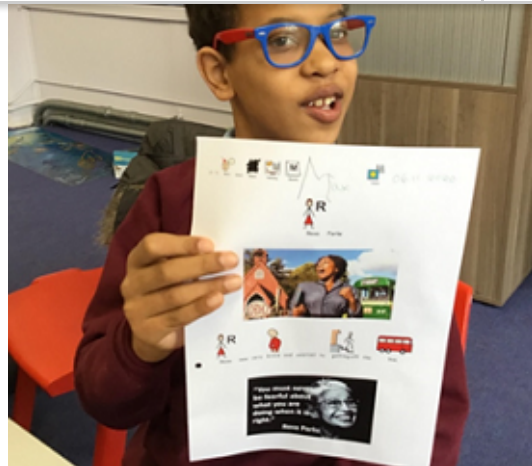
### Tutor Group 3D

To celebrate Black History Month we learnt about Rosa Parks and how she refused to get off the bus in America in 1955.

We also made doves as a symbol of peace.

As part of Emotions Week we enjoyed a day of "Celebrations" and had a birthday party.



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### Tutor Group 3K

This Term 3K have been preparing the classroom with lots of Christmas decorations. They took part in fun activities as a group. The class really enjoyed Zumba dancing and Yoga sessions.

Some student's made new friends while playing Top Trumps card games.



### Tutor Group 3L

In PSHE we were learning about staying safe crossing the road. We practiced crossing the road from the safety of our school. The students were able to experience for themselves how to do this using a real zebra crossing.



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amazing job.



### Tutor Group 3W

During Positive Engagement week, 3W enjoyed getting messy and making Gingerbread in a cooking session. We definitely got into the festive mood! They used cutters to make different shapes and decorated them using icing and Christmas sprinkles. They enjoyed mixing, decorating and most importantly eating them!



### Tutor Group PH+A

Our group enjoyed the festive activities especially listening to the virtual Christmas concert.

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### Tutor Group PH+B

We enjoyed the activities getting ready for Christmas and especially making and wearing our crowns for the Journey to Bethlehem presentation. We also took part in the virtual concert with our instruments as we played along to various Carols.



### Tutor Group PH+C

In PH+C we have had a mixed term. We spent some of it at home and some in school. We have been getting ready for Christmas by making nativity scenes, crowns as well as decorating our Christmas Tree. We would also like to thank everyone in our Pield Heath family for their generous donations to our Advent Appeal. We collected lots of food items as well as toys and wonderful gifts so other families will also be able to enjoy Christmas.

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### Tutor Group PH+D

IN PH+D our topic in Knowledge Of The World has been Festivals and Celebrations. We talked about why celebrations like Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah and Christmas are important and how we celebrate them. We made lots of things including diva's, firework pictures, Christmas decorations and a Menorah picture. This was such a fun topic and we all enjoyed it.



### Tutor Group 4C

4C have had a busy few weeks in the lead up to Christmas. We were invited to participate in the Christmas Mass this year and our students read and also provided some percussive accompaniment to the festive music.

We have just finished filming the story of ***The Samaritan Woman at The Well***. We were very proud of the professionalism





### Tutor Group 4M

This school term we made sure we stayed safe. We washed our hands many times a day, learned the rules about not spreading the virus and the importance of cleaning. We took this opportunity to enjoy the time spent together, prepared and celebrated our Birthdays with lots of joy and fun. We learned about the importance of feeling happy and loved. We also know now that it is ok to not feel ok all the time. We are looking forward to organising more Birthday Parties and Celebrations and are very busy getting ready for Christmas.



### Tutor Group 4T

We have enjoyed working together as a class, building positive relationships and working on our friendships. We have learnt about each other during many activities we have engaged in. We look forward to developing our social skills further, appreciating our friends and community.

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### **Tutor Group VBC A+**

This term the students of VBC A+ have been working hard and enjoying themselves. They have been practicing their social skills; how to be a good friend and the importance of helping others. The students have also been improving their independence skills. This has involved completing tasks around the school, such as Hoovering, watering the plants and using our communication skills. The students have also enjoyed lots of arts and crafts sessions where we explore new artistic techniques and take part in sensory activities.



