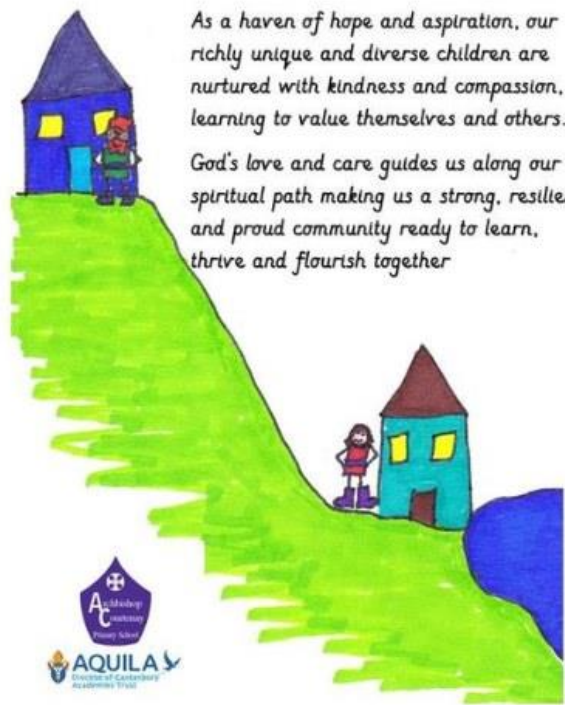




Archbishop Courtenay Primary School -
Friday 12th December FB



As a haven of hope and aspiration, our richly unique and diverse children are nurtured with kindness and compassion, learning to value themselves and others.

God's love and care guides us along our spiritual path making us a strong, resilient and proud community ready to learn, thrive and flourish together

In this issue



Headteacher Welcome

Information for Parents

Wrap Around Information

Dates for Diary

Collective Worship

Reception

Year 1 & 2

Year 3 & 4

Year 5 & 6

The ABC Archie Awards

Contact Us

[Mrs Heather's Welcome](#)



Dear families,

This week, we once again had the joy of celebrating Christmas with our KS1 Nativity—a truly sell-out event! The children's performance was absolutely delightful, with their singing being particularly lovely. A huge well done to all the pupils for their enthusiasm and dedication. Congratulations also to our wonderful teaching staff for directing such a memorable production. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all the families who came along to watch; your support means the world to the children, and they truly love having you there to share these special moments.

In addition to our festive celebrations, we are proud to share that Mrs Gooding has been representing our school by joining an important initiative involving experts working together to tackle violence against women and girls. This group collaborates to shape policy, share experiences, and develop practical steps to make Maidstone a safer place for everyone. Tracy's passion and dedication exemplify our school's core values of compassion, respect, and resilience, and we are proud to have her leading such vital work.

Some of you may be aware that Mrs Green has been absent since September due to illness. I am very pleased to report that she is now on the road to recovery, and we all look forward to welcoming her back to school soon. In the meantime, I would like to formally welcome Mr Donnay to our teaching staff. Many of you will know him from his previous work with us in Years 5 and 6. He has now been appointed as the class teacher for Curie Class until the end of this academic year, and we are delighted to have him with us.

Next week the fun continues at ABC, we have our Christingle Service at school on Tuesday morning, followed by our Christmas lunch and Jumper day on Wednesday . ***Our last day of school is on Friday 19th December but remember school finishes at 1:30pm.***

Merry Christmas!

Mrs Heather

Headteacher

Support



We deeply value our families and are committed to providing the best possible support, whether the concern is personal or related to school. Our staff consistently go above and beyond to ensure that every child feels safe, cared for, and nurtured within our school community.

Occasionally, situations arise between pupils—sometimes accidental, sometimes intentional—that require careful attention and communication with parents. We recognise that these conversations can be challenging, as your children are incredibly precious to you. However, by working together with kindness and calmness, we can effectively address these matters in the best interests of all our children.

Additionally, I want to make it clear that abusive behaviour towards staff will never be tolerated, regardless of how challenging or frustrating a situation may be.

Acceptable User Policy



As part of our ongoing commitment to ensuring a safe and secure learning environment, we send our school's Acceptable Use Policy (AUP) regarding the use of technology to you.

