

ADVENT at St Laurence Primary School

Despite the global pandemic, children at St Laurence will still have the opportunity to learn about, and reflect upon, this season of waiting and preparation in a number of ways. Here is an overview of how the children will be getting ready for Christmas and how families can support the preparations.

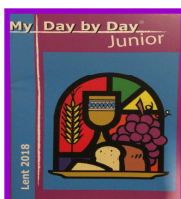
During the season of Advent, **classroom altars** will be decorated with purple cloth for the period of four Sundays and weeks before Christmas. Advent means '**coming**' in Latin. This is the preparation for the coming of Jesus into the world. The altars are a focal points for prayer, collective worship and RE lessons, when children will explore the journey we take during the Advent season .

Each class altar has its wreath, one of the most recognisable symbols of Advent.



The candles that the classes light as we move through the weeks of Advent each represent the themes of hope, peace, joy and love. The white candle in the centre of the wreath will only be lit on Christmas day as it represents Christ, the light of the world.

In the lead up to Christmas, the children will be taking home special 'Day by Day' booklets which have been donated to the school from the Parish. These are to share with their families and include readings, reflections, thoughts and prayers for the Advent season.



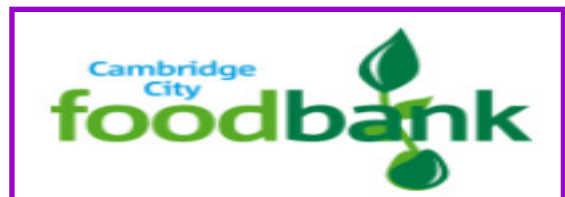
Also attached to this newsletter is an Advent Calendar from Mission Together to support families during Advent.

Bishop Alan wishes to give a message of support to the children, parents and staff as we start the season of Advent. Please find below the link to his message below

<https://youtu.be/DK26FvvH2fE>.



We will continue to collect donations for our local Food bank providers. Currently they are in need of: Bags for Life, Rice Pudding, Instant Coffee, Tins of Tuna and Salmon, Olive Oil, Chocolate Yule Log, Long-Life Juice, Large Canned Ham, Tinned Vegetables, Soap, Anti Bac hand gel and Laundry Powder



On the morning of the 20th November, years 5 and 6 gathered together for an

Advent Reconciliation

Service led by Father Simon.

The children and staff had the opportunity to reconcile and reflect together.





Christmas Productions
Our **Robins and Wrens** will be performing "The Innkeeper's Breakfast" as their Nativity this year.

This is followed by our **Skylarks, Nightingales and Kingfisher's** Nativity "Light's Camel Action 2"



Both of the performances will be recorded by Mr Woodford on behalf of the PTA and will be available for purchase. Thank you to all the parents for their support when providing costumes.



Although we are unable to have our usual Carol Service this year, we are able to have a "Bubble" Mass for each year group before the end of term.



St John's Church at Orchard Park have organised a Advent Challenge! You can Work together with your family to find 24 clues around Orchard Park
A new clue will appear on each day of advent (1st-24th December). Read a small part of the Bible's Christmas story each day and use the clues to complete the puzzle!

All correct entries will receive a Christmas Bible story book and festive gift!

The entry form is attached to this newsletter.

Christmas Craft Day

Our annual school **Christmas Craft Activities Day** will be taking place on **Wednesday 16th December**. All children will be enjoying the arts and crafts day . This is also our **Christmas Jumper Day**, which adds to the festivities!



Posada

Travelling around our school are the figures of Mary and Joseph. Each class will host the Holy Family during Advent and there will be a focus of prayers and thoughts for families, those who travel, refugees and Hope.



A **Christingle** is a symbolic object used in the Advent services of many Christian denominations. **Christingle**, from a word of German origin, Christkindl, meaning 'Little Christ Child', is used to celebrate Jesus Christ as the "Light of the World. Ely Cathedral is hosting a Virtual Christingle on the 14th December at 1.30pm and you will be available to watch afterwards on their YouTube channel www.youtube.com/c/ElyCathedralCambridge





Orchard Park Advent Challenge!

