

Merry Christmas

Advent is incredibly important. The children need to know that we are entering a period expectant waiting and of preparation. Yes, it is a very exciting time and the children will be looking forward to all the festivities, but they also need to know the real meaning of Christmas. We are preparing for the birth of baby Jesus. This is why we decorate our homes and school, and prepare ourselves for this special day.

Advent Preparation Day: Friday 25th November:

On this day the children will spend the time preparing for the start of Advent.

Activities on this day may include:

- Making Christmas decorations to prepare the classrooms
- Class and individual Advent Calendars
- Writing Advent Prayers



As always, the Friends of St Winifred's have sourced donations of Christmas Trees for our school hall and reception area.

Posada- Travelling Crib:

Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from home to home asking for a room for a night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib.

Modern day Posadas use nativity figures of Mary, Joseph and the Donkey, who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home, worshipping and reaching out to families with the real message of Christmas.

Every day, a child in each class will be chosen to 'host' Mary and Joseph. That evening, the children will take home the Posada bag and they can choose what activities to do with them.

The Posada Bag includes:

- Figures of Mary, Joseph and the donkey
- A Story book of the Nativity
- A Class Posada reflection book
- Laminated information sheets / suggested activities



In this Class reflection book the children need to record their experience, it may be that they choose to write a diary entry, re-tell the nativity story, write a prayer/ reflection and/or draw a picture. The children may even wish to include photographs of themselves with the figurines.

The next morning the children return the Posada bag to school so that their experience can be shared with the class and passed on to the next family.

Christmas Performances

We are delighted to be able to publish the dates for our Christmas Nativities and Carol Service.

Nativities

Phase	Date and Time	Location
Early Years (Nursery & Reception)	Tuesday 29th November at 2pm Wednesday 30th November at 10am	Main Hall
Key Stage 1 (Years 1 & 2)	Tuesday 6th December at 2pm Wednesday 7th December at 2pm	Main Hall
Lower Key Stage 2 (Years 3 & 4)	Monday 12th December at 2pm Tuesday 13th December at 2pm	Main Hall

We look forward to welcoming you into school to watch the nativities. Each child may have two adults attend their performance (2 tickets per child). If you would like more, we will place you on a waiting list and issue additional tickets nearer the time if available.



Carol Service

Upper Key Stage 2 (Years 5 & 6)	Wednesday 14 th December at 6pm	Our Lady of Lourdes Church
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Children's Christmas Lunch: Friday 9th December

On Friday 9th of December, the children will be having their traditional Christmas lunch. Children who are usually packed lunch can opt to have a Christmas lunch on this day. A letter will be sent nearer the time.

Christmas Jumper Day: Friday 9th December

The children will be invited on this day to come to school in a Christmas Jumper. School uniform is still expected on this day, the children are just swapping the school jumper for the Christmas Jumper. On this day we ask for a £1 donation, which we will be donating to the Jimmy Mizen Foundation.



Christmas Fair: Thursday 15th December

The Friends of St Winifred's Christmas Fair will be held on the 15th December straight after school pick up from 3-5.30pm.

There will be Christmas cheer, music, games, festive drinks (for adults and children!), cakes, competitions and carols!

I have been informed that despite being very busy at this time of year, there may be a special visitor visiting our fair! We look forward to his very special visit!

Last Day of Term: 16th December

- Whole School Christmas Mass: 16th December 9:30am
 - *The whole school will celebrate Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.*
- Class Christmas Party:
 - *A food list will be created, which will then be shared with distributed with parents/carers nearer the time.*
 - *The children may come to school in their own clothes.*

Key Dates for the Diary

Posada Travelling Crib – Throughout Advent

25 th November	School Advent Preparation Day Year 6 – Unicorn Theatre - Pinocchio
27th November	1st Sunday of Advent
29 th November	Year 3 – Unicorn Theatre - Pinocchio Early Years Nativity: 2pm
30 th November	Early Years Nativity: 10am
1 st December	Year 5 – Unicorn Theatre - Pinocchio
2 nd December	Panto – Aladdin- Nursery, Reception and KS1 – 1pm
4th December	2nd Sunday of Advent
6 th December	KS1 Nativity: 2pm
7 th December	KS1 Nativity: 2pm
9 th December	Christmas Jumper Day - £1 Donation Children's Christmas Lunch
11th December	3rd Sunday of Advent
12 th December	Lower KS2 Nativity: 2pm
13 th December	Lower KS2 Nativity: 2pm
14 th December	Year 4 – Unicorn Theatre - Pinocchio Upper KS2 Carol Concert at Our Lady of Lourdes at 6pm
15 th December	Golden Achievers Certificate Assembly Christmas Fair 3pm-5:30pm
16 th December	Own Clothes Day Whole School Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes Class Christmas Parties End of Term 3pm
17th December	Parish Carol Concert: School Choir singing after the 6:30pm Mass

