**Epiphany Assembly**

Learning Aims: To explore the fact that Jesus' birth extended far beyond His birthplace.

Learning Outcomes: Children learn the story of the Wise men and learn how Spanish children celebrate Epiphany.

Bible: Matthew 2:1-12

Resources: Powerpoint; pictures and words for game; stars; shoes

Intro

Game Match the shoes to the star!

Need 2 volunteers, boy and girl. You have 30 seconds to match the picture of shoes to the star that wears them. Then use the powerpoint to check their answers. Point for each correct answer.

Talk Leave slide on Father Christmas, discuss gifts, they received on Christmas day and ask did they put their stocking out for Father Christmas?

Talk Slide Showing Fiesta de los tre Reyes Mages. Explain this is a festival celebrated in Spain, on January 6th and all the children get ready the night before (tonight) by taking off their shoes and placing straw or hay in them and placing them on a windowsill, at the front door or under the Christmas tree. And in the morning, they wake up to find their shoes

(show slide) stuffed with sweets and chocolate! This celebrates the Epiphany story.

Story 3 volunteers. Give each a star.

There were some very clever men who lived far away in the East and who studied the stars and became very excited when they realised that they had spotted a new star in the night sky. The star was moving across the sky. They immediately set out to find where it would lead them.

They consulted their books and discovered that this star would lead them to where a new King had been born. So they got together everything they would need and got on their camels and followed the star, to a village called Bethlehem. And there in a stable in Bethlehem, lying in a manger the wise men found, the special baby- Jesus. He didn't look very important but the wise men knew that he was the greatest king of all time.

*1ST wise man:* I have brought you gold. (holds up star)

2nd *wise man:* And I, costly frankincense (hold up star)

*3rd wise man:* This is the finest Myrrh (hold up star)

*All wise men:* We have followed the star to find you, travelling for many miles, but you are the greatest star of all (holding up the largest star)

Talk In our game earlier, we had to match shoes to the stars. Pop, film and sports idols are called stars because they are popular, famous and rich, but Jesus was called the greatest star of all and he had none of these and was born in a stable; but his coming into the world has influenced and changed peoples lives ever since.

Reflection We are all stars in different ways. We all have talents and gifts. Let’s pause for a moment and think about what gifts we could offer to other people,

Prayer Thank you God, that we all have different gifts & talents Please help us to share these with others today, through the gift of friendship.

Amen