**Christ Church School Newsletter**

Nurturing lifelong learners with God’s guidance

**Love Courage Honesty Faith Forgiveness**

**Autumn 2 – Plans for Advent**

Dear Parents and Carers,

During Advent we will be talking to children about the importance of getting ready, not just on the outside but also how to get ready to welcome Jesus on the inside. We will be looking at how to prepare our hearts and minds and think about what a precious gift God gave us that first Christmas day. Through living out our values each day and asking Jesus into our lives we can find peace and strength to face all the challenges ahead.

When faced with such uncertainty this year, we can get **courage** from the Christmas story and all it holds. We can listen to the words of the angels,

*But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”*

*Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,*

*‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.’*

*Luke 2:10, 14*

We will focus this Advent on the joys we get from **giving**, not just receiving and consider how we can show **love** to others within our community and beyond.

**Christmas Cards**

Each class will have a box where the children can post cards to their friends from their own and other classes. The cards will need to be clearly labelled with the child’s name, year group and class. The deadline for posting cards in the class boxes will be **Friday 11th December**, which will give time for the envelopes to be made ‘COVID safe’ and then they can be sorted and handed out before the end of term. We would also ask the children to stick the envelopes down with glue, sellotape or a sticker.

**Christmas uniform accessory day**

On **Friday 18th December**, the children will be allowed to wear a Christmas accessory. This can be a hat, badge, gloves, jumper etc.  We are suggesting a donation of £1 to support the African Revival – ‘Just a desk Campaign’, helping to give African children equal access to quality education.  This was the charity that we raised money for last year at the Christmas fayre and we would really like to donate again this year.

**Purley Food Hub Donation**

The Christmas message we get from the Bible encourages us to know that there is always something you can do to make this world a better place. A small act of kindness can light up the world to the person receiving it, give hope and help them to have **Faith** that things will get better. Knowing this, the children can be just as excited and happy about giving something, as they are receiving it.

We are inviting children from every class to be part of a…

**“Reverse Advent Kindness Calendar”**

In a normal Advent calendar, every day in the run up to Christmas, we **take out** a chocolate. In our reverse calendar, each class will have an empty hamper and will **put in** something every day and by the Christmas holidays they will end up with a full hamper ready to be given away to those in need.

If you would like to take part, please could your children bring one "long lasting" food or toiletry item (see suggestions on the attached flier). The collected items will go to the Purley Food Hub in time for Christmas! To make it run smoothly, you might like to try and bring the item at the beginning of the week as shown below; if your surname starts with:

A-G 30th November

H-M 7th December

N-2 14th December

**All items will be gratefully received even if brought in at a different time.**

**Reception Class Christmas Reflections**

Mrs Lyne will be joining the Reception classes for their Christmas reflections on the Wednesday 9th December. Due to Covid restrictions it will not be possible to invite parents and carers to be part of this year’s event. However this will be recorded and posted onto Seesaw so the children can share this with you at home.

Children may come dressed as someone from the Christmas story if they wish to. The costumes do not have to be elaborate at all - tea towels for shepherd's head dresses are fine. Children might like to be an animal from the stable and any numbers of Mary, Joseph, kings are welcome! It is important that the children can move in their costume since they will need to walk around.

**Year 2 Nativity and Year 3 Christmas Service**

Both these events will be a little different this year but we hope we can still spread a little Christmas joy and share the good news of Jesus’ birth. Year 2 are preparing for their Nativity play learning songs and practising scenes. This will be recorded and shared with the rest of our school and Year 2 parents will be able to view this on Seesaw.

Year 1 are also learning the Nativity songs for the Year 2 play and are enjoying sharing the story in their music lessons.

Year 3 will be focusing on telling the Christmas Story through the meanings and symbols of the Christmas tree and decorations.  This will also include preparing some songs, prayers, poems and reflections. Again this will be shared with the other classes in our school and Year 3 parents will be able to view this on Seesaw.

**Diary Dates**

Wed Dec 2nd Bikeability for 4G and 4S

Fri Dec 4th Bikeability for 3F and 3O

Mon Dec 7th New to Reception 2021 parents Evening via Zoom 7pm

Wed Dec 9th Reception Christmas reflection

Thu Dec 10th Year 3 Roman Day

**Fri Dec 18th School closes 1.30pm**

**Wed Jan 6th School opens for pupils (staggered Bubble time drop offs)**