



## *Do Everything with Love* *(1 Corinthians 16:14)*

December Newsletter 2020

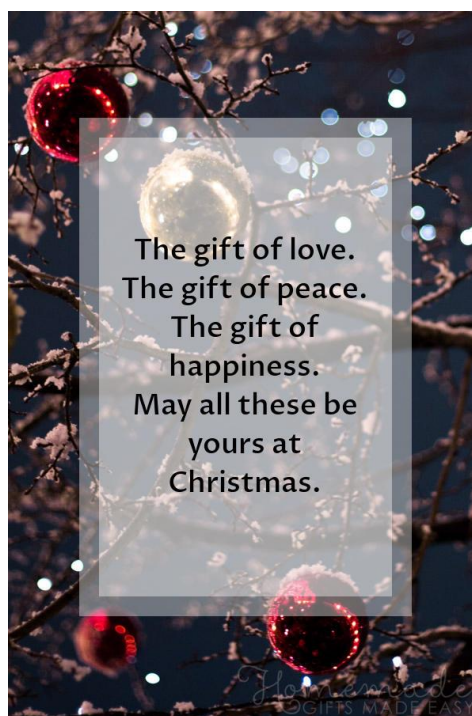


### A note from Mrs Christopher

We have made it to the end of term and have just one full week left until Christmas. I'd like to officially thank all the staff here at St Mary & St Joseph's for being a fabulous team and working so hard this term to keep everyone safe – I feel immensely proud of the whole team. We all would like to wish you all a very happy and peaceful Christmas and thank you for your reliable support and trust over this strange term – thank God we've made it to the end safely. Keep safe and well everyone over the Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you next year on Jan 4<sup>th</sup>. On this day, we will be having a whole school Art day linked to our 'Laudato Si' theme and our care of the planet - we hope that this will help the children look forward to their return to school.

Merry Christmas everyone and have a happy, safe new year!

**Mrs Christopher**



### The Christmas Crib



There is an old Mexican custom where, during Advent, people dressed as Mary and Joseph and travelled around their villages knocking at peoples' doors to see who would give them hospitality.

This custom has been adapted around the world through the idea of a 'Travelling Crib', which involves the model figures of a nativity scene being passed from house to house each night during Advent, before being brought to Church on Christmas Eve. **This journey symbolises Mary and Joseph's difficult journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus.** On their designated night, host families set up the crib in their homes and use the opportunity to stop what they were doing and think as a family about the true meaning of Christmas. **It is a unique way to help families prepare for Christmas**, that schools and churches have been facilitating for years.

Due to social distancing restrictions this year, for many a 'Travelling Crib' in the traditional sense won't be possible...so Tenten have created a Covid-proof experience called **The Christmas Crib**. Click the link below to find out more.

<http://www.tentenresources.co.uk/christmas>

### Donations for the Foodbank at Christmas



Thank you, thank you everyone for the generous donations for Wareham foodbank. The volunteers were amazed at the generosity of everyone and appreciated the cards made by the children that will accompany some of these parcels.



### Advent & Christmas Activities on the SMSJWool Website -Don't miss the virtual show!

Please have a look at our website '**News**' page for photos of our Advent prayer space activities and classroom displays. The children in Years 4-6 also have started their own prayer journals that they write in daily and this will continue next term. Our daily advent reflections at the start of the day have helped the children to be still and calm and enabled them to reflect on preparing themselves for Christmas.

Also on our website on the '**links**' tab are a collection of Christmas story videos read by some Year 5 & 6 children as well as an advent carol service where each class has contributed in parts. Please find time to watch these as you prepare for Christmas, I'm sure your children will want to share these with you. The children also particularly enjoyed watching our teacher elf dances!

As we usually have a nativity performance each year highlighting Reception class as the characters, our current Reception class have prepared a nativity story for you to watch. You can find this on the 'links' tab on the website.

## **Being safe during the Christmas break**

Please, please follow Government guidance over the Christmas period to keep the infection rate as low as possible in our area. If any of your children are tested positive up to December 24<sup>th</sup>, please email the following school link:

[covidalert@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:covidalert@stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk)

If we do have a case, we are obliged to parentmail the families of all children in that class informing that they self-isolate for 10 days. This time would include the Christmas period.

## **Remote learning & Google classroom update**

All children will have received their Google classroom passwords by tomorrow. This remote platform is essential should class isolation happen. Currently, the passwords have the whole school name, which is very wordy for the children (stmaryjosephswool.dorset.sch.uk). **From Thursday January 7<sup>th</sup>, this will change to [smsjwool.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:smsjwool.dorset.sch.uk)** which should make it more user friendly. This is then the same as our website. We do hope to change the school office and the teacher emails to this shortened version in the near future also.

## **P.E. Uniform Reminders**

Please remind your child that on PE days, they must wear plain black or plain navy tracksuits- there are an increasing number coming in with colourful stripes or other shades of clothing. To help with this rule, we will give a 'yellow card' reminder for anyone not wearing the correct PE uniform (no other consequence). However, if there are valid 'one off' reasons, please alert the member of staff on the gate so that we understand and no card will be issued.

## **'Poetry by Heart' Home learning Challenge**

If you're interested in poetry performance and would like a home learning challenge over the holidays, please click on the link below to find out more.

[Poetry By Heart | Poetry By Heart Home Learning Challenge](#)

Let your teacher know if you'd like to perform your poem on our zoom assembly when you return after Christmas!