

NAZARETH

BETHLEHEM

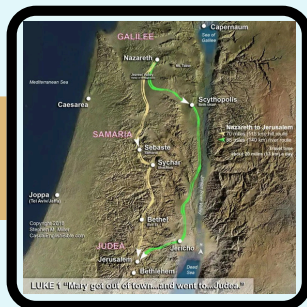


Welcoming the holy family at school: Posada



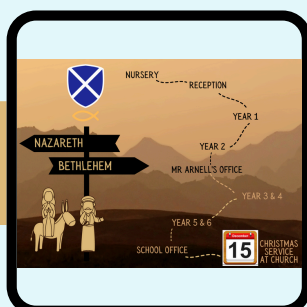
What is the posada?

The tradition of 'posada' (Spanish for 'inn') comes from Mexico, where small versions of Mary and Joseph travel around different households in the community and stay at each household for one night. The tradition symbolises welcoming the unborn Christ child into our homes and hearts as we approach the first Christmas night.



Why is it important?

We often fast-forward to the night of Jesus's birth in Bethlehem, dismissing the 90-mile journey that Mary and Joseph would have taken to get there. It would have been difficult and dangerous, with eight hours' travel a day, probably taking over a week. Mary and Joseph would have needed rest, food and drink. They may have stayed at hostels or even camped. The posada encourages children to consider what Mary and Joseph might have experienced on their journey to Bethlehem.



How does it work in school?

The posada tradition is introduced in collective worship and children are invited to welcome Mary, Joseph and the unborn baby Jesus into their classes. Classes are given a few days to discuss, plan, and put together their posada ('inn') in their classroom ready for the holy family's visit.

A timetable is agreed beforehand to plan the posada's journey around the school community. It's good to include the school office, the staff room and the headteacher's office so everyone in the school community is involved!

The posada 'kit' that travels from stop to stop includes:



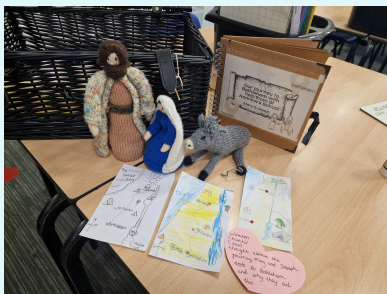
- An introduction to the journey
- Questions to think about together
- A map showing the route
- Figures of Mary, Joseph and a donkey
- A prayer and a candle
- A timetable for the journey around school
- A blank journal for each class to add an entry recording thoughts, prayers, observations and anything else

Teaching staff choose how to use the posada kit during its visit to their class (eg reflection time, RE lesson etc)



Creating community in school and beyond

Classes are encouraged to add a diary entry and take photos of the posada's visit. These can then be shared during collective worship or a Christmas service so children, staff and families can see the holy family's visit to other parts of the school community. It gives a school-wide focus to getting ready for Christmas, and a collective welcome to Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus.



**EXAMPLE TIMETABLE: SMALLER SCHOOL
(4 CLASSES)**

Pytchley School Posada 2024

Thank you for welcoming
Mary, Joseph and the donkey!



2 MON	3 TUES	4 WED	5 THUR	6 FRI
	Ducklings	Ducklings	Ducklings	Mr Scott & Mrs Litchfield's office
9 MON	10 TUES	11 WED	12 THUR	13 FRI
Robins	Robins	Robins	Merlins	Merlins
16 MON	17 TUES	18 WED	19 THUR	20 FRI
Merlins	Kites	Kites	Kites	

This timetable shows when Mary, Joseph and the donkey will be staying with each class at Pytchley school.

Use the posada basket however you like to set up a place for them to stay!

Please don't forget to take a photo of your class hosting the posada, and email it to Mr Scott!

We hope to share all the photos of Mary, Joseph and the donkey's journey around Pytchley during worship before the end of term!

Thank you for taking part - I can't wait to see how you welcome these special visitors!

Claire x

**EXAMPLE TIMETABLE: LARGER SCHOOL
(12 CLASSES + NURSERY)**

St Andrew's School Posada 2024

Thank you for welcoming
Mary, Joseph and the donkey!



					29 FRI Nursery
2 MON Year 1 Michael Rosen	3 TUES Year 1 Julia Donaldson	4 WED Year 1 David Attenborough	5 THUR Year 2 Florence Nightingale	6 FRI Year 2 Charles Wicksteed	
9 MON Year 2 Mo Farah	10 TUES Mr Arnell's office	11 WED Year 3+4 Martin Luther King	12 THUR Year 3+4 Winston Churchill	13 FRI Year 3+4 Anne Frank	
16 MON Year 5+6 William Knibb	17 TUES Year 5+6 Nelson Mandela	18 WED Year 5+6 Malala Yousafzai	19 THUR School office & church service	20 FRI	

This timetable shows when Mary, Joseph and the donkey will be staying with each class at St Andrew's.

Use the posada basket however you like to set up a place for them to stay!

Please don't forget to take a photo of your class hosting the posada, and email it to Mr Arnell!

We hope to share all the photos of Mary, Joseph and the donkey's journey around St Andrew's during worship before the end of term!

Thank you for taking part - I can't wait to see how you welcome these special visitors!

Claire x