



St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Newsletter

May Christ Be Seen In Us

December 2023

The Season of Advent

Children are now preparing for the season of Advent in school. *Advent* is an important part of the Christian calendar; it is the period leading up to Christmas.

Advent starts on the Sunday nearest to 30 November (3rd December) four weekends before Christmas.

The word 'advent' means 'coming', and Christians reflect on the sacred meaning of Christmas. Despite the secular preparations taking place, e.g., buying presents and going to parties, Advent reminds Christians to remember and prepare for the birth of Jesus. Purple is the usual *liturgical colour* used during Advent in the UK. The colour is often used for hangings around the church and our sacred spaces in school. Some churches have an *Advent wreath* with five candles, one for each of the four Sundays leading up to *Christmas Day* and one for Christmas Day itself. There are different readings on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day.



Christmas Post box

There will be a post box in the Reception area near the front desk where the children can post their Christmas Cards to each other. Please ensure child names and class names are displayed clearly on the envelope.

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 8th December

Children are invited to wear a Christmas Jumper on the 8th December. 50p suggested donation. All donations will go to Save The Children. It is a non uniform day and the Christmas jumper is optional.



Save the Children
CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Raffle Prize Donations

Raffle tickets will be available to purchase at the Christmas Plays (cash only)

If any would like to donate prizes to the raffle, all donations will be greatly appreciated. Please drop any donations into the school office.

Catholic Social Teaching principle - Preferential Option for the Poor

Year 2 have been working hard to come up with ideas for how they can live out the Catholic Social Teaching principle - Preferential Option for the Poor.

The children have decided that they would like to help asylum seekers this winter. Therefore, we are kindly asking for donations of winter coats and warm clothing such as woolly hats, scarves and gloves. Please do not buy anything new: we simply want donations of any items you no longer wear. Please drop any donations into school.

Thank you for all of your continued support.



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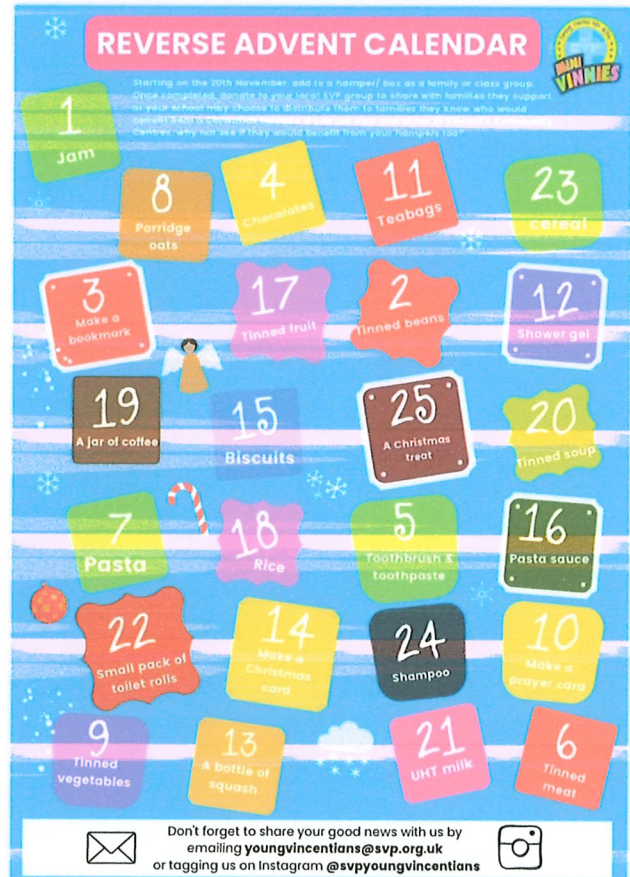
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Whole School Mass – Friday 15th December

The Children will be attending whole school Mass on Friday 15th December at 9.15am. There will be refreshments in the Church hall after mass with some Christmas entertainment from our choir and our pupils who play the violin.

Reverse Advent Calendar

Our Mini Vinnies group are turning concern into action this Advent by organising a reverse Advent Calendar project. Each class will be given a hamper, and asked to add items to the hamper during Advent. Please don't feel obliged to donate, but if you are in a position to 'help us to help others' we would really appreciate any donations of items from the calendar poster, then by working together we can support those in need in our local area. If you know of a family or household who might benefit from one of our hampers, please send their name and address in to school C/O Mini Vinnies Advent Appeal. We will do our best to support.



Here is a reminder of some dates for Christmas:

- Monday 4th December- Nursery play to parents at 2pm
- Tuesday 5th December- Reception play to parents at 2pm
- Thursday 7th December- Infant play to parents at 2pm and 5pm
- Friday 8th December- Rocksteady Concert to parents at 9:15
- Friday 8th December- Nursery and Reception Christmas Party
- Monday 11th December- KS1 Christmas Party
- Tuesday 12th December- Lower Junior play at 2pm and 5pm
- Wednesday 13th December- Nursery Stay and Play
- Thursday 14th December- Upper Junior Pantomime at 2pm and 5pm
- Friday 15th December- Lower Junior Christmas Party
- Monday 18th December- Upper Junior Christmas Party

More information about the Christmas Parties will be sent out by individual Key Stages closer to the time. For the Nursery and Reception plays, no tickets will be allocated. For all other school plays, two tickets per performance will be allocated. If any tickets are not needed, please can these be returned to the school office and these will become available on a first come first serve basis.