

*“What came to be through God was life,  
and this life was the light of the human race;  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.” John 1: 4-5*



Look to the light, continue to practice the profession of faith in the light, even when the world is wrapped in night and darkness.

This is our Christian hope: the light of Jesus, the salvation that Jesus brings to us with his light that saves us from the darkness....

We must carry the light of Christ with the witness of a genuine love. Be a luminous person who carries the light, a light that comes from one that is not his or her own, but a gift of God, a gift of Jesus...

*Pope Francis*



How do you want to live? As a lamp that is lit, or one that is off.

How are you being called by God this Advent to be a living light for others?



---

## CATHOLIC LIFE AND MISSION

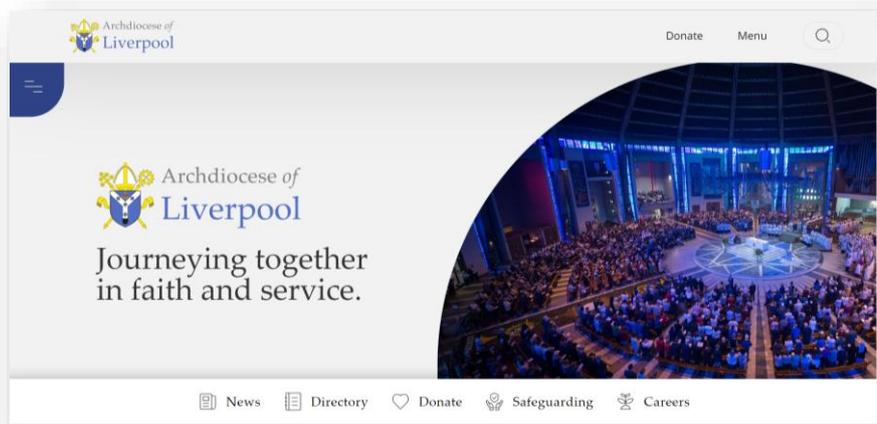
---

### A New Website for the Archdiocese of Liverpool

We are pleased to announce that our new website is up and running!

<https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/>

Our new Education page <https://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/department/education> has all of the previous information however, this will be updated over time. For now, the resources are in alphabetical order. In the new year, Pat and Julie will work with Hannah, our office manager to update and organise the resources. If you need any resources you cannot access, please send over an email and we will get them to you.



### Checklist for external speakers

The CES has recently updated the checklist for external speakers which is available on the website ([Checklist for External Speakers to Schools \(catholiceducation.org.uk\)](https://www.catholiceducation.org.uk/)). The checklist complements the updated DfE guidance on maintaining political impartiality in schools.

The checklist for speakers should be completed by the appropriate officer in a school prior to making contact with external speakers (and any organisation they represent). This is to ensure that the Catholic character of a school is preserved and developed in the external speaker's communications with pupils and parents and carers



## Autumn Spirituality Conference, Blackpool

This term our RE subject leaders attended a Spirituality Conference in Blackpool as a vital part of their subject leader responsibilities and as an opportunity to further develop their continuous professional development in their role as a middle/senior leader in a Catholic school.

Fr. Luiz gave us all much to reflect on and Pat and Julie were so pleased that we were able to share his unique gift in interpreting Scripture to our school leaders. Please see a few of the wonderful feedback comments ...

“I attended the conference in Blackpool on Friday.  
It was superb, amazing!”



“What a fabulous day it’s been. Canon Luiz was so funny, yet so sincere and inspiring. The way he unpicked each verse in the readings to make it come to life and create deeper insight was truly brilliant.”



## Parish and Wider Community

The Archdiocese of Liverpool is providing Warm and Cosy places in some of its parish centres. Please try to advertise this for your school and the wider community. Please see further information and a list of centres by clicking the following link ...

