

# St. Patrick's Catholic Primary School Newsletter - Issue 10 - December 2023

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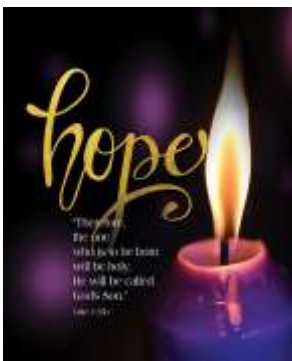
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Dear Parents, Carers & Parishioners,

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas! Rehearsals for all of our traditional events and performances are now well underway, with the sound of Christmas music and song echoing throughout the school. It is all feeling very festive! A reminder that a full breakdown of all our Christmas activities including dates and timings for performances can be found in the diary date section of the newsletter

## Advent Mission



Today marks the start of our Advent Hope Project at St. Patrick's. Advent is a time for hopeful expectation, going back to when Christians awaited the arrival of Jesus. Whilst Advent and the build up to Christmas is exciting for lots of people, for many we know that it can be a challenge. This year we want to spread the message of HOPE to our community and beyond. Over the coming weeks, the children will be making Hope Bracelets and placing them in small bags with a message of Hope. We will then ask the children, with your support, to take these gifts out into the community - leaving them with people or in places that you feel they might be needed.

Of all the forces that make for a better world, nothing is as strong as HOPE. With HOPE, you can think, you can work, you can dream. If you have HOPE, you have everything.

I know you will support our Advent Hope Project so that it has an impact.

## School Choir



The choir have had a fun term learning our Christmas songs.

We have a busy December full of exciting events, starting with us singing at the lighting of the Christmas tree in Langley Moor on the **3rd December**.

Then, we hope to see lots of you at our concert in school on the **7th December**.

We are also going to entertain shoppers in Tesco during the afternoon of the **8th December**.

The highlight of Christmas for the choir is when we sing at the care homes in Brandon. This year we are going on the **18th December**. It is a really wonderful experience for us all and we love to see the residents joining in with us as we sing.

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*

## Extra Curricular Success

Here is Albie receiving his Braveheart Award, at St James' Park. This is a very special Award which recognises the courage and bravery of children in the North East of England.

We are exceptionally proud that Albie, who we all know is a wonderful ambassador for St. Patrick's, has been recognised and rewarded.

Albie, myself and Mr Keys always ask you to live the Gospel and only when necessary, use words. This is clearly another example where we can all see the face of Jesus. **Well done.**

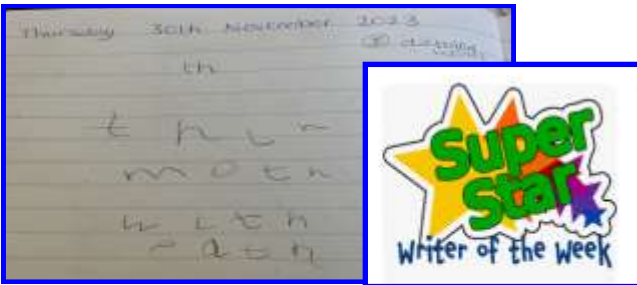


## FOSPA



Unfortunately, due to the adverse weather conditions, we took the decision to postpone today's FOSPA meeting. We are however, pleased to announce that this meeting will take place on **Friday 8th December at 3:30pm**. Can we please take this opportunity to thank all connected with FOSPA for your continued support and understanding—we look forward to seeing you all next week.

## A Special Mention



A massive well done to Jake in Reception.

Jake has been working very hard with his Phonics and using the sounds he knows to spell out some words. We think that is not only fantastic Phonics but also tremendous letter formation. Well done, Jake!

## Crossing Patrol

Unfortunately we will not have a crossing patrol on the afternoon of Thursday 7th December. School staff will support where possible, but please can you take extra care when crossing the road after school next Thursday.



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### Attendance and Punctuality



At St. Patrick's, we believe that each child should be equipped to excel through the highest quality learning opportunities. This can only be achieved if pupils are in school regularly, and on time. Whilst 100% attendance would be amazing for every child, we appreciate that in reality this is unlikely. However, our Trust and school target for each child is to have an attendance of 97% at the very least. A pupil with an attendance of 97% would miss 7 days of schooling throughout the year.

