



R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS



God Matters

This term your child(ren) will be studying **CHRISTMAS** in Religious Education:

EYFS



Children will build upon what they have learnt during Advent through exploring the Christmas story. They will become familiar with the characters, the location and the response to the Birth of Jesus. They will be expected to visualise and articulate the first Christmas through role play and discussion.

Help at Home

- Using a crib discuss the people involved and placed in it. Ask them how they would have felt if they had been there.
- Write down what they would have said to Jesus or Mary and Joseph when they visited,
- Look at the Christmas carol *Away in a manger* and talk about what it is saying,
- Get the children to draw a picture of a crib scene and you write the names of the people they include in it.

YEAR THREE

During this unit the children will be looking at the Christmas story through the eyes of the shepherds. They will look at their position in society and how others treated them. They will explore why God invited them to visit Jesus and spread the news. They will make links with Jesus' work amongst the poor and with the outcasts. The children will also explore the creation of the first crib by St Francis of Assisi.

Help at Home

- Discuss who in society can be treated badly today and how Jesus would treat them if he was still alive. Discuss how sheep are looked after today in comparison to when Jesus was born.
- Look up Assisi on a map and find out about St Francis of Assisi.



YEAR ONE

Children will revisit the Christmas story by relating it to their own birth and looking for similarities and differences. They will particularly focus on the Inn Keeper and the Wise Men's story and reaction to the Birth of Jesus.

Help at Home

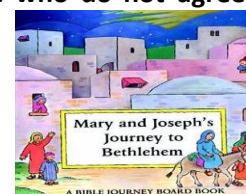
- Share photos and items associated with your own child's baptism if they had one if not perhaps talk about someone they know who has been baptised/christened.
- Visit the church and look at the font.
- Ask them what gift they would have given to Jesus if they had visited him and discuss why they would have given that.

YEAR TWO

The children will focus upon the concept of journeys and the specific journey of Mary and Joseph and the Magi (wise men). They will look at the reasons for their journey, the preparations, and difficulties they would have encountered. They may also hear the story of Mary and Joseph's flight to Egypt.

Help at Home

- Talk to your children about a long journey they may have gone on. What had to be done to prepare for the journey, what they would have had to have taken, why and how they felt on the journey?
- Research how Mary and Joseph and the Magi would have known what direction to take without a map.
- Talk about how some people today have to leave their country because they are frightened or driven out by people who do not agree with what they believe.



YEAR FOUR



During this unit the children will make links between Christmas and other church feasts i.e. Feast of John Baptist 24th June. It will also ask the children to make the links with how angels were used as messengers of God and how we are called to be messengers of God in today's society. It will look at significant people who act/ed today i.e. Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II. May also look at how a parish celebrates Christmas i.e. Midnight mass.

Help at Home

- Discuss what being a messenger of God means. Discuss the differing ways in which the message of God can be spread i.e. word of mouth, written, actions.
- Look at a parish newsletter and the events that the church is putting on.
- Look at the symbols displayed in the church during this season

YEAR FIVE



During this unit the children explore the difficulties encountered by the Holy Family as a result of the Birth of Jesus i.e. becoming outcasts. It makes links with the concept of being homeless and a refugee. It also looks at the key features of Jesus' birth – is it what you would expect of a King and why was he born in a stable not a palace?

Help at Home

- Discuss how and why people may become homeless. Explore the question does it make them less valued by God? Discuss how we can positively help such people.
- Look at countries from which people are fleeing.

YEAR SIX



The children will look in depth at the Christmas story through the gospel writers identifying similarities and differences. They will particularly focus upon the Prologue in John's Gospel and how Jesus is described as the word made flesh. They will explore the meaning of Incarnation and how it relates to the images of Jesus. They will explore the relationship between Jesus and his father which provides an opportunity for them to explore their own relationship with God.

Help at Home

- Discuss the relationship that they have with you as their parent what are the challenges especially as they get older i.e. being asked to do things they may not wish to do.
- Discuss if Jesus had any of the same challenges with his Father i.e. God.
- Discuss what kind of relationship do they think they have with God do they have one.

EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS



28th November – Advent Retreat 1.30pm – all welcome

11th and 12th December – KS1 Nativity at 9.30am and 2.00pm

18th December 2019 at 6pm – KS2 Carol Service at St Dominic's Church, Dursley