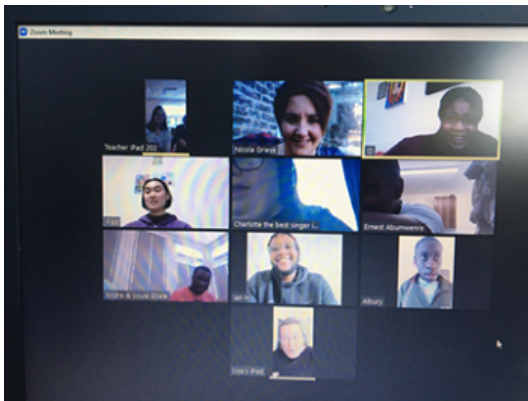
### **Tutor Group VBC B**

The staff and students of VBC B have enjoyed a mixture of both in-school and home learning activities this term.

We have been doing lots of exciting lessons at home, using the school website and cooking our family delicious dinners.

Even when we were apart and at home, we made sure we kept together with PSHE Zoom meetings that were full of smiles and laughter.



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### **Tutor Group VBC C**

VBC C Students learnt about how hedgehogs are becoming a rare sight in gardens. They designed their own hedgehog hotels, gave them names and found safe places for them to be on the grounds of the school. VBC C wish you all a Happy Christmas.





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### Music News



This term we started our music sessions with a positive spirit looking at how to be strong using the 'Roar' by Katy Perry. This song was threaded through our Recovery Curriculum weeks. Due to circumstances a lot of us had virtual sessions by Zoom. This was warmly welcomed by students, staff and parents. We had a lovely virtual Christmas Concert which everyone enjoyed, I hope that everyone will continue to enjoy music during the festive season.

### Horticulture News



28<sup>th</sup> November – 6<sup>th</sup> December was National Tree Week. Following her application, Nicky Grieve our Outdoor Learning and Development Manager, was successful and received a large selection of saplings. We will be doing a variety of different projects with these starting in the New Year.

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### Carlo Acutis

On 10th October Carlo Acutis was beatified. I'm sure many of you may have seen the news reports around this remarkable teenager, but you may not have realised that Carlo was born in Westminster Diocese and baptised in Fulham. He sadly died at the age of 15 from leukaemia. His life was short, but his story was an inspirational one, particularly for our children and young people. To mark this amazing event in the life of our Church we had a special service in our chapel. The RE Ambassadors supported with readings and prayers and we share a beautiful reflection on the life of Carlo, introduced by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.



### The Well Community Cafe

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November – The team at The Well celebrated Black History Month by preparing a special menu – “A Taste of Africa”. Sarah-Jane, Ian and ID stayed after school on the Thursday, creating some delicious dishes, ready for Amanda and our student staff to serve on the Friday morning. We were spoilt with dishes such as Jerk Chicken, Curry Goat and rice and peas. Not to mention the very popular Puff-Puff – yum!!!

#### Our favourite Feedback:

*“Thank you to all involved with cooking such delicious food. It made me a tad emotional as it brought back childhood memories of my dad's cooking”*

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### Anti Bullying Week

This took place from 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> November. The theme this year was - United Against Bullying. Odd Socks Day marked the first day of Anti-Bullying Week.

### Remembrance Day

On 11th November a special Assembly was held for Remembrance Day. This year it was very special to have Catriona Orriss who played the bugle for us in our chapel. As well as remembering those who gave their lives during the war we also prayed for our own family and friends in our Community. As part of our In November – We Remember activities, we had a display in Reception, designed by Lisa Carroll and there was a chance for people to contribute. Thanks to everyone's generosity from the poppies, we raised £100 which was collected by Ian Ritchie from The Royal British Legion.



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### Faith Week - 8th - 15th November 2020

We marked Inter Faith Week which this year was in November. This initiative is a great opportunity to strengthen and develop understanding and cooperation between people of different backgrounds. Our RE Ambassadors who represent some of the major world religions will be doing more work on this theme during the year.