[Warm and Cosy with the Archdiocese of Liverpool | News \(liverpoolcatholic.org.uk\)](http://liverpoolcatholic.org.uk)





**Thank you to Joanne from St. Bartholomew's for sharing a beautiful memory of a special lady from her school family ...**

*"Fr Phil came in to bless our new Mary Garden, this was in memory of Mrs Tricia Rigby, who had been a teacher at the school for many decades, a mum at our school too. She had also been active in the Parish. Her faith was amazing, and she always prayed to Our Lady, this statue was in the presbytery and she always rubbed her on her way out. Mr Rigby, her husband, son Dominic, daughter-in-law, past parents and teachers gathered to celebrate her life. Even our Head Boy met a past Head boy who is now a Grandad!"*



### **St Vincent Volunteers Supporting Marginalised People - Do you know your Food Bank from your Food Pantry?**

St Vincent's runs a food bank in partnership with [Micah Liverpool](#). People come and get a voucher for food parcels once a week. Parishioners from St Vincent's have added a café to the Food Bank, providing hot drinks and cheese toasties.

This is different from a "Food Pantry" where people become a member and pay a small fee for groceries. One example of a food pantry is [Compassion Acts](#) in Southport which give a 12-month membership to people, with a view to supporting them out of poverty, by providing debt and welfare advice.

## Congratulations to St. Gerard's Catholic Primary, Widnes

We would like to send many congratulations to St. Gerard's school for achieving this incredible award.



St. Gerard's has been acknowledged as the first school in the world to be given a 'Nurture International School'. St Gerard's Catholic Primary & Nursery School received the 'wonderful' achievement on Friday, November 4, after working hard throughout the year to make it possible.

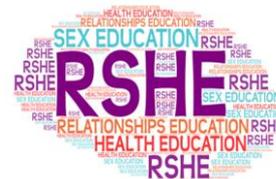
Nurture International is an organisation that believes a nurturing approach should be taken in every aspect of learning and run programmes that schools can work to achieve the honourable title. Yvonne from Nurture International said: *"It has been an absolute pleasure working with this school. Every child we had the pleasure of talking to spoke enthusiastically about how much they love learning. When coming in to assess, as soon as you come into this school, the drive, passion and commitment from teachers and support staff and high-quality learning environment are evident."*

Mrs Kent, a special educational needs and disabilities coordinator at the school gave immense passion and commitment in helping to achieve the award. St Gerard's has expressed excitement at working in partnership with Nurture International and other schools in the future, to develop a 'nurturing' community of educators. Edd, the assistant head said: *"We are incredibly proud to receive this wonderful award. Our school, as acknowledged by Ofsted in their recent visit, enables children to thrive socially, educationally and emotionally because of the commitment by our community."*



### **RSHE Reminder!**

Occasionally, we may come across a school website that may still have the older RSE policy, please replace this with the new statutory version which is downloadable from our website. The DfE is now undertaking Ofsted Inspections again and they will be looking at your RSHE policy specifically to see a) bespoke curriculum Intent b) consultation with parents c) impact



*Does the school's culture reflect the RSHE and the personal development Intent?*

*Do other school policies and practices support and uphold it? HMI Inspector 2021*

*Does the school's Mission and Ethos reflect the RSHE and personal development intent through a Catholic lens? Do all school policies and practices support and uphold it? Education Department 2022*

If you are due for a Catholic school inspection in the next academic year you will have by now attended one of our guidance days. Further advice for schools and new Inspectors will be available throughout 2023. Please contact Julie or Pat if you require any further individual support for your school.

Please also remember that we arrange advice, news and updates in our termly newsletters to help you make action plans and support your Self Evaluation Documents. If you require any further copies from past months, please contact Pat or Julie.



**Thank you to Kami from St. Michael's for sharing ideas for developing Gospel Values in school as part of their dedicated Mission and Spirituality Day.**

St Michael's staff enjoyed a reflective day renewing their Mission and then spent time discussing how the artwork they have chosen and purchased inspires their Gospel Values. The art will be displayed in school to support the children's understanding of Scripture and Gospel Values.



There are a variety of posters that may inspire Spirituality, Mission, Prayer and Liturgy. Artwork is also a great resource for Religious Education. Please find some resources available below

<https://www.mccrimmons.com/shop/posters/>

<https://www.paulineuk.org/browse/Visual-Resources/Posters>

## Mission Together

Please find regular, updated resources from Mission Together on the following link...

<https://missiontogether.org.uk/teaching-resources/>

There are new resources for your next Come and See Topic - Domestic Church and Parish Life.

