

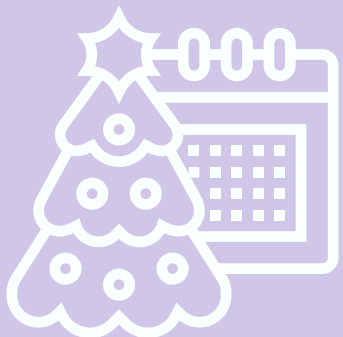
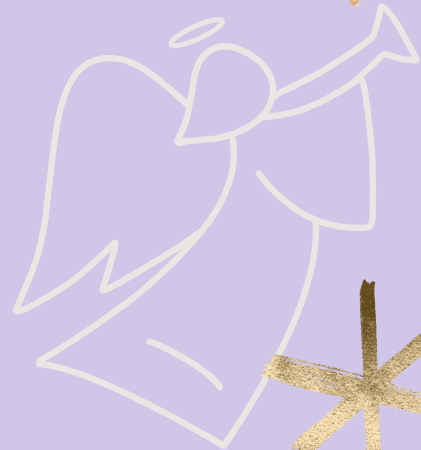
ADVENT APPEAL 2023



WORD OF THE WEEK

Isaiah 40: 3-5

**"A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a path for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken."**



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

Jesus, as we prepare to welcome you again this Christmas, speak your words into our hearts and lives, that by our preparation for your birth, we might proclaim what still needs to be made ready if our world is to become more like your Kingdom. Soften our hearts, calm our fears, and give us courage to proclaim your coming into our broken world. Amen.

FAITH IN ACTION ADVENT CALENDARS

Our wonderful Faith in Action team have created a Faith in Action advent calendar for each form group. Each day a different member of the form is invited to take a slip of paper and complete the task.

ADVENT: BE PREPARED

We hear in this weeks word of the week that preparation is needed before we welcome the arrival of Jesus. We prepare for Christmas in lots of different ways. How many ways can you think of?

As you can tell Advent is a busy season of preparation, we have decorations to put up, Christmas presents to buy, Christmas concerts to be involved in, Advent can end up feeling busy, rushed and hectic. But the most important preparation we can do for Christmas is the preparation of our hearts. During advent we are invited, as Christians, to make time to prepare our hearts for the coming of Jesus. But how do we do this...?

I think we can do this in two ways, firstly making time to pray. Prayer is really important during Advent, it is time to pause from the busyness of other preparations and remember the true meaning of Christmas. Prayer also helps us to get to know God better, helping us to understand better the person we welcome at Christmas time, and how important Jesus' coming is to our lives today. The second way in which we prepare our hearts is by reaching out to others in love and charity. And this week, like every year, we launch our Advent Appeal. This appeal runs right through our Advent season in school and encourages us to think of those that need our love and support at this time of year, so they too can celebrate the coming of Jesus. Take a moment to think about and pray for those who might struggle to celebrate Christmas. Who do we need to think and pray about this year?

This week's word of the week speaks of making straight the path for God-
What paths have to be made straight in our lives in order to welcome Jesus?
How can you get yourselves ready to welcome him?

Well Advent is a time of hope, joy, peace and love but we can only really experience these if we are open to experiencing them. That means letting go of the things that might be stopping us feeling hopeful, joyful, peaceful and the love of others. Letting go of any worries, troubles or anything that is bothering us.

If we have fallen out with someone, Advent is a great time for making up and offering friendship.
If we have done something wrong, made a mistake, Advent is a perfect time to say sorry.

Take a moment of quiet now to think about those things that are bothering you at this moment. How can you make them better so you can prepare for a Christmas full of hope, peace, joy and love?

PEACE
LOVE
& JOY

Empty your pockets or bag or pencil case and sort everything into these piles-
things I want, things I need, things I don't need.

We carry with us so much that we don't need, not just physically but in our minds and hearts too. We carry jealousy, we carry hate, we carry sadness. What else can you get rid of from your life this Advent to make room for Jesus?



COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS
(CLICK HERE)

PREPARE HIM ROOM
(CLICK HERE)

NOT JUST A BABY
A CHRISTMAS SPOKEN WORD
(CLICK HERE)



"At Christmas when Christ comes, will he find a warm heart? mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern."

ADVENT APPEAL 2023

For our Advent Appeal this year we are helping to support our local Churches Together Foodbank. This is a foodbank that supports local families to make sure they have the food they need to enjoy Christmas. Each year group has been assigned a different group of items that are needed by the foodbank this year. We would like every form group to bring in as many of these items as possible before Monday 18th December so that the foodbank can make sure that everyone in our local community has what they need to enjoy and celebrate Christmas.

Year 7: Toiletries.

Year 8: Tinned meat products.

Year 9: Tinned fruit and vegetables.

Year 10: Pasta, rice, pasta sauces, curry sauces.

Year 11: Christmas Chocolate and Treats.

Think for a moment about what you take for granted over Christmas. Is your house warm and cosy? Do you enjoy lots of lovely food and treats? Do you receive lots of gifts from friends and family?

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Jesus' coming and a perfect way to do this is through acts of love and charity. Not only are we helping to create a world that Jesus would be proud to enter, we are preparing our hearts by reminding ourselves how lucky we are to have what we have and that everyone should be able to celebrate Christmas in a special way.