

Good afternoon everyone!

We can't quite believe it, but it is December next week!! This often makes us all think of the treats that lie ahead (as well as all the jobs and organising we still need to do!)

We are really excited to share that we have an initiative in school, planned for December. This is going to promote some key values and messages to all of our children. During this festive period our children have time to reflect and understand that Christmas is not always a time full of treats and gifts, it can be a really challenging time for some, but is also a wonderful time to show good will and human kindness; this is especially a focus we wish to promote at a school based level.

We are going to be launching 'Diversity December' and every school day in December we are going to be doing our 'Alternative Advent.' Rather than getting sweets and treats behind each window of the calendar, we will have a different focus, a topical issue or a question to debate. This will allow each class to truly explore some very thought provoking concepts that are relevant to our community and the society that our children are growing up in.

Some of the key messages we will be exploring with the children are tolerance, diversity, discrimination, bullying, racism, kindness and charity, to name but a few. Obviously the messages will look different depending on the age and stage of our children. We welcome you, as parents, to embrace this opportunity to discuss with your child the real life issues that we know our children face as they learn, grow and navigate through life in our ever changing world.

We feel passionately about our moral obligation to not only teach children the academic aspects of school life but also, through partnership with yourselves, to tackle those issues that very much influence children's views and feelings about the world around them - as well as their own identity, beliefs and values. Building on our very clear school values of Safety, Respect and Ready to Learn, we feel sure that Christmas time is perfect for giving the children some time to form opinions and develop their positive character traits, whilst celebrating and discussing as a school community those things in life that we are grateful for.

As ever we extend our gratitude to you, as parents and carers, as we truly value all the support you give to us as a school. We look forward to hearing from the children about all the discussions that they will be having with you about the various topics throughout the month...excitingly this will culminate in a whole school performance (staff included) on the last day of our 'Alternative Advent' with a rendition of Band Aid's 'Do They Know It's Christmas?'

So that you feel involved in the work and discussion, a copy of each day's alternative advent for KS1 and KS2 will be put on Twitter (handle [@robwilkprimary](https://twitter.com/robwilkprimary)) which you can also see on our school website feed.

Thank you to everyone who is attending our Christmas Fayre this evening. It is our biggest fundraiser by far and this year the money we raise is primarily going towards boosting our reading books across the school. This will of course support our big drive to develop reading this year by enabling us to buy quality texts. Many, many thanks to our amazing 'Friends Of Robert Wilkinson' who work so hard for us.

And finally, we will not be holding an official 'Christmas Jumper Day'. This is a national fundraising day but as we have just held Children in Need and of course our Christmas Fayre, we feel it is too much all in one period. Year groups will let you know when their Christmas parties are and if the children would like to wear something Christmassy I am sure this will be fine (although please make sure any clothing is named!!)

Have a great weekend everyone.

Chris Evans, Rebecca McGuinn and all our Wellbeing and Behaviour Team