Research proves that pupils who do not have good attendance and punctuality are less likely to achieve as well as others. With this in mind, you may have noticed that when you log in to Arbor, you are able to see your child's attendance from the beginning of the school year to date. Please help us to give your child the best education we can by ensuring their attendance is greater than 97% for the year. Our school doors open at 8.45am and lessons begin at 8.55am. If your child is regularly late by 10 minutes each day, they are missing a whole lesson every week. Please ensure your child is here on time to help them achieve their very best.

**Thank you for your continued support.**

### Poppy Appeal



**Thank you for your support**

Your support has made a real difference to those in the Armed Forces community.

To find out more about how your donation helps, please visit [rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal](http://rbl.org.uk/poppyappeal)

To St Patricks Primary School

Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Together we raised £112-38



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

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# Online Safety Tips

## Article 19: The right to be protected from all forms of harm

### Influencers



The concept of influencers is hardly a new one. Through newspaper columns and TV spots, we've long been accustomed to hearing informed opinion from, say, Martin Lewis on money, Nigella Lawson on food or Mark Kermode on cinema. How the digital revolution has changed the game, however, is by providing a plethora of platforms from which literally anyone can have their say.

Online, you'll find hordes of people holding forth on any number of topics: gaming, beauty, travel, fashion, fitness ... virtually anything you can think of. What qualifies them as 'experts', however? Is it safe for young people to consume the oceans of content that they generate? Our #WakeUpWednesday guide brings you the essential info on the influencer phenomenon.

### Artificial Intelligence (AI)



It can be difficult to keep up to date with new technologies and to know if there are any related risks that we need to be aware of when using new technologies. AI is being talked about a lot, so it is worthwhile learning more about it now to help support/answer questions if our children show an interest. Twinkl provide a brilliant overview of AI [here](#).

### Minecraft



Minecraft remains ever popular and with Christmas ahead of us, maybe your child will be receiving this game as one of their presents. Minecraft Legends is rated as PEGI 7 meaning it is suitable for those over 7 years of age. The App store rate Minecraft as 9+. You should be aware that there is a multiplayer option so players can chat to each other, and in-app purchases are available. Parental controls are available, either within Minecraft or on the console itself e.g. Nintendo Switch or PlayStation. Find out more [here](#).

### Toxicity in game play



Safe In Our World and Ubisoft (creators of games such as Assassins Creed) have co-developed the 'Good Game Playbook'. The playbook will be sent to players reporting disruptive behaviour as well as the individual reported. This is to support the person affected as well as to try and educate the person reported about the harm their behaviour might have on others. You can read the handbook [here](#).

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Any new dates added to the calendar will be shown in blue.

Date	Event	Time	Parents Invited
Thursday 12th October	Year 5/6 Curriculum Meeting	15:30 & 16:30	Yes
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Welcome Liturgy	09:15	Yes
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Halloween Parties <i>Non-uniform</i>	PM	No
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	All Saints Day Mass	09:30	Yes
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 3/4 Remembrance Liturgy	09:15	Yes
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Remembrance Day Assembly	10:45	Yes
w/c Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Week	--	No
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Odd socks day	All Day	No
Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening	15:40 – 18:00	Yes
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	World Diabetes Day <i>BLUE Non-uniform</i>	All Day	No
Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents Evening	15:40 – 18:00	Yes
Friday 17th November	Children in Need <i>Non-uniform</i>	All Day	No
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	Anti-Bullying Assembly	15:00	Yes
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	St Andrew's Day	All Day	No
<b>Monday 3rd December</b>	<b>Choir singing in Langley Moor</b>	<b>16:00</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day	No
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	Choir Concert	16:00	Yes
<b>Friday 8th December</b>	<b>Choir singing in Tesco</b>	<b>13:30</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Friday 8th December</b>	<b>FOSPA Meeting</b>	<b>3:30pm</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	EYFS & KS1 Christmas Production	17:00	Yes
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Dinner Day	12:00	No
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	KS2 Christmas Production	17:00	Yes
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Pantomime	10:00	No
<b>Monday 18th December</b>	<b>Choir singing at Care home in Brandon</b>	<b>13:00</b>	<b>No</b>
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Fair	14:00	Yes
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Party Day	All Day	No
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Mass/Carol Service	14:45	Yes
Thursday 21st December	End of Term	15:25	Yes

