

## **ADVENT**

As we lit first Advent Sunday candle we were reminded of the Prophets who foretold us of the coming of the Christ Child and the hope we have in Jesus.

At this time, we reflected on the Faith of Mary and Joseph during their journey to Bethlehem.

Let us pray:

**Lord,**

***You are the light of the world.***

***Thank you for Mary and Joseph who answered your call and led the way in faith to carry out your will.***

***Gracious Lord, may your faith continue to grow in our hearts.***

**Amen**

Traditionally, at this time of year, there are prize-giving ceremonies being held in many schools. Today I have included a reflection that prompts us to recognise and rejoice in all of our children's successes and to celebrate them all:

*It's a time of badges, certificates, medals, trophies, recognition, awards, prizes and 'seeing' of high achievement. I love seeing the kids that shine at this time of year - a big high heartfelt round of applause to you. You so deserve it for the effort you have put in. But this message is for the kids that didn't get called up for any of the above... I SEE YOU.*

*To the child that conquered their fear of heights, or sleeping in the dark, or riding without training wheels or sleeping out for the night for the first time this year, I SEE YOU.*

*To the child that managed to resolve more conflict than they started this year, to the child that learnt to say the impossible; "I'm sorry", and to the child that walked away from the fighting instead of getting involved, I SEE YOU.*

*To the child for whom school is a huge struggle, you get up every day and you go, I SEE YOU.*

*To the child that battled all year with the maths, or reading, or concentration, or speaking out in class, or learning their words, but persevered anyway, I SEE YOU.*

*To the child that found the kindness in their heart reach out in any way to another person or to an animal in need or in pain, I SEE YOU.*

*To the child that learnt to give and to share for the first time this year and even found joy in these, I SEE YOU.*

*To the child that battles to make friends and to be social, you made new friends this year and for that, I SEE YOU.*

*To the child who wanted so much to please, but was just out of sight of an adult who perhaps was too busy or too distracted, I SEE YOU.*

*To the child who lost a friend or a loved one this year, but carried on everyday bravely even though their heart ached, I SEE YOU.*

*To the brave parents that try every day to do the best for their kids, I SEE YOU.*

*May you and your children revel in small but significant victories that you have experienced this year. For every year there is progress and growth, we don't need a podium or handshake or a hall of applause to be seen.*

*I SEE YOU*

*Author unknown*