

Christmas assembly

So here we are. At the end of a long term, with the prospect of the Christmas break ahead.

Each of us will approach the Christmas season in our different way. Whether you see the time as an opportunity to gather with family, or whether your focus is the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, Christmas is a time of goodwill, of fellowship and of joy.

When I think of Christmas, the image that comes to my mind is one of lights. As Christianity celebrates the light of Christ being born into the world, we tend to fill our homes with real lights.

There will be Christmas lights festooned around the tree. There will be candles. You may have draped the front of your house with large scale flashing decorations. Every high s

All of these festivals have light at their heart for an obvious reason: here we are in the darkest days of the year. We get up in the darkness to come to school and when we go home at the end of the day we do so at night. Thomas Hood, in 1844, captured the mood in this poem:

No sun - no moon!

No morn - no noon -

No dawn - no dusk - no proper time of day.

No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease,

No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees,

No fruits, no flowers, no leaves, no birds! -

November!

No wonder we all feel the urge to fight the darkness with light - to fill our lives with illumination. For light is more than just a way to see in the darkness. Light stands for hope. Light reminds us of the coming spring. Light is joy.

May your holiday be illuminated with light. Whichever tradition you follow, or none, may the days ahead be full of light, and warmth, and hope. May you find joy in your family and in fellowship.

Merry Christmas.