

Gorsemoor Primary School

8 November 2017

Christingle Knitivity

Dear Parents/Carers

As Christmas approaches, here at Gorsemoor we try to encourage the children to think a little of the joy of giving, as we know they will receive many gifts on December 25. Our pupils are all fortunate enough to have loving homes and families that you provide. Warmth, shelter and love are vital for their wellbeing, but sadly this is not true for all of the young people in Great Britain.



The Children's Society is an organisation that raises money for disadvantaged children who face violence, neglect and poverty in their daily lives. They adopted the Christingle as a means of celebrating their work and as a fundraiser for their cause. All of the money from this event will help British children.

We have held Christingle services for many years but we add the fun of a knitted Nativity character and call it the Knitivity.

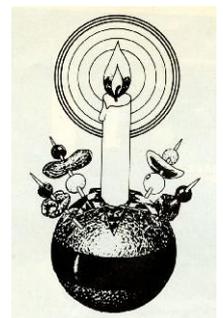
During the last week of November, prior to Advent Sunday, each child will bring home a knitted character from the Nativity scene for one night. These have been lovingly knitted by parents, grandparents, and friends of the school during 2014. In addition, each child will receive a plastic origami type candle that you need to assemble. We hope that the Nativity figure will help to focus their thoughts and your conversations as to the real meaning of Christmas. We hope that they can understand how lucky they are to have a supportive family and to think about the work of the Children's Society, and the fact that their donations will help towards making a child's life more bearable.

For the Christingle services, our aim is that each child in school will make a Christingle that can then be taken home and lit with the family so that you, with your child, can spend a few moments thinking about how lucky we are in our lives. In order to raise money for the Children's Society, we are asking each child to collect **twenty pence pieces and other silver coins** in their Christingle plastic candles, and bring them into school during the week beginning December 4th. We understand the present economic climate but we stress that **every penny raised goes directly to help children in crisis.**

To make their own Christingle, we would like children to bring in their own large oranges (not satsumas or clementines please). On the days specified below. If any parents feel that they can **donate sultanas, foil, cocktail sticks or dolly mixtures**, we would be most grateful as it means we raise more money for The Children's Society. We have bought the candles and ribbon that the children need to assemble their Christingles.

Reception and Y1 need to have their oranges in by **Monday 4th December**. Nursery on **Friday 8th December**.

Y2 upwards need their oranges to be in school for **Friday 8 December**. Please **not before** as the heat inside classrooms is not good for storage of fresh fruit.



Timetable of events:

Nursery: The Nursery staff will give you more information as they have their own services at the end of their sessions.

Reception will hold their Christingle services as part of their Nativity performance as follows for each class:

Miss Marklove and Mrs Rowland's class on Wednesday 6 December at 10.30 in the school hall.

Mrs Palmer's class on Wednesday 6 December at 2.00 pm in the school hall.

Miss Elwell's class on Thursday 7 December at 2.00 again in the school hall. Reception teachers will send out more details.

Y1 pupils and parents/carers are invited to watch their children's Christingle lighting on **Friday 8 December at 10.00 am** in the school hall.

The rest of the school, Y2 upwards will prepare their Christingles for services at St John's Church on **Tuesday 12 December**. As follows:

Y4 will perform to Y2 and Y3 at 10.00 a.m.

In the afternoon at 2.00 pm. Y4 will perform to Y5 & Y6.

The parents and carers of Y2-Y6 are invited to the church to watch with their children at the respective performances.

A separate performance will take place for the parents and families of Y4 pupils on the evening of **Tuesday 12 December** at St John's Church at **7.00** pm. so that Y4 pupils' can present their drama and carols to their own parents. Y4 teachers will inform their parents of their own arrangements that include refreshments after the performance.

Can you help us? The money collected is NOT for school, it is for children who are in need of our support. The money that you donate in the Christingle candles can make such a difference to the lives of so many children for whom the daily chore of just surviving is beyond our comprehension. By gift aiding, that amount increases.

Yours sincerely

Mrs B S Heath
Assistant Head Teacher