

To all parents of children at Kings Worthy Primary School

28th November 2017

Dear Parents,

At the end of school on Thursday your child will receive a free *Real Advent Calendar (FairTrade)* to take home as a gift from St Mary's Church.

Over many years, St Mary's promoted and sold *FairTrade* goods but in recent times these have become mainstream, so much so that we didn't need to continue selling them. It left us with a fund of money that we have been thinking how best to use. We've decided to re-invest that fund back into the *FairTrade* system by buying every child a Real Advent Calendar. On Thursday we'll be talking about Advent and preparing for Christmas, not just on the outside, but more importantly on the inside as we reflect on the Christmas message of joy and peace for all.

Every child who wishes to receive an Advent calendar will be given one. The ingredients are listed on the back includes the standard wording '*may also contain nuts*'. **Please ensure that this is suitable for your child before opening.**

In addition, on Thursday we will start a South American tradition of Posada ('journey') where figures of Mary and Joseph and the donkey will travel between classes as we remember the special journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem on that first Christmas. At the end of term, I will collect Mary & Joseph (and their travel journal/blog) and they will then travel around homes in the community before arriving at our Posada Crib Service on Sunday 24th December at 3.30pm at St Mary's. We would be delighted to see you at that service and any others at this special time year, which are as follows:



Friday 15th December – 6.00pm – St Mary's Chapel, Springvale – A Kings Worthy Christmas
For adults and children, a chance to get dressed up as a shepherd, king or angel as we recreate the journey of Mary & Joseph holding glo-sticks, followed by refreshments at St Mary's Chapel.

Sunday 17th December – 6.00pm – St Mary's Church – A traditional service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Sunday 24th December – 3.30pm – St Mary's Church – Posada Crib Service – *Children, come dressed as a character from the nativity as we welcome Mary & Joseph to the stable and sing carols together.*

Monday 25th December – 10.00am – St Mary's Church – All-Age Family Service – *join me as we play a very special game of 'Pass the Parcel' in a fun and relaxed service for all ages.*

Whatever you're doing, wherever you go – have a peaceful, safe and happy Christmas.

Revd Paul & everyone from St Mary's Church, Kings Worthy.