

Caring



During December we develop the character trait 'caring'. In our lives we need the support of others. This may be at home, school, the community, workplace and indeed our church. We all have the capacity to be 'carers' and in this month of giving, we look to the example of others who have given us care and kindness. At Christmas we focus our attention on the gift of the Christ child and in Ballyclare Primary School we want to follow his example of care and kindness. We value very much your support at home, and invite you to discuss some of the following issues or points with your child:

- Looking after those who care for us
- Why do we care and whom do we care for?
- Caring for our family and our home environment
- Caring for the community and practical ways of looking after those in the community
- Kindness to others, for example, buying presents at Christmas for those we love and others who may be suffering from neglect
- Caring for the community in a global context. You may wish to discuss ways in which we can care for those who need our help in the developing worlds. If we can't do this with money, we can help through our prayers.

Don't be yourself, be someone a little nicer and more caring.

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. When you listen to someone you listen not only to the words but the feelings of what is being conveyed. A smile is a light in your window that tells others there is a caring sharing person inside.



How can we be more caring? – Some helpful tips

- Looking after our bodies
- Playing carefully with our friends
- Sharing – toys, food, treats, celebrations etc.
- Looking after the classroom and school
- Caring for the classroom, area and school materials
- Caring for our families and siblings
- Caring for those we find it difficult to get along with
- Caring for the sick, old, less fortunate
- Caring language we should use
- Care for others in the community
- Caring for the home and community environment
- Reflect on the love of God and how he has given us others who care and give us the caring example
- Missionary work – working for a better world and giving of ourselves to help others
- Christmas – time for kindness and care for others in our families, the local and world community. Help children to become involved in kind deeds for others
- Caring for others in the school. Through role-play and assembly, for example, children can explore the importance of caring for the people and things in our school.
- Using class Bibles to find examples of caring. For example, the role of Mary and Joseph especially around Christmas season
- Explore the role of parenthood and celebrate this, perhaps through making special cards or gifts.



**God cares for us,
so we should care for others.**