



Dear Parents,

Christmas is almost here! Christmas is always a time of joy and celebration in our Catholic faith, as Christians all around the world begin to prepare themselves for the coming of Christ.

In school, we have been lighting our Advent wreath and talking about how we prepare for the coming of Christ. The candles of Hope, Love, Joy and Peace remind us of all that is special about this time of year. The retelling of the nativity story, that is at the heart of our faith, is an obvious part of our preparations. We have been speaking to the children about how this message is relevant in our daily lives now. The kindness of the innkeeper, the gathering of family and friends and the gifts that are given, are all small parts of a wider message of love and hope that we share. Christmas is a time to welcome the light that Jesus brings and to wonder in the everlasting love that God has for us.

This month we will be studying the themes of Advent and Christmas.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - LOVING

(11th Nov – 6th Dec)

Early Years	<u>BIRTHDAY</u> - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Year 1	<u>WAITING</u> - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Year 2	<u>PREPARATIONS</u> - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
Year 3	<u>VISITORS</u> - waiting for the coming of Jesus
Year 4	<u>GIFT</u> - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
Year 5	<u>HOPE</u> - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one
Year 6	<u>EXPECTATIONS</u> - Jesus born to show God to the world

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.
Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.
Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.

Pupils Advent Prayers

Dear Christ

God of light and hope,

You guide us in a time of waiting.

A star in the sky shining, celebrating the gladness of our Saviour.

We have four weeks of Hope, Peace, Joy and love ahead,

Before we see your light upon the world,

Before we see the gift of Christ.

We serve your kingdom,

While we wait in anticipation for Christ to come.

One God forever and ever

Amen

Alva Year 4



Dear Heavenly Father

It is dark outside, but there is a star in the sky.

We light a candle to welcome your son,
as we prepare for the coming of Our Lord.

It is not about presents, it's about celebrating
the gift God gives to us.

We remember that we are waiting for you,
We count down the days as we count our
blessings.

Let Hope, Peace, Joy and Love dwell within
us this Advent Season.

Amen

Yolanda Year 4

2019/2020 Chaplaincy Team



Chaplaincy Team Commissioning 2019

Last Friday the Chaplaincy Team joined the parishioners of St Chad's Church, for morning mass. It was a lovely opportunity to share our faith with the parish. During the mass, Fr Bartholomew gave the children a beautiful blessing and commissioned them in their ministry at St Chad's School.

The roles of our Chaplaincy team include the following:

- To help the school to be a community of faith.
- To encourage the pupils to live their faith in daily living.
- To develop good relationships within and beyond the school community.
- To support Liturgy, prayer and the spiritual life of the school.
- To involve pupils in fundraising for charities.
- To continue to develop strong links with the Parish and community.
- To support the school in its Vision and Mission Statement.



The Chaplaincy Team taking the Harvest Gifts to the Trussell Trust Food Bank.

Special Times This Term

December

- 10th** Human Rights Day
- 11th** 2:00 KS1 Christmas Play
- 13th** 9:30 KS1 Christmas Play
- 18th** 6:00pm Yr3 and 4 Carol Concert at St Chad's Church
- 25th** The Nativity of the Lord

The Chaplaincy group have chosen to make St Chad's School part of the CAFOD



Livesimply campaign. The campaign encourages people to live:

- Simply
- In solidarity with people in poverty
- Sustainably with creation

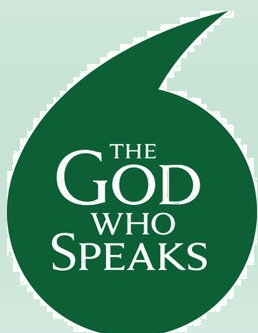
One way you can help and support the campaign this Christmas is to buy recyclable wrapping paper and cards.

More information available at cafod.org.uk

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have designated 2020 as '**The God Who Speaks': A Year of the Word** to celebrate the 10th anniversary of *Verbum Domini* - Pope Benedict XVI's Apostolic Exhortation on 'The Word of the Lord', and the 1600th anniversary of death of St Jerome, who translated the Bible into Latin.

Therefore, 2020 will be a year of celebrating, living and sharing God's word.

The God who Speaks Prayer



Living God,
you walk alongside us
and speak to us throughout the Scriptures.
Your Son, Jesus Christ, listens to our hopes and fears
and shows us how to live for one another.
Send us the Holy Spirit to open our hearts and minds
so that we may be your witnesses throughout the world.

Amen