

Merry Christmas

This holiday, many students will be celebrating Christmas, a celebration of the Christian faith. Christians believe that Jesus is the Son of God, and see Christmas as a celebration of his birth and the struggles his parents, Mary and Joseph, went through to keep him safe. Each year the children in EYFS perform a play of the Nativity. This is to teach and remind other students why some people celebrate Christmas.



Why is Christmas celebrated?

For people of the Christian faith, Christmas is an important celebration about Jesus' human beginning - when God decided a human should personally teach people a good way of living. Jesus was born on the 25th December (now celebrated as Christmas Day) to his parents, Mary and Joseph. That is why Christmas is such an important day to Christians.

Christmas is a time of spiritual reflection on the important foundations of the Christian faith. It is also a celebration. The word Christmas comes from Christ's Mass - a service where Christians remember Jesus' birth.

We interviewed Mazha Binu Sam from Year 6. Mazha (a Christian herself) answered a few questions for us: She told us that her faith is important to her - particularly respecting God politely and praying often. Whilst Christians worship just one God, they believe he is made up of three equal roles - The Father, The Son (Jesus) and The Holy Spirit.

Diwali

WHY DO HINDUS CELEBRATE DIWALI?

Diwali (the festival of light) is celebrated across the globe by many Hindus. Celebrated by children and adults, Diwali is very popular because, during the night that the main event happens, the celebrations are spectacular! Fireworks and sparklers are lit and fill the sky with light to guide Rama along the sky to his home, Ayohdya. Hindus wear bright coloured clothing, often made from silk, and eat fabulous food such as poori, lemon rice and much more.

THE STORY OF DIWALI THE RAMAYANA

One fine day, King Dhasra was very worried as he was getting very old. It wasn't the age that worried him, it was his heir as he had no son. So, he asked his advisor how to get a son. The advisor performed a ritual to summon the God Vishnu, who provided the King with a pot of nectar. This was then fed to his three wives. The wives then gave birth to four sons; Rama, Lakshmana, Bharata and Satrugna. The king had a soft spot for Rama and wanted him to be the King. One day, the king of another kingdom came and introduced his daughters, who were the most beautiful women on Earth. He organised a competition - the winner of which would win the hand of his eldest daughter in marriage. Many people tried but failed...apart from one young man - Rama.

And so, Rama married the daughter, Sita, and was ready to be crowned King.

However, Keikeyi (one of the King's other wives) was not happy and so she sent Rama to exile in the forest for 14 years. Rama followed her wish and went away with his faithful wife Sita and loyal brother Lakshmana.

The trio faced many trials in the forest but on one occasion, the brothers were away and Sita was left on her own. She was kidnapped by the demon king, Ravana, and flown away to an island. Rama was devastated and set out to find the monkey king, Sugreev, and Hanuman to ask for their help.

Rama and the monkey army started their journey to rescue Sita and after many days, and a long battle, Rama killed Ravana. He and Sita returned, where he was then crowned at the King.

Quiz time

1) Why did Rama leave Ayohdya?

2) What was the king called?

3) How did Rama marry Sita?

4) Who kidnapped Sita?

5) Who helped Rama get Sita back?

Answers

1) Kaikeyi sent him to exile.

2) King Dhasra

3) He won a competition

4) Ravana - the demon king

5) The monkey king, Sugreev and Hanuman.



Global Issues – Palm Oil



Why should we use only sustainable palm oil?

Do you know that 50% of your products that you use every day contain palm oil? It is found in different products such as shampoo and in many foods eg: cake, chocolate, biscuits and margarine. Palm oil is useful as it has no taste, look and smell which is why most companies use it in their products. The problem is that most of these products contain unsustainable palm oil.

Palm oil comes from the fruit of the oil palm tree which is found in warm climates.

The production of palm oil is controversial because the trees grow in rainforest regions. The rainforests are destroyed to make space for the palm oil plants to grow. These rainforests are home to lots of species including orang-utans

Orang-utans have been **harmed** because of it [around 5-8 are die a day]. Orang-utans are **97%** human so we are basically killing our own species.

Palm oil also destroys habitats of rhinos, elephants and tigers which is why we must use **sustainable** palm oil. Sustainable palm oil is a way of producing palm oil that ensures the environment isn't destroyed.



This orang-utan has been darted so that it can be moved to a different habitat as its home has been destroyed.

How can you help?

