

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,

To celebrate the beginning of term and to look forward to the feast of the Presentation (Candlemas), we are having a whole school Mass on FRIDAY 26th JANUARY at 10.00am in the School hall. This special Mass will take the form of a Christingle Celebration. Through the symbol of an orange, a candle, a piece of red ribbon, 4 cocktail sticks, fruits and sweets, the children will display in word, song and dance all the good God has given to us and the love Jesus has for us. Years 1 and 5 will lead the Mass and all parents and friends of the school are welcome to join us. The friends of St Francis' School will be serving refreshments afterwards.

On the day of the Christingle Celebration, please would your child bring a Christingle to school that they have made at home. The instructions are overleaf. Thank you to the Friends of St Francis who are providing the candles. At the time of writing we are awaiting delivery of these candles but your child will be given one to take home as soon as they arrive. We are asking you to provide all the other items that are needed. The Christingles will be blessed at Mass and your child will take home their Christingle at the end of the day so they can share the light of Christ with you.

Thank you in anticipation of your support and I look forward to seeing you at the special Mass on Friday 26th January.

With best wishes

Miss A Parry (RE Lead)

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How to make a Christingle

A Christingle meaning 'Christ Light' is a symbol of the Christian Faith. A Christingle is made up of an orange representing the world with a red ribbon around it representing the blood of Jesus. Fruits and sweets (eg raisins, grapes, small marshmallows) are skewered on 4 cocktail sticks which are pushed into the orange representing the fruits of the earth and the four seasons. Finally a candle is pushed into the centre of the orange representing Christ, the light of the world.

How to make a Christingle

1. Fasten a piece of red sticky tape or ribbon around the middle of the orange.
2. Cut a small cross or hole in the top of the orange and push a candle into the hole so it is wedged firmly.
3. Load four cocktail sticks with raisins, sultanas, cherries or soft sweets and insert them into the orange around the base of the candle.
4. Cut a thin slice off the bottom of the orange to form a flat base.