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# attendance MATTERS

## Procedure for appointments during school hours

If you have to take your child out of school for any reason, including a medical, dental, school visit appointment, please could you inform the school office prior to the appointment along with any supporting evidence of the appointment. This is so that we can authorise the absence where we can and your child is not marked as unauthorised in our register.

Please see below guidance from the government regarding school attendance. <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

Children should aim to arrive in school by 8.55 am at the latest. **Persistent lateness causes disruption to your child's education.**

Year	Attendance this week:
R	96%
1 / 2	92%
3 / 4	94%
5 / 6	97%
<b>Weekly Overall Attendance: 95%</b>	
<b>Yearly Attendance to date: 95%</b>	

## Late arrivals

Class registers are taken at 9:00am prompt as we don't want to miss any learning opportunities. **All children should be in class and sat down by 9:00am.**

We want all of our children to be sat down at their desks for 8:40am whenever possible.





## Standards at St. Patrick's

Our expectations on attendance must remain strong and, as the parent community know, we take this part of our job very seriously indeed. We will be contacting parents/carers of those children who are persistently absent, this means any child with an attendance percentage of 90% or less. Please understand that this is a supportive measure and that we are working hard to leave no stone unturned to help your child achieve the very best possible outcomes.



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## HOUSE POINTS

Feast Days:	St. Bede	St. Cuthbert	St. Hilda	St. Aidan
<b>25th May</b> <b>20th March</b> <b>17th November</b> <b>31st August</b>				
<b>Weekly total</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>175</b>
<b>Running total</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>366</b>

### Stars of the week

<b>Jake</b>	<b>Year R</b>	For listening carefully and following instructions.
<b>Cyril</b>	<b>Year 1 / 2</b>	For working very hard.
<b>Ella</b>	<b>Year 3 / 4</b>	For determination for maths.
<b>Emilija</b>	<b>Year 5 / 6</b>	For hard work and determination.

### Rainbow Rewards

<b>Red</b>	Is for the blood he gave (Be Kind)	Jackson, Oscar, Jacob, Ruby, Patrick-Joe, Ava, Poppy and Oren
<b>Green</b>	Is for the world he made (Be a steward)	Vito
<b>Yellow</b>	Is for the light so bright (Be humble)	Poppy
<b>Orange</b>	Is strong and full of might (Be courageous)	Roma
<b>Purple</b>	Is for his hour of sorrow (Be compassionate and say sorry)	Osagbemwonrhue
<b>Pink</b>	Is for a new tomorrow (Be just and fair)	
<b>Blue</b>	Is for the sky he made so we can aim high (Never give up or take the easy option)	

**The rainbow is a sign of God's promise,  
 He will guide us through any storm.  
 When you feel battered by life's storms,  
 Just remember God's rainbow is coming -  
 It's only a prayer away.**

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*

### Ask your child



We're sure you all ask your children what they have learned at school every day. We're also sure that the depth of answers that you receive will also vary, with some children saying, 'nothing'. To help aid your discussions, each week in the newsletter we will include a starter question that will help your child to talk about what they have been learning that week in school. Try it tonight

Reception	How many purple candles are there on an Advent wreath?
Year 1 / 2	What is an evacuee?
Year 3 / 4	Where are the Cairngorms?
Year 5 / 6	What is a prime number? What is a composite number?
General	How can we be humble?