We kindly ask that you read the appropriate section of the AUP with your child so they fully understand the rules and expectations when using digital devices both at school and at home. This is essential to help keep all pupils safe and to promote responsible use of technology.

Additionally, there is a section within the policy specifically for parents and carers. After reading this, please acknowledge your acceptance by completing the confirmation via the following link: [Acceptable User Policy – Fill in form](#)

It is very important that this is completed by **Friday 19th December**. Please be aware that if the acknowledgement is not received by this date, your child may be unable to access technology at school until the acceptance is confirmed.

Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe and positive digital learning environment for all pupils.

SEND & Inclusion



At The National College, our [WakeUpWednesday](#) guides empower and equip parents and carers with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with their children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips please visit [nationalcollege.com](#).

10 Top Tips on Supporting Children with SELF-REGULATION

Children need to learn to understand and recognise their emotions, while finding healthy ways to process them. Emotional self-regulation, however, depends heavily on age and development. While very young ones or children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) may find it particularly challenging to self-regulate, nurturing these important skills can be hugely beneficial. Here are ten top tips for supporting children with their self-regulation.

- ### 1. DESIGNATE A TRUSTED ADULT

It's vital that children feel safe and know that there's someone they can always go to for help. If they expect to schedule consistency, limit or be denied the ability to develop a relationship with this person, it's likely to be through play and games. Remember that it's not just about ensuring that the child is more likely to come forward if anything is wrong rather than hiding their emotions.
- ### 2. MEET CHILDREN HALFWAY

Unless you know where a child is developmentally and tailor your approach to their needs, you're less likely to have an impact. If you're older, you might not see self-regulation as something that needs to be helped. We call this 'top-down' regulation. For the children, however, it's bottom-up self-regulation. It could be better to start conversations with a trusted adult first.
- ### 3. FACTOR IN THEIR BASIC NEEDS

Remember that for a child to develop emotional regulation skills, their basic needs must be met first. Children who are hungry, tired, cold and so on – as well as those with more emotional issues like childhood experiences – may struggle to self-regulate. Make sure they're engaged with any child, make sure they feel safe, secure and comfortable in themselves.
- ### 4. REMAIN PATIENT

If a child is struggling with their emotions, it can often become difficult to stay calm. Remember that self-regulation is a skill that takes time to develop. If a situation or event could negatively impact the situation, instead, children need to be met with consent and understanding as they learn to manage these problematic feelings.
- ### 5. BE A DYSREGULATION DETECTIVE

While some children can tell you why they become dysregulated, many others can't. You could be the detective that helps them by observing the child and talking to their family. When the child becomes dysregulated, make down details like the time, what they're doing and who they're with – the bigger the picture, the better. An unmet sensory need or something else entirely, once we identify some triggers, we can help to avoid or overcome them.
- ### 6. USE SUITABLE LITERATURE

There are some wonderful books that can help you teach self-regulation to children. Reading these with a child can be especially powerful. Take time to read the content, discuss the story, why they feel that way and what strategies helped them. It can also be useful to read back to snippets of these books at appropriate moments.
- ### 7. TRY SENSORY RESOURCES

An overlap between sensory needs and emotional regulation is possible. Children may struggle to self-regulate if they're experiencing sensory overload in a busy classroom, for example. Positive sensory input can help calm them down. Use resources such as weighted blankets and blue noise lights. Of course, what works for one child might not work for another – so it's important to offer a choice of resources to discover which they prefer.
- ### 8. NURTURE INDEPENDENCE

If you feel it's appropriate, let children try out these strategies alone. Always offer them a choice: they could listen to music when they're feeling stressed, for example, or they could write down their worries or draw something to represent how they feel. This may mean that the child forgets to do so, but be patient. Encourage them to share any helpful strategies with a trusted adult.
- ### 9. MODEL GENUINE FEELINGS

Children learn a lot just from watching grown-ups. Don't be afraid to share your own emotions and self-regulation strategies. Make your children want to avoid sharing anything too personal with you, and instead, let them see you experiencing and handling your own feelings. Tell them that you are feeling, then show them how to respond in a healthy way.
- ### 10. FORMULATE A PLAN

As much as we try to prevent children from experiencing dysregulation, it always seems to have an opportunity plan for when it does happen. Discuss the strategy with the child in a way that's appropriate to their family. The best approach for an individual child is what it works best for them. It's really important to know in advance what might help and what could worsen the situation.

