

## **It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!**

Here is a photo of Albert about to do the very important job of turning on the Christmas Lights at the Burton Latimer light switch on. As you can see by his face he was very excited with his special role!



## **Class Walks to St Mary's Church**

Over the last couple of weeks our children have walked to St Mary's Church and have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in all the Advent activities on offer. It certainly helped to get us all in the Christmas spirit!



## **Well Done Lydia and Ethan**

Well done to Ethan (Year 2) and Lydia (Year 5) who sang and supported the Abilities In Me Foundation choir on stage at the Stevenage Christmas Light Switch on! Ethan sang and did some sign language, the family also got to meet Denise Welch. He has also been given the opportunity to record a song "the greatest gift" in a recording studio with the choir. What an exciting adventure!



# Advent



## What is Advent? History and Meaning

Some people may know that the Advent season focuses on expectation and think it serves as an anticipation of Christ's birth in the season leading to Christmas. This is part of the story, but there is more to Advent.

The word 'Advent' is derived from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning 'coming', which translates to the Greek word *parousia*. Scholars believe that during the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries in Spain and Gaul, Advent was a season of preparation for the baptism of new Christians at the January feast of Epiphany, the celebration of God's incarnation represented by the visit of the Magi to the baby Jesus (Matthew 2:1), his baptism in the Jordan River by John the Baptist (John 1:29), and his first miracle at Cana (John 2:1).

## Terminology

Advent, wreath, stable, prepare, peace, hope, donkey, manger, love, Mary, Joseph, waiting, Christmas, joy, angel, Bethlehem, shepherds, Magi, pink, and purple.



## How is it observed?

Advent is celebrated on four consecutive Sundays, beginning on the Sunday closest to November 30 and ending on December 24, Christmas Eve.



## Advent Wreaths and Candles

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays, and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red colour points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

# Hanukkah



## How is Hanukkah celebrated?

On each of the eight nights of Chanukah, Jewish people light special menorahs (candelabras), adding another flame each night, until on the eighth night eight flames are burning brightly. The lighting takes place at home, in a doorway or near a window, and is performed after brief blessings are recited.

On Chanukah, it is customary to play with *dreidels*, tops upon which four Hebrew letters, nun, gimmel, hay, and shin, are written.

In modern times, communal menorah lightings are often held in public squares, sharing Chanukah's message of the triumph of light over darkness and freedom to worship God.

## What is the Jewish festival about?

In the UK, and all around the world, Jewish adults and children celebrate the Jewish festival of lights called Hanukkah. The date of Hanukkah changes every year, because it depends on the calendar, but it will always fall in November or December, it lasts for eight days and might also be called Chanukah.

Hanukkah this year starts at nightfall on December 7 and ends with nightfall on December 15, 2023, beginning on the Hebrew calendar date of 25 Kislev, and lasting for eight days.



## Terminology

Blessing, menorah, candles, challah bread, Maccabees, Chanukah/Hanukkah, community, dreidel, family, festival.





Holidays are coming !

We have lots of exciting events  
planned for Christmas. Please see below  
the key dates  
between now and when we break up!

1-14.12.23	Christmas Post
7.12.23	Christmas Dinner
8.12.23	FS Nativity 10am KS1 Hall
8.12.23	House Afternoon PM
11.12.23	Y4 Christmas Production 10am KS2 Hall
12.12.23	Y5 Christmas Production (carols) 10am KS2 Hall
12.12.23	EHT Afternoon tea
13.12.23	Buttercup Boogie 10am KS1 Hall
14.12.23	Year 3 Christmas Production 10am KS2 Hall
18.12.23	Year 1 Christmas Production 10am KS1 Hall
18.12.23	Year 2 Christmas Production 2pm KS1 Hall



# School Notices



## Christmas Holiday Club

Our MASC holiday club will be running on Thursday 21st, Friday 22nd, Tuesday 2nd January & Wednesday 3rd January. For all registered children you can book on scopay. If you would like to register please email [admin@meadowsideprimary.org](mailto:admin@meadowsideprimary.org)

## Year 6 Residential (Current Year 5 Children) September 2024

Just a reminder to parents of current Year 5 children. If you would like your child to go on the Year 6 Residential in September 2024 the deposit of £60 is due by **Thursday 14th December**. Please log on to scopay to make your payment. Any problems please contact the School Office.

## School Clubs January 2024



All internal school clubs have finished now for this term. Please look out for an email coming shortly detailing the clubs that will be on offer for the start of the new term in January. Once the clubs go live **in the new year** they will be bookable via scopay.



## PTA Smartie Challenge

We raised a fantastic **£520.50** for this challenge. Well done to **Robin class** (KS1) and **Osprey class** (KS2) who were the overall winners. Thank you to everyone who supported this challenge and a particular thank you to the PTA team for organising it.



## Reception Clothing Request



Our Reception classes are in need of **boys** spare clothing aged 4-6 years. In particular, jumpers, trousers, socks and underwear. If you have any clothing that you would be happy to donate please hand in to one of the Reception teachers.

Thank you