

Advent at St Thomas of Canterbury School

Dates for your Diary

Welcome to our Advent newsletter. the purpose of which is to let you know about some of the events in school during this special time of preparation.

We will end each day with a whole-school Advent assembly to open a door on our Advent calendar and consider the message behind it. These will be streamed live to all classes.

Every day, a class will add an Advent window around school, and parents are welcome to tour, following the one-way system, at drop off time.

Winter Warmer

Each class will have the opportunity to perform a traditional Christmas carol for our annual Winter Warmer, with the performance being recorded and edited together to share with parents on 17th December.

We are also looking forward to hosting our Winter Warmer Raffle again this year. Each year group is given a coloured hamper which can be filled with a selection of items in that colour (items can also be wrapped to match the colour scheme). It can be something as small that you may already have at home. More information, including class colours can be found on the attached poster.

30th November: Non-uniform day in aid of Hallam Bethlehem Fund—Optional donation and children to bring piece of foliage for school Advent Wreath.

10th December: Winter Warmer Hamper donations deadline.

16th December: Whole school Christmas dinners. These will have already been ordered through Parentpay.

17th December: Festive own clothes day in support of Sheffield Children's Hospital – Suggested donation of £1.

17th December: Winter Warmer Video sent to parents through Google Classroom with draw for hampers included.

18th December: Hampers available for collection.

18th December: Carols around the tree.

18th December: Final day of Autumn Term

Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd December: Streaming of Carols around the tree, and school Nativity through downloadable link on Google Classroom and YouTube.



Nativities and Key Stage 2 Assemblies

We will be in communication directly with the parents of children in Pre-School, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 about how they can access the professional recording of this year's Nativity.

Classes in Key Stage 2 will be offering parents the opportunity to celebrate with us in Advent collective workshops. These will be streamed at 2.30pm and made available as a download afterwards. The dates are as follows:

8.12.20 - Y5	10.12.20 - Y4
9.12.20 - Y3	11.12.20 - Y6

Follow Mary and Joseph's Journey To The Manger

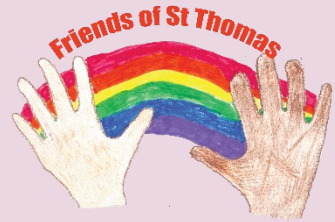
Each day during Advent, Mary and Joseph will follow the one-way system as they journey towards the empty manger situated at the exit gate. Please track their progress each day and look out for updates on Twitter!

Christmas Crib

As part of our ongoing support of the Hallam Bethlehem Fund, we are inviting all families to create a Nativity scene at home, display it in your window and send a picture to school via Twitter @StThomasCant or Instagram stthomascant or Google Classroom. Families can then go on an 'Advent walk' to see each other's designs – either locally or virtually.

Advent Food Bank Donations

During Advent, we are encouraged to think about those less fortunate. With this in mind, we will be operating a 'Reverse Advent Calendar/Food Bank' in support of St Wilfrid's Centre and the S8 Grace Food Bank. Any donations would be greatly appreciated and can be added to the donation box on the school gate at the beginning or end of each day. Thank you for all the donations so far. These boxes will be delivered before Christmas.



WINTER WARMER RAFFLE

In the spirit of all things festive we would love to still run our Winter Warmer raffle with the money raised supporting our school this Christmas.

We will welcome all donations of prizes from chocolate coins to a book and everything else in-between! Please drop off your donation between now and Thursday 10th December in your class colour.

Pre-school= Rainbow

Reception = White

Year 1 = Green

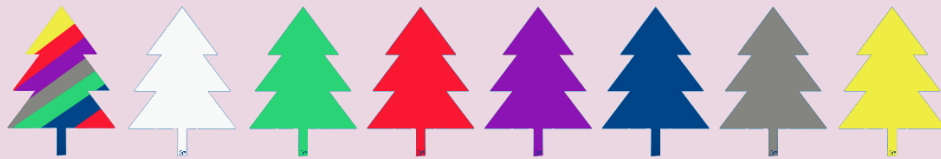
Year 2 = Red

Year 3 = Purple

Year 4 = Blue

Year 5 = Silver

Year 6 = Gold



**Please buy your tickets to win the festive hampers by buying tickets on
Parent Pay.**

Raffle tickets are £1 each and please share with your friends and family!

You will need to use your Parent Pay account to purchase raffle tickets but we would like to encourage you to share with your friends and family, purchasing tickets on their behalf.

**Draw will take place on Wednesday 16th December and shared on Thursday
17th December during our virtual Winter Warmer.**

Thank you from the Friends of St Thomas.