Meet Our Expert
 Georgia Turner is an author, former teacher, Special Educational Needs Coordinator and the founder of the award-winning resources blog, where she shares activities, videos and recommendations for parents and teachers of children with SEND.

WakeUpWednesday
 The National College

[@nationalonline_safety](#) | [NationalOnlineSafety](#) | [@nationalonline_safety](#) | [national_online_safety](#)
Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Current as of the date of release: 21.02.2024

Wrap Around Information



Wraparound:

<https://archbishop-courtenay.cbfs.uk>

Breakfast (7:30am-8:30am) £4

Social Club (3:15pm-4:15pm) £3

Wraparound (3:15pm-6pm) £12

Tax-free childcare vouchers = 20% off

Universal credits = claim up to 85% back

FOR SUPPORT CONTACT:

archbishop-courtenay@cbfs.uk

01444 523 335

Dates for Diary



- Tuesday 16th December - Service will be held in school@9:30am
- Wednesday 17th December - Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
- Friday 19th December - Last Day of Term 2 - **SCHOOL ENDS AT 1:30PM**
- Monday 22nd & Tuesday 23rd - Christmas Holiday Club 10am - 4pm
- Monday 29th & Tuesday 30th - Christmas Holiday Club 10am - 4pm
- Monday 5th January - Term 3 begins
- Thursday 15th January - Year 4 & 5 St Augustine Academy Shrek the Musical
- Wednesday 21st January - Choir Young Voices
- Tuesday 3rd February - UKS2 Netball Match - Allington
- Tuesday 10th February - Safer Internet Day
- Friday 13th February - Last day Term 3
- Monday 23rd February - Term 4 Begins
- Thursday 5th March - World Book Day
- Friday 6th March - British Science Week begins

Collective Worship



During our Collective Worship this week, our focus was on the four Advent candles and what each one represents in the lead-up to Christmas. The children have been learning about the meaning behind each candle and how they link to stories from the Bible. We explored these themes together and reflected on why they are important to Christians during Advent.

The First Candle – Hope

We began with the candle of Hope, which helps Christians remember the Patriarchs—the faithful men and women who came before Jesus and helped prepare the way. We looked at the story of Abraham (Genesis 12:1–4), who showed great trust in God when he set out on a journey with only God’s promise to guide him. The children learned how Abraham’s hope in God became an important part of the Christian story.

The Second Candle – Faith

Our second candle represents Faith, reminding Christians of the prophecies that foretold the coming of Jesus.

We read from Isaiah 9:6, where Isaiah speaks of a child who will be called *Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace*. The children talked about how Christians believe Isaiah was describing Jesus long before he was born.

The Third Candle – Joy

The third candle stands for Joy, and this week we connected it to the story of John the Baptist.

We explored Luke 1:5–25, where the angel tells Zechariah that he and Elizabeth will have a son—John—who will bring joy to many people and prepare the way for Jesus.

We then recapped the story of John’s birth and thought about an important question:

Why do Christians remember John the Baptist at Christmastime?

The children discussed how John helped people get ready for Jesus by teaching them to make good choices and by baptising them. Christians remember him at Christmas because his story is closely linked to the birth of Jesus, and because he played such a key role in preparing the world for Jesus' arrival.



EYFS: Darling and Rashford



As we near the end of another busy and exciting term, we have been taking time this week to review and celebrate all the wonderful learning the children have been doing.

Phonics

This week, we revisited our digraphs and those *tricky words* that can sometimes be a little... well, tricky! The children have been completing their end-of-term phonics assessments, and it has been amazing to see just how much progress they have made. Their growing confidence in recognising sounds and applying them in their reading and writing is truly something to celebrate.

Drawing Club – *The Nutcracker*

Our Drawing Club adventures took us into the magical world of *The Nutcracker*. The children loved exploring this wonderfully imaginative story.

