



5th December 2017,

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we are now at the beginning of December I would like to inform you of our arrangements for our Christmas celebrations this year. As a school with a strong Christian tradition we will be preparing for Christmas by observing the season of **Advent**.

This begins on the first of December and ends on Christmas Eve. Many Christian churches light a candle on a special wreath on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. In our school the KS2 children will come straight into the Junior Hall at 8:50am and we will then have a daily assembly from 9:00 am to 9:10 am. Parents are very welcome to attend these assemblies from tomorrow Wednesday 6th December and join us in preparing for the coming of the big day.

I would like to request that parents do not bring small children to these assemblies as babies and toddlers can often be an unnecessary distraction to what we are trying to achieve. It is a time of peace, calm and reflection which we want to share as a community with invited adults (no small children at all).

May I remind you that every parent has the right to withdraw their child from our religious assemblies or indeed any of our other religious activities which you can do by informing the school office or Mr McDowell in writing. Alternative arrangements will be made for those children not taking part.

I would just like to thank you for the wonderful support you have given school led activities since the beginning of September. So far with your help we have:

- **Supported Wood Street Mission with Harvest Gifts**
- **Children in Need £558.61**
- **Wear your Pants Day for the NSPCC £390.00**

May I also thank you in advance for your support of 'Shelter' which is our preferred charity for the Christmas period. We will be collecting donations at all of our performances, the staff will be donating money which otherwise would have been spent on sending Christmas cards within school, to this worthy cause which helps vulnerable families in this country.

Christmas Cards – As a school we do not allow our children to participate in this practice. We would much rather families save the money and effort to give to those in need around them or to give the money to our preferred charity 'Shelter'.

Reverse Advent Calendar Box - This is one idea we would like to embrace during Advent. Each class starts with an empty box and each child is allocated a day during Advent so that when their day arrives they put something 'new' into the box (rather than take something out) so that by the end of Advent each class will have a box full of useful things (gloves, socks, hat etc) to be presented to a homeless person helping to make their Christmas a little bit special.

Yours sincerely,

P. McDowell
Headteacher