



**‘Prepare the way for the Lord’
John 1:23**

Christmas Eve November 2021

Dear Lord,

Thank you for all of the blessings we have received this year. Through the really tough times of Covid 19, we are still able to live a happy life together at home and at school.

Please look after those who are not as lucky as we are. For all the people who are homeless and poor during this cold winter, the people who have lost someone they love because of Covid and the people who cannot be with their family in different countries.

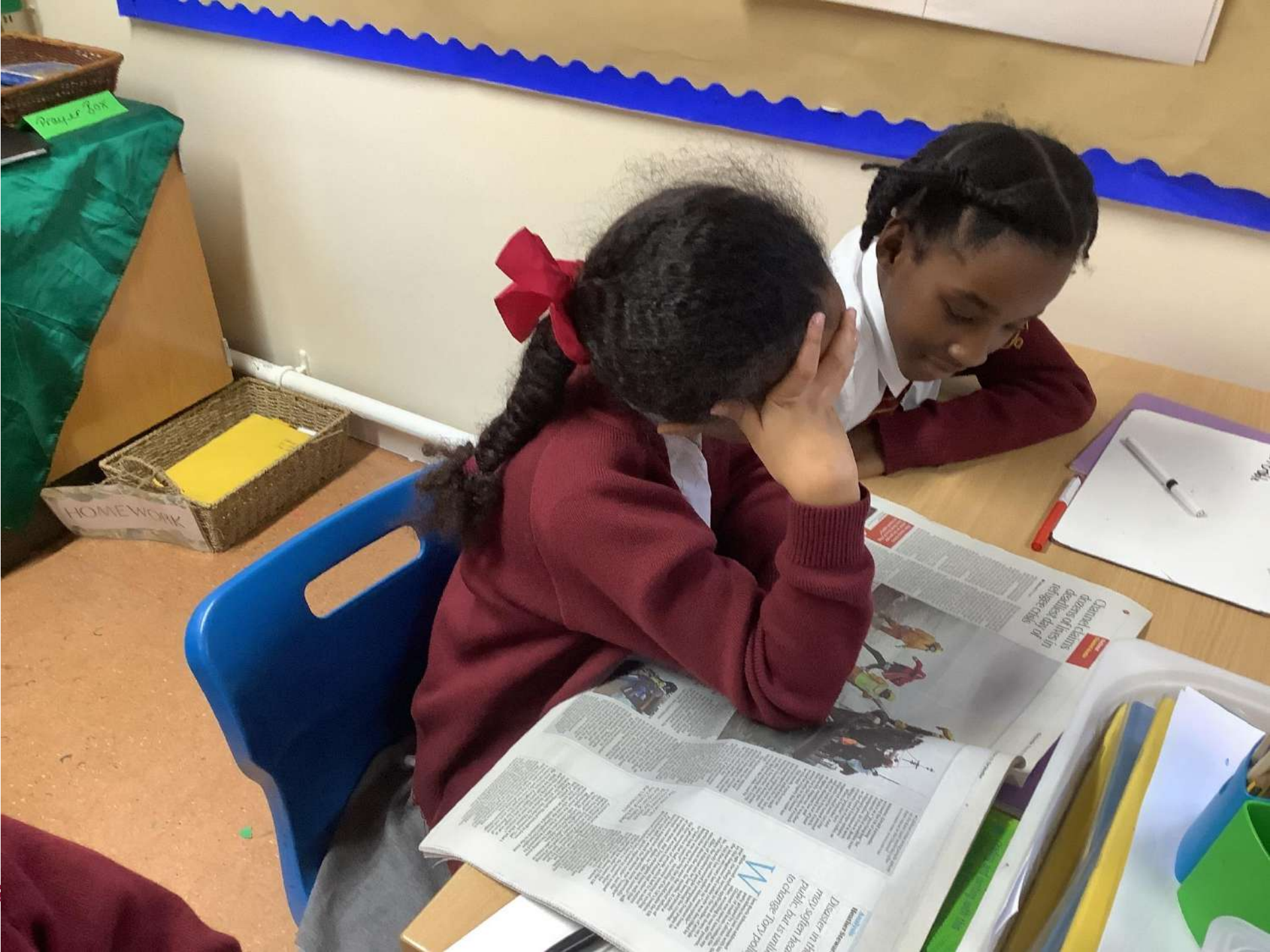
We pray for them all. May this Christmas be another special one full of happy memories.