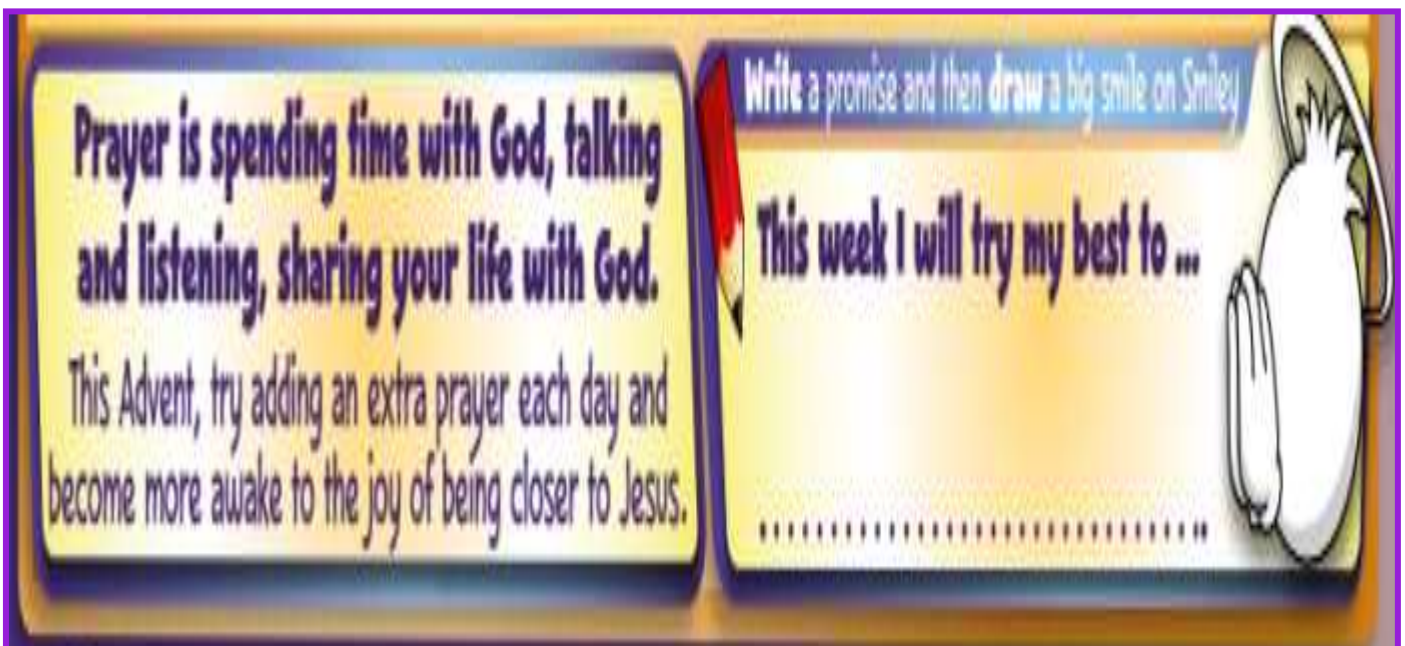
### Article 14: The right of freedom of thought, belief and religion

#### The Gospel in Church - 3rd December



*Jesus said to his disciples, "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you do not know when the end time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad; he leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his own task, and orders the doorkeeper to stay awake. So, stay awake - because you do not know when the Master of the house is coming; it may be evening or midnight, cockcrow or dawn. If he comes unexpectedly, he may find you still sleeping. What I am saying to you now, I say to everyone: Stay awake!"*

Adapted from Mark 13:33-37



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# Recommended Read

## Ada Twist, Scientist

Ada only started speaking when she turned three, but once she started she didn't stop...why, what, how, when? As Ada's curiosity grew so did the mayhem she caused both at home and at school but those were just the traits of a good scientist. So when Ada was outside and noticed a horrible smell she was determined to find the cause of it. But no ending of testing and theories could find an explanation for the terrible stink and she found herself sent to the 'Thinking Chair'...

**Page Count:** 32

**Age:** Year 1 and 2

**Genre:** Everyday life

**Themes:** STEM, diversity, BAME, family, school, rhyme



'a word about books' says... *"A wonderful book for inspiring children to ask more questions. For any child who has ever been curious and essential for young, budding scientists."*

## Anisa's Alphabet

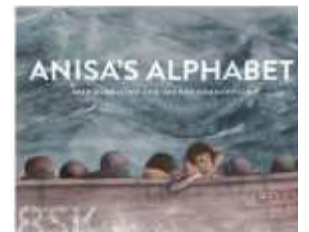
Anisa was like any child, she lived in a happy home and enjoyed spending time with her family. But then the bombs came and that changed everything. Forced to flee with only the things that she and her family could carry, they began a journey. A journey to where, they did they not know. A journey they did not want to make but had no choice but to make. This is Anisa's story...

