



Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

As many of you will already know at St Mary's for the last two years during Advent we have been supporting 'Mary's Meals', a charity that works to set children free from poverty by providing them with free education and a meal every day. We know that we are called to give alms during Advent and that this helps us to prepare our hearts to receive Jesus at Christmas time.

This term we will be taking part of the 'Backpack Project' during Advent. The Backpack Project is a simple way to help children from poor families to get to school in countries like Liberia and Malawi. Very often these families cannot afford to buy basic things like clothes that are suitable for school, pencils, notebooks and therefore the children miss out on an education. Along with the free school meal that Mary's Meals provides, the backpacks that we send will help the children to get an education which will help them to escape poverty in later life.

We are asking each family to prepare and provide the following items:

A small backpack

Small ball (e.g tennis ball)

Spoon (preferably metal)

Notepad, pencils, colouring pencils or pens, sharpener, eraser, ruler, pencil case.

Towel, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush

Short or skirt and t-shirt, or dress and a pair of flip flops.

Cheap brands and good quality second hand items are great.

We would like the Backpack Project to be an enjoyable and educational experience for all the children. Some families may try to collect a full backpack, while others may prefer to collect separate items to bring in.

We would like to begin collecting the items Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

Many thanks for your support.

Yours Sincerely

Miss A Scott  
Spirituality Leader