- We began by drawing the Nutcracker himself, describing his appearance in detail—his uniform, colours and special features.
- The children then had a go at writing key words and short captions to accompany their beautiful drawings.
- For our setting work, we travelled to the Land of Sweets! The children created and illustrated their very own sweet-filled landscapes and wrote about the delicious treats they could see. Their imaginations were as bright and colourful as their artwork!

Take a look at some of the amazing work from this week in our photos below!! These are just some examples chosen, there are many more beautiful piece of work to celebrate too.

Maths – 2D Shapes

In Maths, we have been focusing on 2D shapes, particularly shapes with four sides.

The children have been:

- Exploring and describing the properties of squares, rectangles, kites and rhombi.
- Sorting shapes based on their features.
- Taking part in various adult-led activities, including going on a shape hunt around school, printing shapes, and sorting shapes into different groups. They have really enjoyed becoming shape detectives!

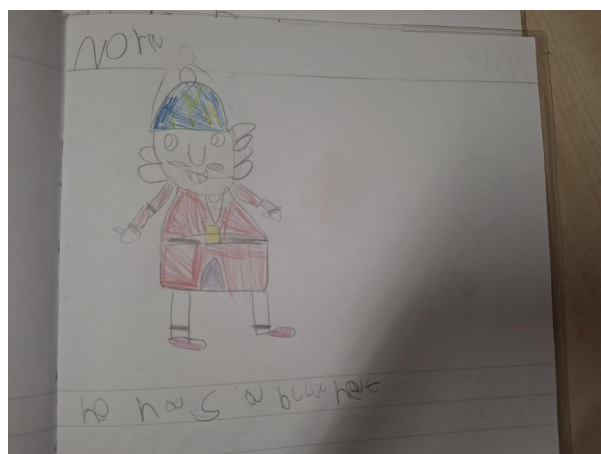
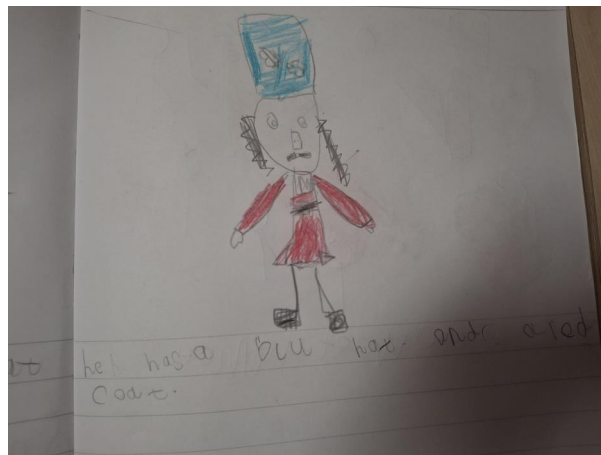
R.E – Christmas in Mexico