**Page Count:** 32

**Age:** Year 3 and 4

**Genre:** Everyday life

**Themes:** Immigration, refugees, asylum, war



'a word about books' says... *"Anisa's Alphabet is a superb book that explores the plight of refugees and raises the issues that they face in a very unique approach. Essential reading."*

## Aviary Wonders Inc.

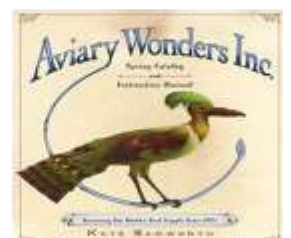
With human activity the planet has rapidly been destroyed. Habitats have disappeared and species have declined in number, some eradicated completely. To compensate the loss, Aviary Wonders Inc. have been making mechanical birds since 2031. The company offers bird lovers the chance to authentically recreate the birds that have become extinct. What will you create...

**Page Count:** 32

**Age:** Year 5 and 6

**Genre:** Fantasy

**Themes:** Birds, nature, environment, humour, natural world, life lesson



'a word about books' says... *"It is dark and sobering yet humorous and light-hearted. The idea of creating a bird from the multitude of fabulous parts is at once exciting and you cannot help being drawn in, but the truth is that this may be a reality that is not all that far away."*

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*

# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks - such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising; this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

### THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions - and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

### PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online - which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

### UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

### SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them - including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

### SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media - and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous, if possible. Highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

### PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.

### Meet Our Expert

A former Director of Digital Learning and currently a digital transformation lead, Andrew is a wealth of experience and expertise when it comes to digital marketing, social media, and user experience. He has worked with a range of organisations, including the NHS, and will be happy to help to ensure that the online world remains a safe and fun place for our children.



**NOS** National Online Safety  
#WakeUpWednesday

## Star of Hope - A family activity

### Reflection



Stay still and close your eyes - think carefully about something you hope for. Try not to think about what gifts you are hoping for at Christmas, but rather to consider a very special hope you have. Advent is a time of great hope as we wait to celebrate the birth of Jesus. For thousands of years many poor, sick and lonely people shared this hope as they waited for God to send a saviour who would bring healing, and fairness, and friendship into the world.

When Jesus was born that first Christmas, a bright sign in the sky became a sign of hope that this saviour would soon be here! This sign was so full of light that it shone a path through the darkness and led all the way to Jesus. Can anyone say what this sign was? It was the star that led the wise men!

The Bible tells us that we too 'will shine in the world like bright stars' when we offer hope to others by sharing God's love with them. Sadly there are some children in this world who struggle to find hope. Some can't go to school because their families are too poor. Some must leave their homes and friends because there is fighting in their country. Some don't have families and have little hope of finding someone to look after them. Jesus wants us to offer love and hope to all God's children, especially those who struggle. We can do this by praying for children all around the world. In this way we can deepen our relationship with God and understand how much he loves us all.

**Family Activity:** Make a 'Star of Hope' to remind us of the light and hope we can bring to the world through our prayers and through our sharing. In this way, like the star that led the wise men, **we** will lead people to Jesus.

