

Parent Newsletter

Living faith
within our families

December 2019



“Best Friends at Christmas”

Hannah and Caleb were BEST friends and they LOVED Christmas - so much that they had agreed to help their teacher, Mr Farmer, wrap up presents for the children’s ward at the hospital! Apparently, a local supermarket donated gifts, and Mr Farmer and his volunteers just had to wrap them up and deliver them.

One day, Hannah told Caleb something top secret: for Christmas her Dad was buying her tickets to see Little Mix live in concert! Caleb felt a little jealous when he heard this – Little Mix were his favourite band too!

Just then, Mr Farmer came up to them and said, “I won’t be needing your help after all - the supermarket said they can’t donate anything this year, so it looks like the sick children won’t get any presents.”

But Caleb and Hannah weren’t

beaten so easily. They ran out into the playground and told everyone who would listen what had happened. Over the next few days, children from all across the school brought in all sorts of gifts, toys and chocolate and put them under the tree in the hall.

Caleb and Hannah were so pleased, and couldn’t wait to take the presents to the children in hospital. But at afternoon break Mr Farmer brought some bad news:

“You’ve done brilliantly, but I’m afraid there’s still not enough presents, and we can’t give them unless there’s enough for everyone.”

That evening Hannah spoke to her Dad, hoping he would offer to buy loads of presents for the appeal. Instead, he offered to donate the money he had been going to spend on her Little Mix tickets!

It was a hard decision because Hannah had been desperate to go to the concert, but her decision was made, and word got around the school. Little by little, more presents came in from others who were inspired by Hannah’s example.

It was a very joyful moment when Mr Farmer announced, “We’ve got more than enough presents! We’ve got enough presents to give to all the elderly people in hospital over Christmas too!”

Hannah, Caleb, and all of the other children who had helped collect presents were overflowing with joy! And they each felt so much more excited to give the presents to the people in hospital than they were about opening any of their own presents.

‘Best Friends at Christmas’ is a three-part drama performed by children in schools this Christmas.

Happy is the man who doesn’t lose faith in me.” Matthew 11:11

The Good News of Jesus gives us reason to be joyful at all times of year, but especially during Advent, when we look forward to Jesus’ coming at Christmas and at the end of time. John the Baptist’s words preparing his followers for Jesus’ ministry are as true for us today: *‘Prepare a way for the Lord, make His paths straight.’ (Matthew 3)*

Our Advent assemblies show children how to prepare their hearts

for Christmas by:

- Loving and caring for others
- Thinking of others before themselves
- Saying sorry to others and to God
- Remembering Jesus’ love for them and that when they say sorry, He forgives them

You might like to discuss these with your child and come up with creative ways to actively prepare for Christmas.

Prayer

Dear Jesus,

As we prepare for Christmas with our friends and family, we ask you to be present in our lives.

Help us know your love and forgiveness.

Give us courage to share your message of peace with those around us.

Amen