

South Bersted CE Primary School

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Headteacher: Mr Noel Goodwin

8th December 2023



Dear Parents and Carers

Christingle Service 2023

Christingle is a joyful celebration that brings families and communities together to share the light of Jesus and spread a message of hope. Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the ceremony. Christingles are oranges wrapped in red tape, decorated with sweets, with a candle on the top:

- The orange represents the world,
- The red ribbon symbolises the blood and love of Christ,
- The sweets and dried fruit represent all of God's creations,
- The lit candle represents Jesus's light in the world, bringing hope to people living in darkness.

As part of our Christmas traditions at South Bersted School, we will be holding our Christingle service in school on **Wednesday 13th December**.

This year, each child will have the opportunity to create their own Christingle, which they will bring home with them. In keeping with our traditions, pupils who are their class representatives for the School Council and Junior Governors will light their candles in school.

All pupils will be bringing their Christingle home on the afternoon of Wednesday 13th December.

Please rest assured that we have a thorough Use of Candles Risk Assessment in place at school. As part of our risk assessment, we will be reminding the children of the following safety points for when they bring their Christingle home:

- Candles should only be lit by an adult,
- Candles should be extinguished by an adult using a snuffer or similar implement,
- Check candles are fully extinguished, not smouldering before leaving unattended,
- Hair should be tied back,
- Keep clothing away from lit candles,

- Always keep naked flames away from hand sanitisers,
- Lit candles must NEVER be left unattended,
- Matches and/or lighters used to light candles should be kept out of the reach of children and locked away when not in use,
- Candles should be checked to ensure they are being held firmly by the stick or holder, so that they are stable and they don't fall over,
- Candles should only be placed on a heat resistant surface,
- Do not put candles near curtains or other combustible items i.e. fabrics and furniture,
- Keep candles out of draughts,
- Do not light or leave candles under shelves or objects, ensure there is nothing above lit candles.

If you do not want your child to make their own Christingle, or you do not want your child to take part in the service, you must notify us via Class Dojo or email (office@southbersted.co.uk) no later than Tuesday 12th December.

If you have any questions please do speak to the school office, or talk to me on the gate during drop off or pick up.

Yours sincerely



Mr Noel Goodwin
Headteacher