**Chocolate Nativity – shorter version – School Assembly**

How many of you (hands up) know the story of Christmas, the nativity?

Great

And how many of you have a chocolate Advent calendar?

Well I thought today we could do something a bit surprising and a bit better than a chocolate Advent calendar, and tell the story of Christmas with chocolate.

Do you think we can do it?

Let’s try….

A long time ago, God made the world, in fact the whole **galaxy**, and it was amazing. He made this beautiful world and put people on it too. He wanted the earth to be filled with people who he **loved (love hearts),** people just like you and me, because we are so special to him.

But… sadly the people were just like us and sometimes did things wrong - they didn’t always want to do things God’s way and they didn’t listen to him and they decided to **break-away** from God.

That made God and the people really sad. But after a bit of a **time out** God wanted all this to change, so he made a plan…

It all began when a young woman called Mary heard a **wispa** from an angel, who told her that she would give birth to God’s son. The **angel (angel delight)** told her not to be afraid, and to call the baby Jesus.

So Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem, Mary was heavily pregnant, and she travelled on a donkey, because they couldn’t get an **aero –**plane, a **double decker** or a car.

When they arrived, Joseph tried to find somewhere to stay, but they didn’t have a **dime** (means money!) – and everyone turned them away. Eventually they found a stable where a **kinder** innkeeper said they could stay.

A stable is where the animals slept – what animals do you think might have been there? *(ask kids & fit with next para…)*

I doubt there was a **lion, a frog (freddo frog)**or a **penguin** but there might have been a (**kit) kat, or** some **oxo-n… (cubes) ?**

And there Jesus was born **(jelly baby)**

Then lots of visitors came to see him.

First some shepherds: they’d been up on the hillside, looking up at the **milky way** when they heard singing in the sky. The angels told them to go and see God’s son.

Meanwhile a bit further away, there were some wise men you could call them **smarties** – who were busily looking at the sky when they saw a new light in the sky. Could it be **Mars**? No, it was a special **star** – signalling the birth of a king. They knew they had to go and see this king. So they did up their **buttons** and climbed on their “**caramels**“. And went to find Jesus.

A bad king called Herod found out about this and thought he’d **butter scotch** this rumour of a new king before it began to spread, and he told the wise men to report to him on their way back.

The wise men set off and eventually found the young Jesus and they offered him their gifts **gold (choc coins)**, frankincense, and myrrh.

Then God warned them in a dream that Herod was up to his **Twix** and really wanted to kill Jesus, so they took flight and headed home another way.

So there we are, the story of Jesus’ birth told in chocolate but here’s the **crunch(ie)**: Jesus is the son of God, **divine,** and was born so that all sorts of people might come to know God’s love for them..

He truly is no **miniature hero**, he is God’s gift to all of you, but you only get to taste how good that gift is when you try it for yourself. So why not choose to find out about Jesus this Christmas, because… he is a true cause for **celebration(s)**!

**Prayer**

I pray for all of us this Christmas that you could help us to remember to be as kind as the inn keeper and to give our gifts with the excitement of the shepherds and wise men. And above all help us to celebrate Jesus’ birth remembering how much you love all of us, Lord.

Amen