A huge thank you to our teachers from the Archdiocese who are dedicating many hours to share their talents and gifts with Mission Together



### All Our Resources

Download our free resources for schools and children in England and Wales. All of our materials include scripture, prayer, and call to action, making them an ideal way to explore faith and engage children. Our free resources also cover specific areas of the RE Curriculum Directory, support global learning, Catholic Social Teaching, and provide links with other curriculum topics.

Search



#### Together in campaigns

Classroom resources focusing on our children's projects around the world.



#### Liturgical Calendar

Resources for Advent, Lent, and key feasts in the Church calendar.



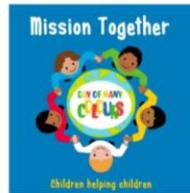
#### Resources by month

Liturgies, assemblies and more, arranged by month for easy search!



#### Prayer resources

Ways to pray with Mission Together



#### Remote-learning resources

Our downloadable activity sheets include simple tasks, quizzes, adapted scriptures and prayers.



#### Fundraising ideas

Ideas, inspiration and help for getting involved with Mission Together.



#### Order resources

Order print resources, Red Boxes, posters, prayer cards, Mission Rosaries and more.



#### Sign up for eNews

Sign up for our Newsletter for all our latest, straight to your inbox!



## Live Simply Award & Updates

Hopefully, by now all of our primary schools are setting up, planning or on their way to achieving the Live Simply Award. We aim to be the first diocese in the country where all our schools not just have the award but are living simply. The award is an opportunity for Catholic communities – parishes and schools - to respond to Pope Francis' invitation in Laudato Si' to "work with generosity and tenderness in protecting this world which God has entrusted to us".

### \* Further help and information can be found at ...

<http://www.liverpoolcatholic.org.uk/education/LiveSimply>

<https://cafod.org.uk/Campaign/LiveSimply-award/LiveSimply-Award-for-schools>

Support one another through your cluster/partner schools

Contact Pat or Julie for further support

Contact Ged or Colette at the Liverpool CAFOD Office - Mobile: 07779 804242 (Colette), 07779 804241

(Ged) Email: [liverpool@cafod.org.uk](mailto:liverpool@cafod.org.uk)

### ♥ Please send in your updates for the Spring Newsletter, we would love to hear how your school is participating

## Live Simply Website Updates

- Live Simply Primary Assembly and an animation schools may wish to use to launch/explain the Live Simply Award.
- The Live Simply action plan is also now available as a word document as well as a PDF. Once the action plan has been completed, please email it to [schools@cafod.org.uk](mailto:schools@cafod.org.uk) for your plan to be registered and you will receive a certificate of registration.
- All links and the correct forms are on the above page of the website along with other helpful resources [LiveSimply for Schools Page](#)
- Please contact Siobhan if you would like any further questions answered ...Siobhan Farnell  
LiveSimply Schools Coordinator 07740 543046

## CAFOD - Spring Term

In preparation for Lent CAFOD will be launching their latest campaign The Big Lent Walk

### **A message from CAFOD Liverpool...**

*Our volunteers would love to say thank you for any fundraising that you do for CAFOD this term. They can record a short, personalised message to play to your pupils and to share on your website/social media after your fundraising and we would be delighted to arrange this for you.*

*All our visitors are fully trained each term and DBS cleared.*

*CAFOD visits are free of charge. However, CAFOD's main source of income comes direct from the Catholic Community including donations from schools. Would you be able to fundraise for CAFOD this term or another time this year, to support CAFOD's work with the poorest communities around the world?*

*If you have any questions, please do get in touch.*

*Kind regards,*

*Justine*

*Justine Silcock, Education Volunteer Coordinator [jsilcock@cafod.org.uk](mailto:jsilcock@cafod.org.uk)*

*CAFOD in Liverpool – 07779804241 [liverpool@cafod.org.uk](mailto:liverpool@cafod.org.uk)*



### **The Unique Role of Catholic Governors**

The Christian Education Team offer training for all of our Archdiocesan schools. As a Catholic school it is important that your Governors are up to date with the latest news for Collective Worship, RSHE guidelines, Religious Education, and the Catholic Life of the school.

### **Our training involves...**

- ♥ Guardians of the Mission
- ♥ Collective Worship, Prayer & Liturgy
- ♥ Religious Education
- ♥ Catholic Life and Mission
- ♥ Catholic School Inspection

**Give a copy of the termly newsletter to your Governors to keep them updated.**





Thank you to Joanne from St. Bartholomew's for sharing their work on the Angel Starfish Project.



