



# Reception Newsletter Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our book of the week has been 'Owl Babies' by Martin Waddell. We have had great fun making owls and acting out the story. We all had a go at writing what the smallest owl, Bill, said in the story.

## Learning for the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**This week's learning:**

- We will be learning these sounds:



- We will be revising all tricky words learned so far.
- In maths we will be learning about how to compare length and height and how to measure length using a non-standard unit of measurement.
- In RE we will be writing a set of class Advent promises.
- Our book of the week will be 'Stick Man' by Julia Donaldson.
- Our vocabulary for drawing club this week will be leap, escape, bellowing, pondering, and misbehaving.

## Posada

Please read the letter below about our Posada experience that will be starting from Monday next week. Each child will bring home a Posada bag to share at home for one night at some point over the next few weeks.

## Cold Weather

Now that the weather is colder, please can we remind you that the children should only wear Thomas Becket hats which can be bought from the school office. Scarves and gloves should be dark blue or black.

Best wishes

Mrs Clarke and Mrs Breslin.

Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2023



Dear Parents,

It will soon be the season of Advent and the children will be learning about the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and Jesus' birth. This year, we would like to involve your families in our class Christmas preparations and are therefore taking part in Posada.

### **What is Posada?**

Posada is an old Mexican tradition where young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house asking for a room for the night and telling people about the imminent arrival of Jesus in the weeks leading up to Christmas. On Christmas Eve they would visit the local church to re-enact the nativity and place figures of Mary and Joseph in a crib.

Modern day Posada uses nativity figures of Mary and Joseph who travel from place to place. This gives each 'host' the chance to create their own celebration in their home or place in the community, worshipping and reaching out to their communities with the real message of Christmas, making room for Jesus in their lives.

### **What is involved?**

We will be sending home Posada bags to each child to have for **one night**. In order to ensure all children have a chance to join in, there will be 3 sets of figures going home. We have compiled a rota which will be sent home next week and will be displayed in the classroom windows so you can see when your turn will take place. Please bring the Posada bags back to school the following day to ensure everyone has a turn.

For the evening you 'host' Mary & Joseph you can choose to do what ever you like. Here are some suggestions:

- Place the figures in a special place and talk about the Christmas story as you do so.
- Read the story of the Nativity from the Bible.
- Sing Christmas carols around the figures.
- Light candles and say a prayer.

We ask that each family add a prayer to our book. It can be as long or as short as you would like. You are also welcome to add a photo or the children may wish to draw a picture. There are further suggestions at the bottom of this letter taken from [churcharmy.org](http://churcharmy.org)

We hope you will enjoy taking part.

Mrs Clarke and Mrs Breslin

From [www.churcharmy.org.uk](http://www.churcharmy.org.uk)

As we prepare to begin our reflection and prayer, let us begin by making the **Sign of the Cross**.

Please follow the directions for setting out the figures as the focus for your prayers.

- ❖ Spread out the small piece of cloth on which to set the figures and candle.
- ❖ Taking the figure of Mary (kneeling) place it on the cloth as you say:

*This is Mary, a young Jewish girl who lived in the village of Nazareth 2000 years ago. Because of her outstanding goodness, she was chosen by God to be the Mother of His Son, Jesus, and agreed to do as God asked.*

- ❖ Taking the figure of Joseph (standing) place it close to that of Mary as you say:

*This is Joseph, the husband of Mary, who, like her, came from Nazareth. He was the village carpenter and was engaged to be married to Mary, when God asked him to be the father of Jesus on earth, and he agreed to do so. Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem and needed shelter on the night Jesus was born.*

- ❖ Place the manger in front of the figures of Mary and Joseph saying:

*This is the manger, the box in which the hay for the animals in the stable, was placed. It became the cradle in which the newly-born baby, Jesus, was laid to sleep.*

*We are waiting for Jesus, Son of God, who came to earth to save the people of the world, and who was born - not in a palace - but in a stable, the poorest and most humble of places.*

- ❖ As we light the candle, let's join our hands and say a prayer together.

Dear God,

Please bless our home and our family tonight as we remember that journey that Mary and Joseph made to Bethlehem where Jesus was born. Protect us, keep us safe and help us to live out the true message of Christmas. Amen.

