

St Francis' Catholic Primary School



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Head teacher: Ms Caroline Hostein

Ensuring for all an excellent child-centred education within a Christ centred philosophy

Dear Parents,

During the next few weeks we will be celebrating two of the Church's seasons – Advent and Christmas. Advent is a four week period of preparation for Christmas and marks the beginning of the Church's year. It is a joyful season full of waiting and expectancy as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas. Advent begins on Sunday 3rd December and between now and the end of term we will be helping the children to deepen their understanding of the importance of Jesus' birth. The children will be thinking about why God sent his son Jesus to live on earth and reflecting on the messages of Christmas.

Advent Wreaths

We are encouraging the children to make an Advent wreath at home and to bring it into school on Friday 1st December where it will be blessed in an afternoon Assembly led by Fr Reg. Please come and join us for this lovely celebration at 1.30pm in the school hall. Wreaths are traditionally circular and decorated with evergreen leaves representing God's everlasting love. There are 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle for the four Sundays of Advent and 1 white candle for Christmas day. The candles remind us that Jesus is the light of the world. The wreaths will be taken home at the end of the day and can be used during your family prayer times.

Advent Calendar/Advent Tasks

The School prayer team and the children in Year 2 have been thinking about some tasks to help us with our preparations for Christmas. During Advent, these tasks will be displayed on the fence near the school gate. Please try and set aside some time each day/week to help and encourage your child(ren) to complete the activities.

Crib / Food Bank

The Crib figures will be on display in the entrance Hall throughout December. During December we are asking the children to bring food gifts for the food bank (tinned/dried food) to place around the crib as a reminder that Christmas is a time to give to others and those who are less fortunate.

Advent Prayer Bags

The children in Years 4 and 6 will bring home the popular Advent prayer bag. The bag contains a scripture reading, a prayer and some items to make a small prayer display. The

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children will be used to setting this up from their classroom experiences and I hope you find it an enjoyable way of praying with your child.

Prayer Table Mats

All the children will be making a table mat which they will soon be bringing home. The mat contains pictures and prayers which can be said at meal times during Advent.

Christmas Jumpers

The children are invited to wear Christmas jumpers instead of their normal school jumper/cardigan on Friday 15th December (Christmas dinner day) and make a small donation to “Mary’s Meals”, a charity which provides education and school dinners for children in Malawi, Zambia and Liberia. Just £13.90 is all it takes to feed a child for a whole year and provide support for vulnerable children and their families. Our aim is to raise enough to support at least 10 children in some of the poorest communities in the world, so please be as generous as you can.

We will end our term with Mass in the school hall on Tuesday 19th December at 10am. Please come and join us for this joyful occasion as we all prepare for the wonderful celebration of Christmas to end the season of Advent. Refreshments will be served by The Friends of St Francis at the end of Mass.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

With many thanks and best wishes

Miss A Parry (RE Lead)

The circle of evergreen leaves represent God’s everlasting love.



The candles represent Jesus the light of the World. There are 3 purple candles and 1 pink candle for the four Sundays of Advent and 1 white candle for Christmas day.