**AN ADVENT CALENDAR WITH A DIFFERENCE!**

This lovely advent calendar is one where we put in rather than take out things that help us to feel festive. It is all about seeing and celebrating the spirit and values of Christmas in our classroom.

It’s best to introduce with a circle time / class discussion so that everybody gets the idea!

We begin with an empty advent calendar. We need post-it notes or slips of paper that fit the blank spaces, a box or something similar to collect these in and some festive stickers.

Every day, children are asked to look out for others saying or doing things which show the spirit of Christmas. This may be something that brings joy, peace or demonstrates good will towards others.

During the day, children jot down on slips of paper / post-it notes where they have spotted the Christmas Spirit – it must include names of the people they saw, but they write anonymously! The notes are placed in the box / agreed place.

Towards the end of the day, the teacher reviews the notes and selects one to go onto the Advent Calendar for that day. The child / children featured chooses one or two festive stickers to decorate ‘their’ window.

Of course, the teacher will try to make sure that every child has a moment to shine, at least once: this is why the teacher retains control of selecting which example is chosen each day. In most classes, the teacher will need to select examples that feature 2 or 3 children on some days, to make sure everyone can be included.