Work together with your family to find 24 clues around Orchard Park

A new clue will appear on each day of advent (1st-24th December)

Read a small part of the Bible's Christmas story each day

Use the clues to complete the puzzle overleaf

Submit this form to 3 Iceni Way, CB4 2NZ by 5th January

All correct entries will receive a Christmas Bible story book and festive gift

Complete each clue day by day, do it all in one go, or at the weekends in stages!

The first clue will be tied to OP Primary School railings on 1st December

Each clue will tell you where the next clue can be found

Children should be accompanied by adults, and please follow the latest Covid 19 regulations at all times to keep our community safe

Your Name:

Number of people in your family taking part:

Ages of children taking part:

Address:

**(Address needed if you would like to receive your Christmas gift –
the data contained on this form will not be stored)**

SPARE FORMS CAN BE FOUND ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE:

www.stjohnsorcharpark.org

Stuck, or want to ask a question?

Email: adventchallenge@stjohnsorcharpark.org

Orchard Park Advent Challenge

Each day's clue will give you a different letter. Write the letter in the correct box below.

On Day 1, December 1st, write your letter in Box 1, and so on.

Can you find out how the Bible describes the gift of the baby Jesus at Christmas?

6	22a	12	4
23	1	8	10

15	5	24	11	21
16	18	22b		

14	13	2			
3	17	19	7	9	20


Finally... the clue for 24th December will give you one final piece of the puzzle to write here....

.....

.....

.....

Mission Together Advent Calendar 2020 **missio**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Advent The waiting for Jesus' birth has begun. Pray to be patient this week. Mark 13:33-37. *  29	The birth of Jesus brings hope. Create a Star of Hope* to show how you can bring hope to others.  30	Find out about the Advent wreath and what it means.  1	Make an Advent promise to raise money for Mission Together. Start collecting today!  2	Find three countries where St Francis Xavier went to tell people about Jesus.  3	Say the Mission Together Prayer: May all children in the world, share love, share friendship and live in the peace of God's love. Now and forever. Amen. 4	Make a Christmas Stocking and get ready to fill it with gifts of kindness! *  5
2nd Sunday of Advent How will you bring God's peace to your family today? Mark 1:1-8. *  6	Make a Peace Paper Chain and think about how you can be a peace-maker this week. *  7	Jesus helps people to find peace. Say the Mission Together Prayer today for children living in war zones.  8	Reach out to someone who is lonely. How can you show friendship?  9	Write a prayer poem for peace in the world. Share it with your family and friends.  10	Say sorry to someone you may have upset this week. Or forgive someone who has upset you.  11	Make a Christmas crib using recycled materials. Put it on display.  12
3rd Sunday of Advent Why is the Advent candle we light today pink? John 1:6-8. 19-28. *  13	Pray for all children who are upset, sad or lonely.  14	Think about how you can spread joy this week. What would make someone else happy?  15	Make a Joyful Angel and think about how you can share the message of God's love today. *  16	Find a quiet place to think about anything you have said or done for which you are sorry. Pray for God's forgiveness.  17	Find a way to help at home today to prepare for Christmas.  18	Make and deliver a special Christmas card for an elderly relative or neighbour. *  19
4th Sunday of Advent How will you bring God's love into the world this Christmas? Luke 1: 26-38. *  20	Create a Gift for the World and think about the help you can give. *  21	Imagine you are Mary or Joseph waiting for Jesus. Write a poem about how you feel.  22	Sing your favourite carol. Think about the words. Tell someone what they mean.  23	Say a prayer for those people who are far from their families this Christmas.  24	Jesus is born! Happy Christmas! Remember to thank God for the birth of Jesus and all the special things you have today: family, friends and love.  25	

© Mission Together

Asterisks refer to Christmas craft activities and Sunday Gospel activity sheets, available to download: missiontogether.org.uk/advent
 Mission Together, 23 Eccleston Square, London, SW1V 1NU. Tel: 020 7821 9755. Web: missiontogether.org.uk. Email: missiontogether@missio.org.uk. Reg. Charity No. 1056651

