



St Hugh of Lincoln RC Primary School

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Monday 4th December 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We would like to thank you for all your support yesterday at the Christmas Fair, it certainly is beginning to feel like Christmas at school. It was a fantastic turnout and very successful. It was great to see our community come together and support the school and parish. A huge thank you for the PTA who helped organise stalls and raffle prizes. It really is appreciated.

EYFS/KS1 Nativities/KS2 Carol Service Dates

The Nativities will take place in Church on the following days:

*EYFS – Tuesday 12th December at 2pm
Wednesday 13th December at 10am*

*KS1 – Wednesday 13th December at 2pm
Thursday 14th December at 10am*

The Carol Service takes place in the Church

KS2 – Monday 18th December at 2:15pm

Christmas Dinners

Christmas Dinner Day is on Wednesday 20th December. This is for children who are on school dinners only.

Mince Pie and a Sing Song

We are inviting grandparents and parishioners in our community to come in to school for a mince pie and a tea/coffee on the 15th December at 2:15pm. You will be treated to carol singing by the school choir.



Parking

Thank you for your co-operation with the parking issues before and after school. We do feel that this has improved however we were made aware of a member of our parish being upset after asking a parent to move their car as it was parked on the pavement outside the church. Please can we ask you to be mindful. Thank you

Collective Worship

Please find Collective Worship for December attached.

In addition, we would like to remind parents/carers of children in Year 6 to complete the RHE survey as soon as possible. If you do not respond we will assume that you are happy for your child to take part in the sessions outlined in the survey.

Year 4 Parents/Carers have been sent information regarding RHE. Please speak to the teacher or email the school if you do not want your child to take part in the session about Death and Grief. Please find information attached below.

Reminders

Year 5 Class Mass – Tuesday 5th December at 9:30am

Year 4/5 Class Mass- Tuesday 12th December at 9:30am

Have a lovely week

Mrs Atherton and Mr Smith

December 2023

This year, the season of Advent falls wholly in the month of December. It's a time of busyness at home and at school with plenty to enjoy; nativity plays and carol services, lights and decorations, plans to visit friends and family... It can sometimes be easy amongst all the fun and excitement to forget what Advent is really about - a time to pause, reflect, and get ready to welcome Jesus into our hearts.

This newsletter shares a glimpse of some of the prayer and liturgy resources that children will experience at school during this month. We hope you find this resource to be a useful addition to your family prayer time.

Last year we released the Jesse Tree resource which is a bit like an Advent calendar and based on the Advent tradition of spiritual preparation through tracing Jesus' ancestry. This beautiful resource will once again be made available for families to use at home, and we hope that parents will take the opportunity to share children's excitement in discovering the daily stories about Jesus' family tree. You can access The Jesse Tree through the Parent Portal.

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

A Year of Prayer

In the Bible, Jubilee years were held every 50 years, but the Church now celebrates them every 25 years. This means that there's another one coming up in 2025. It's a big deal, and Pope Francis wants us to spend a year preparing for the Jubilee, starting in Advent 2023 - starting *now*. He has called this period of preparation, a Year of Prayer. Watch how Ten Ten Resources is helping schools to prepare!

<https://www.tentenresources.co.uk/parent-portal/>

December Assemblies in brief

This Advent our Assemblies are part of a series entitled 'Witness to the Light'. This weekly journey of preparation will encourage children to get themselves ready to respond, share and worship. You will find links below to where you can read the Gospels and some prompt questions that you might like to explore further with your child/ren.

Witness to the Light: Ready to Respond

w/c 4th December

Every year we know that we celebrate Jesus' birthday on 25th December, but we don't know when He will come again so, like Mary, we must always have ready hearts for Jesus! This, the first of the Advent assemblies, explores Mary's witness to the light and encourages children to follow her example.

Mark 13:33-37

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+13%3A33-37&version=NRSVACE>

- The Gospel tells us to 'stay awake' and make sure we are ready. In this assembly, children learn that just as Mary said 'Yes' to God, we too are called to be open to God in our hearts and respond through our words and actions.
- You might wish to make a family 'reverse Advent calendar' that could be used throughout Advent with weekly challenges. This week's focus could be thinking of ways we can respond to God by showing kindness and care for others. Children could record examples of sharing each day.

Witness to the Light: Ready to Share

w/c 11th December

John the Baptist prepares the way for Jesus and announces that Jesus is more powerful. Advent is a time for getting ready for us to prepare the way for Jesus. Will we be ready to announce His arrival, like the angels on Christmas Day?

Mark 1:1-8

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+1%3A1-8&version=NRSVACE>

- In the Gospel, John the Baptist invited people to confess their sins and start again, ready to welcome Jesus. If you have a child in KS2, this might be a good opportunity to talk about the Sacrament of Reconciliation and perhaps make plans to receive the Sacrament during Advent.
- If you are using the 'reverse Advent calendar' idea, the challenge for this week could be practical ways of sharing God's message of peace and forgiveness by thinking carefully about our words and actions and making a special effort to get along with each other. Children could record examples of sharing peace each day.

Witness to the Light: Ready to Worship

w/c 18th December

John the Baptist is an important witness who helps others to believe that Jesus is the long-awaited Christ. Will you be ready to believe, and worship Jesus this Christmas like the shepherds and the kings?

John 1:6-8,19-28

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+1%3A6-8%2C19-28&version=NRSVACE>

- In his Gospel, John describes John the Baptist as a witness to the light, sent by God so that through him everyone will believe. We can trust John and other witnesses from the Bible because they saw Jesus and knew Him. You might want to ask your child(ren) to talk about what they know and believe about Jesus and who they trust to help them learn about their faith.
- Ask your child(ren) to recall some names and titles of Jesus that tell us more about Him e.g. *Son of God, Saviour of the World*.

- Our focus this week is worship. If you are using the 'reverse Advent calendar' idea, perhaps as a family, you could sing along with some favourite carols or encourage your child(ren) to think about other ways they can praise and worship God. Children could record some of the many reasons to praise and worship Jesus.

Prayer

During Advent, as we prepare to welcome Jesus, family time is special. Our daily prayers throughout this time of preparation are inspired by the Holy Family – Mary, Joseph and Jesus. Each week children will focus on one of the family members, who will guide and inspire our prayers.

Perhaps you would like to include this prayer within your family prayer time.

Father God
Thank you for sending us the Holy Family
to show us how to know and share Your love.
Help me to be like Mary – ready to say 'Yes!' to you God.
Help me to be like Joseph – kind, obedient and full of courage.
Jesus, guide me to follow in your loving ways.
Amen.

Letter for PARENTS

You can use the following text, which gives some more information about this Life to the Full resource, to copy and paste to your school's letterhead. It is fully editable if you want to add more details.

Dear Parents and Carers,

Life to the Full – Session about Death and Grief

As part of your child's RE and RHE learning, we will be completing a lesson on _____ which introduces children to the topics of death and grief in a sensitive, age-appropriate way from a Catholic faith perspective.

In the session, your child will learn:

- What 'death' means
- About some feelings often connected with grief
- What the Christian faith says about death and eternal life
- Some ways to support themselves and others when they are grieving.

The most important way you can support your child's learning is to be willing to have open, honest conversations about death and perhaps share your own experiences of death and grief if you feel able to.

You may like to pray with your child and as well as praying the following traditional prayer for those who have died, you might like to name any family and friends who have died and ask that they would rest in peace.

Prayer for Those Who Have Died

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.
Amen

If you have any queries about the lesson, don't hesitate to get in touch with your child's class teacher.