You can help by not buying products that have unsustainable palm oil in them and choose to buy products that use sustainable palm oil which is better for the environment and for orang-utans.

For more information and to make a change [click here](#)

Spotlight on...



Childhood

Born in Preston in 1958, Nick grew up on Greenlands Estate and later moved to Walmer Bridge. With a keen curiosity in drawing cartoons from a young age, he first experimented in film as a 13-year-old with the help of his mother, a home movie camera, and cotton bobbins. As a boy, Nick loved drawing, especially cartoons as he was a huge fan of the The Beano comic. He would use his mother's home movie camera to record his early films.

Early Adult Life

When he was 15, one of his homemade films was shown on television as part of a BBC young animators' film competition. After graduating from the Sheffield Hallam University, Nick Park attended the National Film and Television School where he started learning more about creating films and episodes. Later on, he got a job the television and film industry. He started off being a Film Director and then finished as a TV producer.

Career

Nick joined Aardman in 1985 to complete his college film A Grand Day Out and served as a director and animator on numerous projects including pop promos, title sequences and inserts for children's television. In 1990, Park worked alongside advertising agency G&K to develop a series of highly acclaimed television advertisements for the Heat Electric campaign. The Creature Comforts advertisements are now regarded as among the best advertisements ever shown on British television, as voted by viewers of the United Kingdom's main commercial channels ITV and Channel 4. His second theatrical feature-length film and first Wallace and Gromit feature, Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit, was released on 5 October 2005, and won Best Animated Feature Oscar at the 78th Academy Awards, 6 March 2006.



Legacy

Nick Park is one of the best English filmmakers and a pioneer of animation who has given us well loved creations such as Wallace and Gromit, Creature Comforts, Chicken Run, Shaun the Sheep and Early Man. His films will be enjoyed by future generations.



Santa Dash

Year 6 have been taking part in an unforgettable day. They have been raising money to pay for very exciting theatre trip to watch the Wizard of Oz and any additional money raised will go towards a future trip for Year 6. All of the children had an amazing experience and many students and teachers want to know how it went, so we have been delighted to interview three lovely children. Safaa Patel, Joel Oliver and Freddie Calder from Year 6 told us that whilst it 'was challenging' they 'persevered and pushed through to finish.' One child told us, 'It was a difficult but amazing experience!'

All the children agreed that it was a fantastic, fun-filled day. We are all very grateful for everyone that sponsored us! Thank you!



Lucky squares and raffle

This year's fun raffle prizes will be vouchers for Smyth's Toys! And we hope you will have fun and your number will be the winning one.

Lucky Squares is back! There will be hampers to win by paying £1 and choosing a square. There are 60 spaces to choose from. In the hampers there will be nice treats such as chocolates, biscuits and toiletries.

SCHOOL DISCO

On the second of November 2023 our EYFS children, KS1 and KS2 all had a fun and fantastic time. They went out into the hall, EYFS and KS1 went first and then a while later, KS2 went and we had our SCHOOL-DISCO. We had a tuck shop, full of delicious sweets, snacks and other food such as **CHOCOLATE!** The children have described the school disco as a 'fun and exciting party.' We also can't forget our incredible DJ...

MR JOHNS!

CHRISTMAS PARTY

We are delighted that Sherwood will be hosting another Christmas party for all our year groups. Everyone will be invited to come to school on the allocated days, wearing an interesting outfit. You could wear a fancy dress, tuxedo, ANYTHING! We hope you have an amazing time, dancing and playing super fun games, as well as the incredible party dinner. It will take place near the end of our half term.

Sherwood School

Life!

Maya Workshop.

This half term, The Year 6 children took part in a History workshop all about The Maya Civilisation – an Ancient Civilisation from Central America. The Year 6 children learned so much - you could say it was a historical day! One fascinating fact about the Maya- they made CHOCOLATE!!!

Debbie, the archeologist, brought in some artefacts for us to explore. It was a lot of fun and a great start to our new History topic!



CLUBS

This year, we have had some amazing clubs to take part in, such as tennis, football, Players, netball, chess, newspaper and many more. Some children have woken up extra early to get to a before school club and others stay in school 1 hour longer to take part in after school clubs! Some even took part at lunchtime! We have done an interview with a lovely student. She attends the club Tag Rugby. She told us more about her club. "I really enjoyed Tag Rugby. It is a very fun sport to play. It involves lots of teamwork." We really hope you enjoy all your clubs this year and keep aspiring.