### How to make a Star of Hope

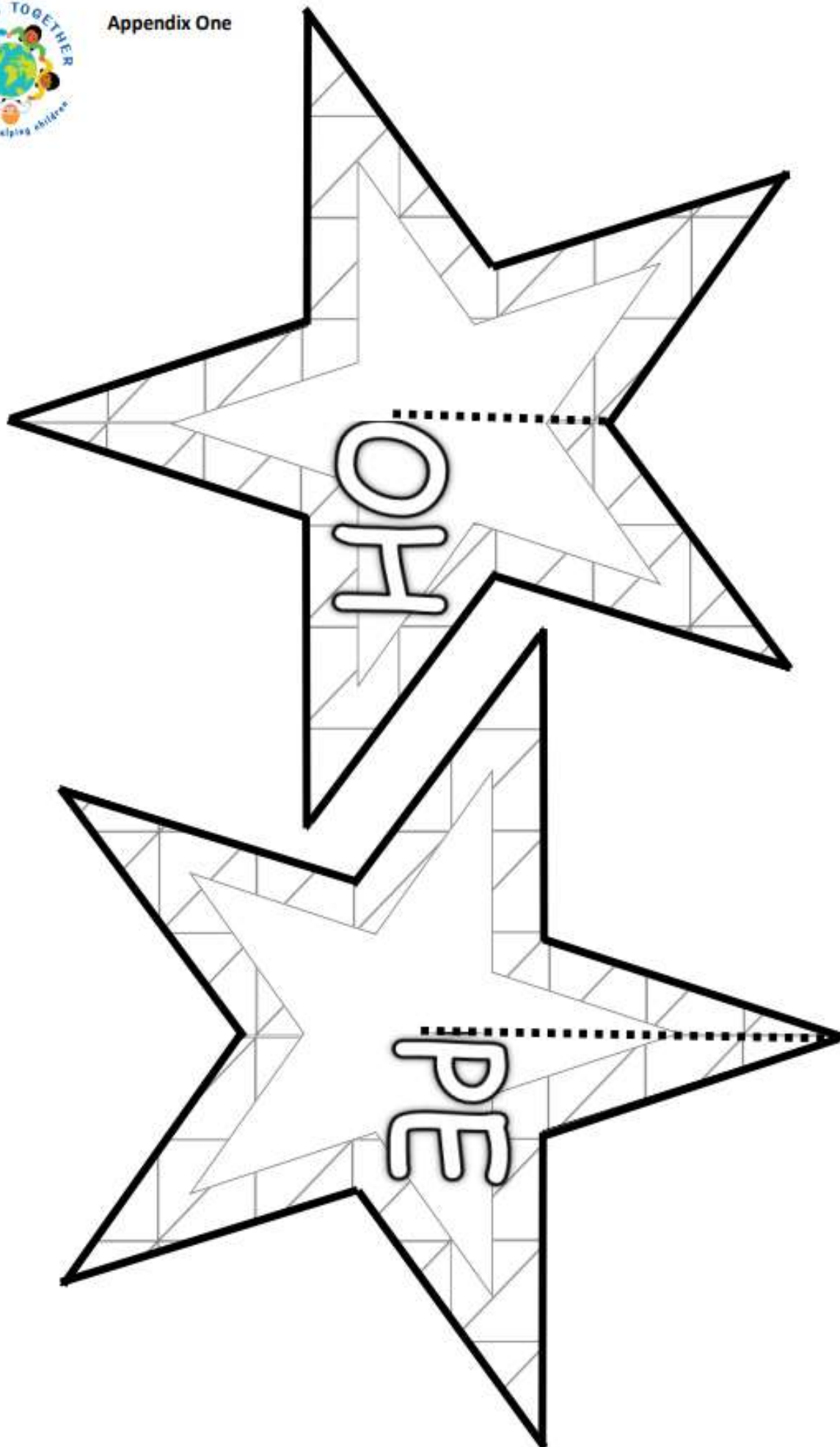
1. Use Appendix One (back page of the newsletter). Cut around the thick black outline and you'll be left with two star shapes.
2. On the blank side of star 'HO', write down one special hope you would like to pray for. This could be for a sick relative, or a prayer for children who have no family to care for them.
3. On the blank side of star 'PE,' write down one way you can bring hope to someone this Advent/Christmas e.g. be encouraging a classmate or relative.
4. After you have written your 'prayer' and 'action', decorate the star.
5. When stars are decorated (and dry if felt pens were used), cut along the dotted line in the centre of your stars. Carefully slot the stars together, this will spell out 'hope'. You'll need a little sticky tape to secure the star.
6. Once complete, hang your star on the tree at home, as a sign of their intention to lead others to Jesus by sharing God's love and bringing hope to the world.

**Tip: bending the feet of the stars slightly will help them to stand.**

*Use well the gifts that God has given you*



Appendix One



*Use well the gifts that God has given you*