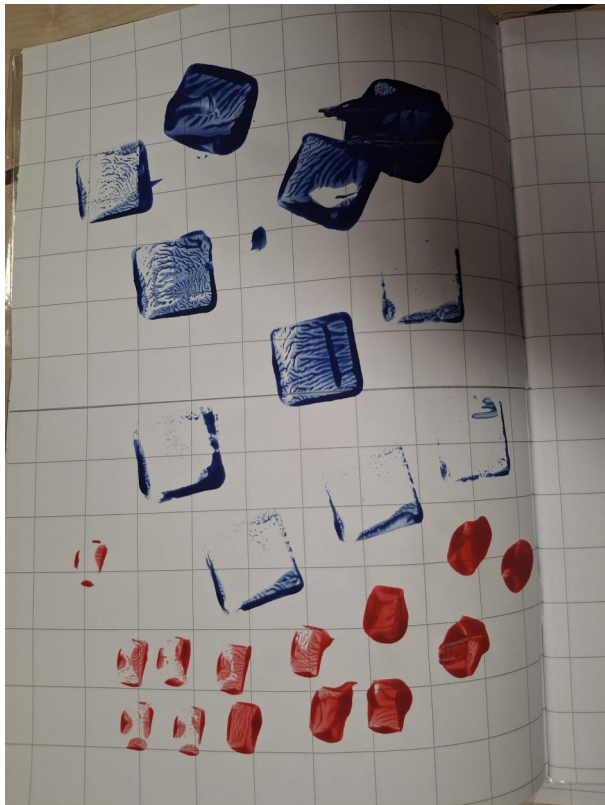
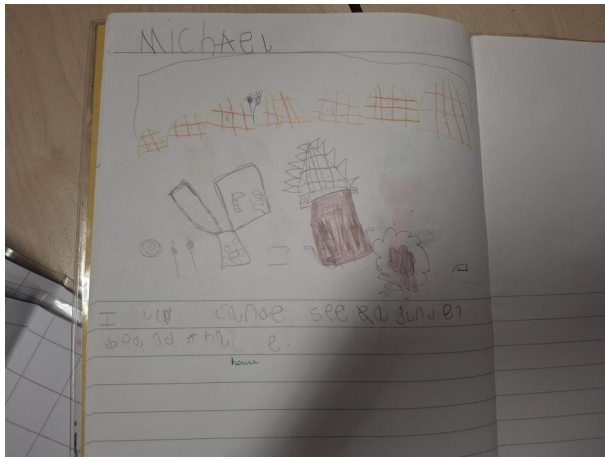
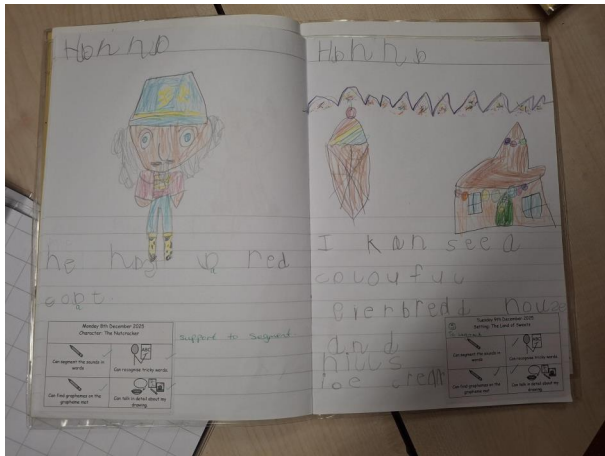
Continuing our learning about how Christians celebrate Christmas around the world, this week we explored traditions in Mexico.

We learned all about Las Posadas, watched videos showing how families celebrate, and talked about what a special and joyful time this is—especially as it ends with a big party! The children were fascinated by the vibrant celebrations and enjoyed comparing them to their own Christmas traditions.

Disco Fun! We hope the children enjoyed their school disco this evening—they all looked absolutely wonderful and full of festive cheer!

Thank you for your continued support as we journey towards the end of term. Have a lovely weekend!







Year 1 & 2 Rowling, Attenborough and Frank



What a truly exciting week we have had in Key Stage 1! The festive spirit has filled our classrooms, and we are thrilled to share some of the wonderful activities your children have been involved in.

This week, our highlight was undoubtedly the Nativity performance. The children put on an incredible show for all of you, showcasing their amazing singing, acting, and the confidence they displayed while saying their lines. It was heart-warming to see so many proud faces in the audience, and we are so grateful for your support. Both parent performances had record turnout, with Tuesday's performance being standing room only. The joy and enthusiasm the children brought to the stage were infectious, and it was a delight to witness their hard work pay off. Thank you for encouraging your little stars and for being such a wonderful audience!

In our Religious Education lessons, we took some time to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas. The children engaged in thoughtful discussions about what Christians are grateful for during this special time of year. They shared their own thoughts and feelings, which led to some lovely conversations. To add a creative touch, the children made beautiful paper chains, which now adorn our classroom, reminding us of the joy and togetherness that Christmas brings.

In Maths, the children have been diligently completing their end-of-block assessments in place value and geometry. We are incredibly proud of their efforts! They have worked hard and shown great determination to do their best. It is wonderful to see their understanding grow, and we appreciate your support at home in reinforcing these concepts. The progress they have made is commendable, and we look forward to continuing to build on these foundations in the new year.

