

# St Gilbert's RC Primary School

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27<sup>th</sup> November 2015

## TRAVELLING NATIVITY

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, Advent is nearly upon us and to celebrate this, St Gilbert's are starting a brand new school tradition! Over the coming weeks, the eldest child in each family will be bringing home a very special 'Travelling Nativity' set from school, which will be used as part of our daily Advent preparation time in class.

The idea of a Travelling Nativity originated from the word 'posada.' Posada is a Spanish word that means 'inn', and is also the title for a Mexican Advent celebration in which two young people dressed as Mary and Joseph travelled from house to house in their village to proclaim the imminent arrival of Jesus and request that the new-born baby be given a room.

In joining this tradition, we bring Mary and Joseph and their journey visibly back into our preparations for Christmas, and welcome them into our warm, comfortable (and busy) homes in a way in which they were not welcomed in Bethlehem. In thinking about their journey, we may also call to mind those in our world today, who travel in the dark and cold and who are not always welcomed at the end of their journey.

The Travelling Nativity consists of the figures of Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and the donkey, a candle, a story of the day and a prayer sheet. Please take time to set up the objects in a special place, light the candle and talk to your child(ren) about what Advent means. We have included the Advent story booklet and prayer card to be used during this time.

It is anticipated pupils will take turns to take the Travelling Nativity home at the end of the day and will return it to the school on the following morning, ready to be received into another family home the next evening.

This is a truly marvellous and child-friendly way of putting 'Christ' back in our preparation and celebration of 'Christmas'.

Many thanks for your continued support,

The Staff of St. Gilbert's.