In 2005 four local headteachers and one health visitor attended a conference in Cape Town, South Africa. The title of the conference was "UBUNTU", this means that you can only really be a true person by working together with others...

The Mini Vinnies club at St. Bartholomew's are working with the Angel Starfish Project. The project provides education, clothing and celebrations for children in South Africa. It is only a small charity that collects

unwanted clothing and sends the money from recycling to the team in South Africa.

So far, they have built a new school, provided resources and even provided goods for a Christmas party. If other schools would like to support this amazing charity the project will come into school and deliver an assembly to share news about their charitable work.

If you would like further information, please contact <https://angelstarfish.com/about/>



### Signposting - Well-Being

Please see below signposting for St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Foodbank which may help many over the Christmas period and into the New Year.



*"The St. Vincent de Paul Society aims to support those in crisis. When you contact us to request help, we will listen to you and take your details. If we have an SVP group in your area, then members of the group will contact you to arrange to visit you. This may take a few weeks. They will seek to understand your problem and to offer you help where they can. We will aim to help you if it is within the local membership's capability. We have groups in over 1,000 locations so will usually be able to help – however we do not have total coverage of England and Wales.*

*We have strict safeguarding policies and procedures, and all visiting members must hold a DBS certificate.*

*If we are unable to help you because you require specialist advice or we do not have a group in your area we will try our best to signpost you to other organisations that can help.*

*Depending on their resources, local groups can offer help with befriending/visiting, clothing, food, furniture, debt counselling or transport. We do not normally provide financial help but this depends on the capacity of the local group.” <https://www.svp.org.uk/>*



*“No one should go hungry – we’re here to help. Food banks in our network welcome and support everyone who is referred to them, always acting with respect and without judgment. Volunteers will give a minimum of three days’ emergency food and offer support to resolve some of the difficulties you might be facing.*

*How to get a food voucher*

*In order to get help from a food bank you will need to be referred with a voucher, which can be issued by a number of local community organisations (for instance schools, GPs and advice agencies). Your local food bank can advise which agencies can help.”*

<https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/>

You can also call the free helplines and talk confidentially to a trained adviser.

### **If you live in England or Wales**

please call Help through Hardship for free to talk confidentially to a trained Citizens Advice adviser on:

**0808 208 2138**

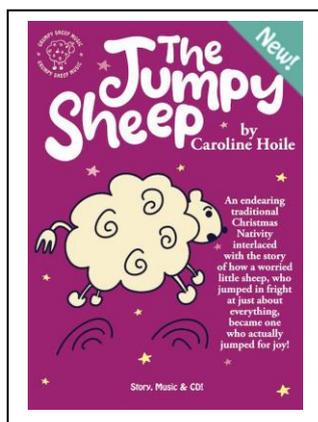
*(Open Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm. Closed on public holidays.)*

They can help address your crisis and provide support to maximise your income, help you navigate the benefits system, and identify any additional grants you could be entitled to. If needed, they’ll issue you with a voucher so you can get an emergency food parcel from your local food bank.

### **Translators and Relay UK**

## Grumpy Sheep Music

It is early to start thinking about your performances for next year, however, you might want to be organised and pop this information on your planning for next year. although, the website <https://www.grumpysheep.com/pages/about-us> also contains plays for all year round.



Based in Newcastle upon Tyne, Grumpy Sheep Music began publishing children's music in 2000. The company was created by Caroline Hoile, one of the foremost children's songwriters in the UK. Caroline has a wealth of experience behind her, both in education and as a popular, established writer and composer of musicals for young children. She is also a qualified music therapist.

Since the late 1980's, through Golden Apple productions, Caroline has had a whole range of children's musicals published. These include well-known titles such as, 'The Little Angel', 'The Gigantic Star' and the renowned 'Grumpy Sheep.'