As the week drew to a close, we celebrated with our much-anticipated Christmas disco! The energy in the room was electric, with children dancing and laughing, truly enjoying themselves. It was a fantastic way to end the week, and we hope your children came home with big smiles and stories to share about their fun-filled evening.

As we approach the end of term, we want to thank you for your continued support and involvement in your child's learning. Your encouragement makes a significant difference, and we appreciate the partnership we share in nurturing your children's growth and development.


We hope you all have a lovely restful weekend.


KS1 team


Year 3 & 4 Jobs, Shakespeare and Pankhurst




This week the children have been busy continuing their learning across the subjects, some of which we have staggered over the next two weeks to ensure all pupils are given the opportunities to explore, create and learn in fun and dynamic ways! If we mention something on here that your child hasn't completed this week they will be doing it next week!

 English: We have completed our book study on *Nen and the Lonely Fisherman* and have been creating our own mystical fantasy stories in the style of this book. Some children have worked in groups, some in pairs and some individually to create wonderful stories that they will publish next week.

 Maths: We have secured our work on multiplication and moved into our short unit on area. We will be completing a mix of winter themed maths tasks next week that use the skills to demonstrate our understanding and new knowledge.

 Science: We have continued our Rocks unit of study and have been busy looking at rocks, classifying them, observing their characteristics and testing them - if the children come home and ask vinegar to drop onto rocks this is great investigative science! I wonder if they can find any rocks that give a slight bubbling reaction to the vinegar?

 RE: this week the children have completed their unit on incarnation and have created new panels for the big frieze that focus on our big question for the term: What is the Trinity? The children have been producing some wonderfully inspired work with impressive explanations linking their drawings to religious symbolism and personal beliefs and experiences.

Well done LKS2 for another amazing week ❤️

Year 5 & 6



🌟 Weekly Round-Up – What a Fantastic Fourth Week Back! 🌟

It's been another busy and exciting week in school! This week was **assessment week**, and the children worked incredibly hard. All of us in **UKS2** are extremely proud of their effort and focus — well done to everyone! 🌟👏

📖 English

In English, we have been **planning our very own traditional tales**, and we have now started writing them. Our story is called '*The Golden Pen*', and we are so excited to see where the children's imagination will take them. Their ideas have already been incredibly creative!



🔭 Science

In Science, we have been learning all about the **Solar System**. The children explored the **planets and the moon**, and discovered how the planets **orbit the Sun**. Their curiosity has been wonderful to see! 🍌🌙

🍰 DT – Blueberry Muffins

This week in DT, the children made their very own **blueberry muffins**! They carefully followed a recipe, measured their ingredients, and baked some truly delicious muffins. The best part, of course, was tasting them — and they were a **huge hit**! 😊🧐🧁

🎵 Music

In Music, we continued working on **writing our own songs**. This week, we focused on creating a **catchy hook** and making sure our lyrics **rhyme**. The children had great fun experimenting with their musical ideas! 🎵🎤🌟

🙏 RE

In RE, we have been learning about **judgement**. We thought about *what Jesus would do* and explored passages from the Bible to understand how Christians view judgement and forgiveness. The children then wrote their own **prayers and wishes** about being kind, not judging others, and choosing forgiveness. ❤️📖

💻 Computing

In Computing, the children have been working on **Google Sites**, continuing to design and build their own websites. Their pages are really starting to come together beautifully! 🌐💻

📱☁️ Important Reminder

As the weather turns colder and wetter, please make sure your child brings a **coat suitable for all weathers**. If you haven't already, please also send in **wellies** so the children can enjoy outdoor activities **even in the rain**. 🌧️👢







The ABC Archie Awards





1 - This week our four Archie's have been taken a break and will be back next week.

I wonder who will win the Archie's next week?

Contact Us



We are here to help you so please never be afraid to get in touch

Archbishop Courtenay Primary School

Eccleston Road

Tovil

Maidstone

ME15 6QN

01622 754 666

Office@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk

Headteacher@abc.aquilatrust.co.uk

Visit us on the web at <https://www.archbishopcourtenay.org.uk> or via Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ArchbishopCourtenay>