Amen.

Savannah







What struck me about the people travelling to the UK was that they don't just hop onto a boat or a plane with their families like when I go on holiday. Tummies filled with excitement about seeing my aunties and uncles and visiting new places. Instead, they sometimes have been forced with guns to get into unsafe boats and have to pay a lot of money to people that exploit their desperation. They start their journey feeling anxious, scared and frustrated. Families with children that are my age travel to nearby countries such as Turkey but some of them go all the way to England for even greater safety. Last week 27 people died crossing the English Channel which we read in the news. I found this very sad as I couldn't help imagining the children as my age and they could even be my friends. The book we are reading called 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria' has helped me to create an empathy for refugees since I now understand the dangers that they have to take just for their own safety.. I can compare my life in lots of ways to Aya's. We are a similar age, we both love ballet, I laugh with my friends and we have families that love us. But I don't lay awake worrying about bombs and sieges. I don't fear for my life. I'm not being moved around without a place to call home.

Hiyabel.

On the 25th of November, headlines said that 31 people drowned in the English Channel. They are called refugees. Refugees are people who have to flee from their homes to find safety. During this term, we have been reading 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria'. In the book, the main character Aya has a hard time in Manchester because she has to do everything since her mum is sick. Aya is my age but she has had to act older than her years to keep her family safe. She didn't want to leave Aleppo because Aya loves her home and through rich description we see Aleppo as a colourful, happy place full of laughter. Reading this book has taught me how to walk in Aya's shoes and I can imagine how I would be treated if I were her. I would want to be treated with fairness and kindness. We have been so enthusiastic about enterprise this year as we want to donate the money we raise to children like Aya.

1) This term we have been learning about refugees through our reading of 'No ballet shoes in Syria.' Refugees have the same rights as me which is to travel safely, take care of themselves and their families and ~~try~~^{have} and a safe home. I felt sad hearing about the refugees in the news last week. 'Dozens of lives were lost at sea in the deadliest day of the refugee crisis' Newspapers reported. Due to my recent reading of the class book, I could imagine those children as Aya and understand more how they would be feeling. Even though Aya has overcome many obstacles such as grief, less and feeling different but she also receives support from a passionate teacher in Manchester which is why I know she will fulfil her dream of being a professional ballet dancer. I wonder if the other children in refugee camps will be as fortunate as her.

Lolally

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Recently, we've been reading *No Ballet Shoes in Syria* and it is about a young girl called Aya who has had to flee her home due to war. She arrives in England but people don't understand what she has been through and the challenges she is facing. Both adults and children treat her with prejudice due to being a refugee which makes her feel unwelcome and isolated. She however has one friend called Dottie who treats her with kindness and support because she sees her as a normal child just like her and not as someone different. Last Thursday, some children got on a boat hoping to start a new life in England. If they have come to St Joseph's I would have treated them with respect, asked them to play 'it' with me and helped them with my favorite subject Maths. Unfortunately, they lost their lives but in the future I hope to show everyone kindness and they can be part of our community.





























Retablo

A Retablo is a small picture or model of a religious scene from Latin America.

SHELMINA F
CLASS: B-14

ART
TECHNOLOGY

P.E









St Joseph's



February 24 November 2021

Dear Lord



Thank you for creating this world and everything you put inside of it. I'm really sorry that people have been destroying your world and I'm really sorry about all the people that have lost their lives because of violence. I just want to say thank you for all of my peed because there are people all around the world with nothing hardly have any water to drink so again thank you and I'll be praying for the people with nothing. Amen

God's creation

