

# Advent at Oratory Primary

## What is advent and how do we prepare at our school?

As a Catholic school, we will be using this opportunity to encourage the pupils to remain focused on this period of the Liturgical Year and not to jump ahead to Christmas. Advent is about preparation and waiting and it is important we do not skip past this important time in the Church's calendar.

We will be preparing in several ways:

- ★ Using purple cloths on our prayer areas in each class. Purple is the colour of Advent.
- ★ Lighting our Advent Wreath and learning about its meaning.
- ★ Making Advent calendars to encourage us to prepare our hearts and minds for Jesus.
- ★ Set up our crib in the hall with Mary and Joseph in at first- to remember that we wait for Jesus to arrive.
- ★ Making Advent stars for the tree with our advent promises on.
- ★ Creating mini Christmas cribs to raise money for GlassDoor. Just as Mary and Joseph couldn't find a place to stay at Christmas, it's important that we don't forget homeless people at this time of year.
- ★ Making cards for elderly people who are resident in care homes in our community. This has been a very difficult year for them, and we wish them peace and happiness during the Advent season.



# Christmas at Oratory Primary

## How do we celebrate Christmas at our school?

Although Advent ends on Christmas Eve, we also want the children to be able to celebrate the wonder of the Christmas season together, and so in the last week and a half of term we will:

- ★ Share cards through our 'bubble post bags'. These will be quarantined before handing out.
- ★ Add joyous decorations to the Christmas Tree made by Loosh Club.
- ★ Add all the figures to the crib.
- ★ Celebrate together through our Carol Services, Nativity Plays and Christmas Lunch.

In January we will return to school in time to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany together. The children will be making crowns to add to the tree.

## What are the particular arrangements for special events at this time of year?

### Infant Nativity Plays

These will be performed separately on three consecutive days in the hall. Each class will act and sing. Links will be available for parents. The plays will last no longer than 30 minutes, so there will be time to get to school for pick up:

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2pm: Reception Class

Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2pm: Year 1

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2pm: Year 2

### Junior Carol Service

These will be held by two classes, socially distanced in the hall. Children will read bible verses, say prayers, and sing carols. Links will be available for parents. The carol services will last no longer than 30 minutes, so there will be time to get to school for pick up:

Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2pm: Year 3 and 4

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2pm: Year 5 and 6

### 'A Christmas Carol' livestreamed performance

The Parents' Association have kindly payed for tickets for the Old Vic's performance of Charles Dickens' 'A Christmas Carol' to be livestreamed to classrooms on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at 1pm. The Old Vic recommend that this performance is suitable for ages 8+, so it will just be for Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

### Children's Day

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December is Children's Day. Pupils attend school wearing their own clothes (a Christmas jumper would be fun!) and enjoy lunch that the Parents' Association will very kindly provide. The infants will have an entertainer in the morning and the juniors will have an open air disco in the afternoon. The children always have a wonderful day with lots of fun and laughter, plus Father Christmas will also be visiting us again this year! We ask for a donation of £2 per child to cover the cost of the entertainment. Please give this to the class teacher on the day.



**\*\* all events will be Covid secure and managed so that they adhere to our Covid-19 risk assessment\*\***