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## December 4th 2020 Newsletter

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### Checkendon CE Primary School

Email: office.3801@checkendon.oxon.sch.uk

T: 01491 680693

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Christmas is definitely on its way here in school and we have all enjoyed being welcomed on these dark winter mornings by the lovely Christmas tree with its beautiful twinkling lights. Many thanks to Rogers Fencing and CHIPP for making this happen!

We have been working hard to re-invent our usual Christmas activities for the current circumstances and I am delighted to confirm that children in all classes will watch an online Christmas Pantomime *Cinderella* in the last week of term. There are advent calendars on the go in each class and Christmas cards in the Christmas postbox. Next week there will be a Christmas lunch, albeit not the traditional roast meal, with cookies, crackers and Christmas music.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December, we'll be joining in with the Save the Children fundraiser Wear Your Own Jumper Day and on 14<sup>th</sup> December there'll be the celebrity judging of the CHIPP Christmas competitions.

Parents and friends are invited to join us for our School Christmas Service on Zoom Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December, at 10am. Rev Davies will be leading the service and there will be contributions from each class.

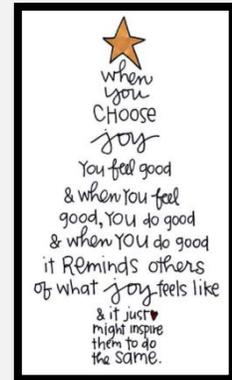
It wouldn't be Christmas without a nativity and we'll be bringing our 2020 production to you via the internet this year – more details to follow.

There is a busy, productive atmosphere in school with lots of lively lessons including outdoor learning (I watched Panda Class pupils enthusiastically measuring the perimeter of the netball court with trundle wheels and metre sticks this morning) and opportunities for outdoor sports and play. In our online Celebration Assemblies on Fridays, there are Independent Learner Awards, Values Awards and Times Tables Awards as well as birthday greetings and time for reflection. This week's assembly also included the announcement of the School Values Ambassadors for 2020-21: Jenson, Jemima, Joseph, Lacey and Leo. Congratulations to them all; they will play a key role in leading worship and devising activities to promote the school values in the year ahead.

Warm regards,  
**Gillian Seymour**



### Thought for the Day



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### Pictures of the Week

We had a wonderful email from Sue Palmer, the lady who led the Rhino Class Space workshop, about the quality of some of the stories that children wrote. We are very pleased to say that Sophia's short story: Out of this World, will appear on her website: <https://sypalmer.com/>.



Brilliant work Sophia! ©

## More Information

**Happy Birthday** to **Naomi** who was 7 on 2<sup>nd</sup> December ☺



**Christmas Tree** We are extremely thankful to Christmas tree world at Rogers Fencing for kindly donating the Christmas tree again this year. Thanks also to CH.I.P.P for making this happen.



### Times Tables Awards - Congratulations!

**Bronze Times Tables Award** – Thomas

**Silver Times Tables Award** - Dexter, Harper and Jessie

**Writing Competition** Oxfordshire libraries have launched an exciting creative story writing competition for children aged between 5 and 11 years. You must write an original story, not a retelling of another story. It should be between 500 and 3000 words in length. Closing date 21/2/21. For full terms and conditions, as well as instructions on how to submit entries go

to: [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/shortstorycompetition)



### Fun Reading Challenge

There is a Winter Mini Challenge. The theme this year will be "Everyone is a Hero." More information can be found at [www.wintermini.org.uk](http://www.wintermini.org.uk) Challenge dates: Tues 1 December - Friday 15 January

### Checkendon Church Christingle Service Virtual Choir – From Emma Davies

This year it has not been possible to run the Christingle Choir in school in the usual way, but now is the time to brush up on your singing and try out your recording skills!

We are looking for a group of children, who are keen singers, to create a virtual choir item which will be played at the Zoom Christingle Service on Christmas Eve.

This would need a little help from parents! Each child would need to learn a song using a recorded track, then a parent would record them singing it (audio only) and send it to me. With a little help I will join all the recordings together. If your child would like to take part please let me know by **Tuesday 8th December** [daviesepiano@gmail.com](mailto:daviesepiano@gmail.com). We need a group to make this project viable. If your child would prefer to record their singing at school, I have some slots available to do this during the afternoon of 14<sup>th</sup> December. Please contact me directly if this option would be more suitable for your child.

### Worship for Sunday 6th December 2020 and Christmas Services. Everyone Welcome.

For Zoom Meeting IDs and Passwords please refer to <http://langtreechurches.org/sunday-services/>

- 11am Morning Prayer with Revd Kevin. A simple service of readings, hymns and prayers to start the week. For all other Sunday services this week, please refer to above link.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December:** Pre-recorded Covid-secure Carol service in Church. Sittings at 3pm, 4pm and 5pm. Booking essential via [sj.endacott@googlemail.com](mailto:sj.endacott@googlemail.com).

**Christmas Eve 4pm** Online Christingle Service. Zoom numbers 823 2226 2104 and 609662. No need to book. Bring a candle, an orange, some ribbon, cocktail sticks, sweets and/or dried fruit to make your own Christingle during the service.

**Christmas Day 11am:** Online celebration. Zoom numbers 819 5724 2067 and 865581. Join our great celebration of the birth of Christ and the hope that he brings.

**Note:** It is OK to pass on the zoom codes to family members but please do not share them on social media. Thank you.

### And Finally....

Q: Why was the snowman looking through the carrots?

A: He was picking his nose!



**Social News Feeds:** <https://twitter.com/CheckendonSch>  
<https://www.instagram.com/checkendonprimaryschool/>

Children in **Owlet Class** have been thinking about growing, looking after the bulbs they planted, and measuring themselves. Some of them have grown a lot since September!



As part of their learning project 'Toy Stories', children in **Owl Class** set up a class museum; half the class were visitors and the other half of the class were museum curators. The curators enjoyed sharing their toy exhibits and the visitors asked some great questions.



### Panda Class

children have had a fabulous music lesson with Mrs Davies this week, and will be continuing and filming the results of their work next Wednesday to share with you all at our Christmas service. The photo is a teaser of what you might expect in our performance.



In English, **Rhino Class** pupils used persuasive language to act out

role plays – child and parent. They completed one learning project: *What is above and beneath us?* and have begun another: *What do these composers have in common?* (David Bowie and Gustav Holst)