*“Quite a few schools in your diocese (and some churches) use my nativity plays and musicals at Christmas. My new nativity musical for this Christmas is called The Jumpy Sheep, and whilst it follows the traditional nativity story, it centres around a little sheep who is very nervous and jumps in fright at just about everything - that is until she arrives at the stable in Bethlehem, and finally jumps for joy!*

*The Jumpy Sheep is for primary schools. It's joyful and uplifting - and will hopefully bring a little much-needed happiness this Christmas. All best wishes, Caroline Hoile”.*



We are excited to announce that this winter all donations to Mary's Meals will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.5 million. This means that just £15.90 will feed, not one, but two children a life-changing daily school meal for a whole school year!

Our **Double The Love** campaign runs from 1 November 2021 to 31 January 2022. We'd be delighted if you'd like to get involved in this opportunity in the run up to Christmas and January. Please do let Anna know if you would like any resources such as posters and cardboard collection boxes.

**'Raise some dough!'** Our exciting new fundraising initiative involves a mug-shaped cookie cutter, which can be used to make delicious Mary's Meals biscuits!

**“We knead you!” This launched during November 2022.**

**Could you organise a little fundraising event** such as a tea or coffee morning or a bake sale around these tasty biscuits during the Double The Love period? There are aprons and recipe books also available in the online shop, but the little cookie cutter is free of charge when used for a fundraising event. You could even use the cutter as a template to draw round for pupils to decorate and make Christmas decorations with.

**If you need any more information or a visit from Anna Houghton - Supporter Engagement Officer, Liverpool Mary's Meals UK** then please contact her direct – see details below.

t: 07934 296559 email: [anna.houghton@marysmeals.org](mailto:anna.houghton@marysmeals.org)



**Thank you to Paula at St. Mary's College for sharing projects providing exciting and creative additions to their Catholic Life and Mission.**

*"St. Mary's College Prep students all took part in an art project run by Students Rebuild to welcome young refugees to our community. The school council and fundraising group decided it would be a great idea to design the postcards with a Liverpool theme. For every postcard made, \$5 is donated by the Bezos Family Foundation to charities such as UNICEF. A group of children from the College will be joining us next week to personally hand over the postcards to the centre manager of Asylum Link who will bring a refugee in with him. We will have refreshments and the children will sing carols and Christmas songs."*

This project was then shared with the community of Edmund Rice schools through Radio Maria\*. Please follow this link where their news and projects will be shared.

<https://radiomariaengland.uk/about/programmes/life-lessons-with-edmund-rice/>

\*\*Radio Maria England is a 24hr Catholic Radio Station set up to broadcast programmes promoting and expressing the Christian Faith. It aims to support Catholics and others in their spiritual life and witness to those who wish to learn more about the Catholic Faith. It is part of the World Family of Radio Maria, formed in 1998 in response to the apparitions and messages of our Lady in Medjugorje and Fatima. Radio Maria currently has 77 radio stations across 5 continents with 500 million listeners worldwide.

Radio Maria England is a non-profit organization run by a mixture of professionals and volunteers, lay people, clergy and religious.

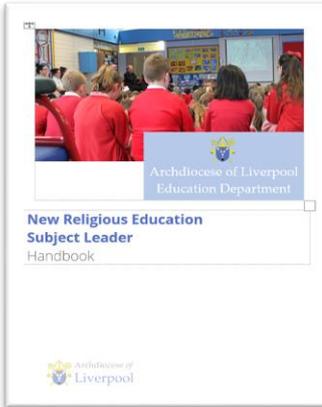


---

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

---

### Welcome our New and Recent Religious Education Subject Leaders



Thank you to our new Religious Education Coordinators who joined Pat and Julie for their first Autumn Training. Please look out for new leaders in your wider school community and invite them to your cluster groups.

\*Those new to the role will be invited to take part in 3 training sessions over the academic year. If you are a Recent leader and wish to repeat the year you are more than welcome to attend. The next meeting times will be sent out in the new Spring Term.



### EYFS

A small group of Cluster schools have sent their thoughts, views and evidence in preparation for a wider pilot for the new Religious Education Directory. Sophie from St. Anne's who has been providing Knowledge Organisers and music and Ashley from St. Aloysius have shared some wonderful work on a new Advent topic. Pat and Julie will be asking schools to take part in a wider pilot in the new year.



**Thank you to Ashley and Oonagh from St. Aloysius who have shared their work and evidence throughout an Advent topic...more news on this to come in the Spring Term.**

I think you will agree that the children are emersed in their learning!