### National Youth Sunday

Sunday 22nd November was the Feast of Christ the King which marked the end of the Liturgical year. Students made crowns and found out more about this special Feast.



### Winefride Tyrrell Award for Leadership

Sr Winefride Tyrrell was responsible for opening Pield Heath House School in 1901 and was also the co-founder of the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

In memory of Sr Winefride we have set up a Leadership Award. This year's winner was Jason Westfallen. Jason was nominated for performing for the whole school at various community events. He has also worked hard in The Well, our Community Café. More recently, Jason sang a song that he dedicated to the NHS for all that they have done this year. Well Done Jason for showing leadership and for your valuable contribution to our school community.

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## CHRISTMAS



### Advent

We marked the Season of Advent in various ways to help us prepare for the great Feast of Christmas. We had an Advent Service to mark the start of the Season. Students took part in designing Advent Wreaths and marked the 4 weeks of Advent by decorating candles. In December we had a special service to mark the Feast of St Lucy. The theme of the service was the Gift of Light. We also had weekly reflections provided for all staff. Sincere thanks to Sr Rosemary Clerkin for providing us with these inspiring reflections.



### The Mexican Posada Tradition

As in previous years we followed the old Mexican custom called Las Posadas where, during Advent, people dressed as Mary and Joseph and travelled around their villages knocking at peoples' doors to see who would give them hospitality.

This journey symbolises Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus. Due to social distancing restrictions this year instead of travelling to groups every class was invited to create their own Christmas Crib.

As Pope Francis said:

*"The nativity scene is like a living Gospel... I encourage the beautiful family tradition of preparing the nativity scene at home, in the workplace, in schools, hospitals and town squares."*



### Reverse Advent

3C held a reverse Advent Calendar to help the local food bank/parish with items they collected for Christmas. Aware that with the way things have been this year and how it is more important than ever to help out anyone who we can reach so with that in mind. Donations included; tinned food, dried food, packet food, Christmas decorations, small toiletry gift sets, small gifts for boys/girls, nice treats to make a difference to another family's joy at Christmas. Many thanks to Sarah Ball and her Class Team for organising this activity every year. This year the collection went to the The Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish Food Bank in Hayes.

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We had a Christmas Mass which everyone was able to follow via Zoom in their classes. We were delighted to be joined by all our staff and Governors as well as our Sister School St Johns, Chigwell who also followed the Mass online. The Mass was celebrated by Fr Nicholas Schofield, Parish Priest at Our Lady of Lourdes and St Michael, Uxbridge.



### Christmas Activities

Students enjoyed a Christmas meal and disco to celebrate Christmas and the end of term.

On 11th December students and staff took part in the Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. As well as raising £60 for this worthwhile Charity everyone had a lot of fun with everyone wearing their very best festive knitwear.

Although it was a different Christmas in so many ways we still extended the Pield Heath Hospitality to all our Community. Students enjoyed a lovely Christmas Meal with their groups and also had a visit by Fr Christmas. Staff had a Festive buffet which had a wide variety of delicious treats. Many thank to Gurinder Bains our new Catering & Hospitality Manager and to all his wonderful team for their enthusiasm and hard work.

Students also enjoyed a virtual disco as well as a quiz. Well done to 3W who were the winners.



## FUNDRAISING



### Children In Need 2020

This year students raised money for Children in Need. As well as raising £30 for this worthwhile charity students and staff both had a fun day enjoying the activities.



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### CAFOD World Gifts Campaign

Following the events we had to mark Harvest Fast Day, we have continued to raise awareness of the work of CAFOD all over the world. This term we took part in their World Gifts Campaign and donated £50. The money was used to buy CAFOD World Gifts. We bought Water for a Family, Teach Someone to read, Keep Clean Kit.

### Important Dates for your diary:

#### Spring Term 2021

Spring 1 – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021\*

Half Term – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Spring 2 – Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021\*

#### Summer Term 2021

Summer 1 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2021 – Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021\*

Bank Holiday – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

Half Term – Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 – Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Summer 2 – Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021 – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2021\*

**\* School finishes at 2.30pm**

#### Training Days 2020-2021 (Staff Only)

4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021

20<sup>th</sup> April 2021



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