



St John's CE Primary School

Godly Lane
Rishworth
Sowerby Bridge
West Yorkshire
HX6 4QR
Tel: 01422 822596

An Academy Trust working with
the Diocese of Leeds: 08296540

Friday 27th November

Dear Parent/Carer,

As Advent season approaches, we are thinking of ways to teach the children about the true meaning of Christmas and reflect on the Christian teachings that are the root of our school life here at St John's Primary School. This year we are hoping to continue our tradition of hosting Las Posadas by rolling it out to the whole school.

Las Posadas is a Spanish word that means 'inn', and is the title for a Mexican Advent celebration in which two people dressed as Mary and Joseph travel from house to house in their village to proclaim the imminent arrival of Jesus and request that the newborn baby be given a room. The idea has been updated so that nativity figures travel around a parish from place to place, staying at a different house every night, and finally taking their place in the church Carol Service, ready to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas day. Mary and Joseph's journey reminds parishioners to make room for Jesus in their lives, homes and communities.

At school, we usually ask the Reception children to take it in turns to host a knitted Mary and Joseph for a night during the Advent period. Naturally with the current pandemic restrictions, we are unable to do this but have decided to host a set of stoneware figures in each class bubble. The figures will be central to our collective worship and form part of our "together apart" Advent activities. This letter and the resources on the website invite you to join in and extend these worship activities at home. Use the ideas on the website to create your own figures at home- be creative: find details here on the school website <https://www.stjohnsrishworth.org.uk/collective-worship/>.

The figures can be included in lots of family activities for example; Mary and Joseph can sit on the sofa to listen to a story, sit up at the table during meal times and even be put to bed in a room with your child/children. On the website you will find a Mary and Joseph writing page to write your adventures onto and these can be sent back to me through the school email address.

I look forward to sharing this Advent Journey with you and your families during this time of social distancing.
Yours sincerely,

H Kowal

Mrs H Kowal
Class One Teacher and Subject Lead for R.E. and Collective Worship



Head teacher:
Mrs J Wasyliw BA(Hons)

Web: www.stjohnsrishworth.org.uk
Email: admin@st-johns-rishworth.calderdale.sch.uk