**Formal Assessment**

Please see the highlighted formal assessment for the next academic year. The second theme for Formal Assessment will be the Sacramental Theme - Eucharist. The formal assessments will be sent out in the coming term.

Year	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Autumn	Christian Living Theme Advent/Christmas ~Loving	Church Theme Domestic Church ~Family	Sacramental Theme Baptism/Confirmation ~Belonging
Spring	Church Theme Local Church ~Community	Sacramental Theme Eucharist ~Relating	Christian Living Theme Lent/Easter ~Giving
Summer	Sacramental Theme Inter-relating ~Reconciliation	Christian Living Theme Pentecost ~Serving	Church Theme Universal Church ~World



**\*Please Note: We have a number of free John Burland CD's in our offices. First come, first served! Give Pat or Julie an email to arrange a time to pop along.**

Thank you to John who has served so many of our schools over the past few years. Please see below John's letter to our schools.

**BREAKING NEWS – NEW WEBSITE AND FAREWELL TOUR!**

*Greetings from Australia,*

*I am pleased to tell you that we now have a new website where music and lyrics from my 300 songs from the 16 music collections are now available digitally. This is – [www.johnburland.net](http://www.johnburland.net)*

*CDs and DVDs are no longer available in the UK, but all these can be downloaded for use within schools to support RE and celebration via my new website.*

*Please take a look at the website and use the tab for Digital Products to purchase any items you may be interested in. There are several new collections and a further one coming out in the next few weeks.*

*The second important piece of news is that we are looking at a farewell tour in the northern part of England during the summer term of 2023. No dates are fixed yet, but it will be sometime between returning after the Easter holidays and breaking up in July.*

*If you would be interested in having a concert at your school on this final visit of mine to the UK, please contact John David my UK Manager on 07400601143 or by email to [managerijbtour@gmail.com](mailto:managerijbtour@gmail.com) indicating your expression of interest and we can then look at possible dates with you once travel details have been finalised.*

*Blessings to you all, John Burland*

---

## PRAYER & LITURGY (COLLECTIVE WORSHIP)

---



**We gather** in silence, in song, in movement, in prayer to a focus.

**We listen** to God's Word.

**We respond** to God's word in prayer, song, listening to music, talking to God, with heartfelt responses, we may add to the focus table or be part of a dance, we might look at art etc...

**We go forth** with God's Word by doing what God has asked of us – to be kind, to share, to love, to forgive...

### Prayer and Liturgy Yearly Planning

<http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS/Calendar/Liturgical-Calendar-2022-2023.pdf>

The link above from the liturgy office are yearly calendars with all liturgical dates that you will find useful when planning for Mass, Holy Days, Collective Worship etc... The list for all years can be found at <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/SOS/index.shtml#Cal> – scroll down towards the bottom of the page.

If you or other staff members are preparing Masses or liturgies please see this link that will support <http://www.liturgyoffice.org.uk/Resources/LOWC/index.shtml>



**Thank you to Sophie from St. Annes who shared 'Golden' stories with her children in Collective Worship** for the first time to tell the story of St Anne and St Joachim for All Saints Day. Sophie shared, *'It was a beautiful experience to lead, and it was so lovely when a child in Year 2 came and hugged me at the end and said: "Thank you for telling me more about Jesus."'*

The Golden Thread or Golden stories can be used in worship or in Religious Education. It is a bespoke initiative for our primary schools in the Archdiocese, and we will be launching this further in the Spring and Summer Terms.







**“I am the Lord’s servant,” said Mary; “may it happen to me as you have said.”**

**This Christmas reflect on your image of Mary. Is she far away, a queen beyond reach, or is she a mother struggling to raise a son and understanding all of the pains and joys of human life? Try this year to strip away all the artistic interpretations – as beautiful as they are and instead focus simply on the role of ‘mother’. Like our own she is there for us every day; with love, comfort and outstretched arms.**

**Hail Mary, full of grace, shelter us too in a loving embrace. Hear our prayers and carry them to the heart of your son, Jesus.**

**Have a very happy and Holy Christmas  
With every good wish and Christmas Blessings  
to you and your family  
from Julie and Pat and everyone one on the Education Team.  
See you all in the New Year!**

