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Friday, 25 November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

At Holy Family we are using 'virtues' as a way of encouraging our young people to recognise how we should all behave towards each other. We are moving from 'values' towards 'virtues', from beliefs held to beliefs lived out. Advent is the perfect time to make this tangible, giving us all an opportunity to live out our beliefs in a meaningful way.

During advent, we reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and encourage our students to demonstrate the virtues of 'Prayer', 'Compassion', 'Service' and 'Love of Neighbour'. These will be explored through our advent appeal starting next week.

Students have just completed our Christmas Card Competition to design this year's Holy Family School card. Alongside this, many students have taken the time to write a card through our Youth SVP service, which will be sent to those serving prison sentences who will undoubtedly feel alone and forgotten at this time.

Our Advent Appeal starts with a Student Wellbeing Day on Friday, 10 December. This will involve activities covering our Five Ways to Wellbeing; all focusing on the theme of 'Journey', reflecting on the Christmas story. We will be asking our students to take part in a sponsored walk on this day to raise funds towards World Gifts, a scheme enabling our school community to purchase a life-changing gift for families in developing countries. Please make donations to world Gifts via ParentPay. This year we will be aiming to raise enough money to purchase a 'Community Water Supply', which our student leadership team chose after looking at ideas submitted by students.

'When a child is born' is the Catholic Care Appeal for mothers and babies in need at this time, and, each year, we ask for items to be sent in that would help. The student leadership team has asked that Years 10 and 11 contribute towards this, and that our Year 7, 8 and 9 students bring in gifts for the Christmas Hampers Appeal, to be distributed to senior citizens within our community. Friday, 10 December is the deadline for all donations and there is a list of items recommended by the student leadership team for our Advent Appeals on the reverse of this letter.

In addition to our fundraising events, we will also be having a Reconciliation Service, Christmas Liturgy, Presentation Assembly for student awards, Carol Concert (online link to be sent out), and school Talent Show. Students are able to upload video entries for this on ClassCharts.

Friday, 17 December will be our Christmas Jumper Day (£1) and Christmas Lunch (£2.50), which will involve all students seated for a collective meal. Students may order a dinner, or bring a lunch box. Parents will be able to order Christmas lunch options by replying to separate Groupcall text to be sent next week. All items should be paid via ParentPay by Friday, 10 December. Please see the reverse for a summary of upcoming activities.

Many thanks in anticipation of your support for the upcoming activities as we journey through Advent in preparation for the celebration of Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Mr P Moran, Deputy Headteacher

## Diary

Friday, 10 December: Wellbeing Day

### Friday, 10 December Deadlines:

World Gifts, to purchase a 'Community Water Supply', payable via ParentPay

'When a child is born' donations (Years 10 & 11)

Christmas Hampers donations (Years 7, 8 & 9)

Christmas Jumper Day (Non-Uniform Day): £1 payable via ParentPay

Christmas Dinner: Order by replying to text, £2.50 payable on to school meals via ParentPay

Thursday, 16 December:

Reconciliation Service

Online Carol Concert 6.00pm

Friday, 17 December:

Christmas Liturgy

Christmas Jumper Day (Non-Uniform Day)

Christmas Dinner

Presentation Assembly

Talent Show

**School Closes 3pm**

Please find below the list of items recommended by Student Leadership Team for our Christmas Appeals as examples:

#### **Mother and Baby:**

Baby Clothes (in general)

Baby vests

Baby socks

Baby hat

Baby scarf

Baby gloves

Blankets

Nappies

Baby soap

Baby wipes

Sudocrem

Baby lotion

Baby talcum powder

Changing mat

Toys

Bath toys

Dummies

Baby Milk

Maternity Pads

Baby bottles

Baby food

Bibs

First toothbrush and toothpaste

Toiletries and pampering items for mum

#### **Hampers:**

Christmas ornament/decoration

DIY Christmas gingerbread houses

Chocolates

Candles

Hot water bottles

Christmas pudding

Biscuits

Mini Wooden Nativity

Pamper products e.g.: hair products, bath products

Tea bags

Coffee pods

Luxury stationery

Mince pies

Christmas cake