

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

God Matters

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

RECEPTION



The children will be introduced to the idea of special days and seasons in the churches' year i.e. Sunday and the season of Advent. They will look at why Sunday is a special day and the four special Sunday's during Advent. They will develop an understanding that Advent is a time of preparation and when we prepare for the birth of Jesus. They will look at how they can prepare in terms of prayer and actions. They will also focus on making the sign of the cross.

Help at Home

- **Make a family advent wreath and follow the weeks through saying a prayer at the start of each new week. Discuss the use of the colour purple as a sign in the church of getting ready and make links with the colour vestments the priest wears.**
- **Practise making the sign of the cross,**

Year 1

Children will continue to develop further the meaning and significance of Advent. They will focus on looking at the preparation for the Birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. They will explore the qualities they showed when asked to answer Gods call to be parents to his son. They will focus specifically upon the 3rd Sunday of Advent known as 'rejoice Sunday'

Help at Home

- **Have an advent wreath and focus upon the symbols of the wreath i.e. the shape of a circle signifying Gods love has no beginning and no end, the purple candles linked with the colour used in Advent and the vestments and specifically focus on the pink candle on the 3rd week.**
- **Discuss how Mary and Joseph felt at being told they were going to be parents- link it to how you felt when you were told.**



Year 2

This unit introduces the children to the Old Testament and prophets and the role they played in delivering a message from God. It also looks at the role angel's play. It explores the meaning of Emmanuel. It introduces them to John the Baptist and his father Zachariah. It also develops the idea of a parish as a community and the role the school plays in the parish.

Help at Home

- **Show them a Bible and the two different sections in the Bible – the Old and the New and discuss what they think the difference is.(Old are stories from before Jesus was born new is from the time he was born and his life)**
- **Read a couple of well known stories from the Old Testament.**
- **Discuss things that happen in the parish during Advent i.e. any charity events and how school and parish come together, i.e. choirs, fetes, First Holy Communion.**



Year 3



Children will develop an understanding of Mary's response to the call to be Jesus' mother through the Scripture of the Annunciation. Children will make links to our calling to follow Christ through our actions, They will study the parable of the goats and the sheep and make links to their own life. They may also look at a Jesse Tree which shows the ancestry of Jesus,

Help at Home

- **Research a Jesse Tree and some of the characters named on it,**
- **Discuss the way they act and is it in a Christian/catholic way.**

Year 4



This unit is designed to deepen the children's understanding of what God promised when he promised to send his son. They will explore the fact that Jesus was born into the house of David and his ancestors. They will look at the different titles given to Jesus including the Messiah and make links with how we celebrate and prepare for Advent.

Help at Home

- Explore your own family tree and try plotting out so that they can understand a Jesse Tree. Research who Jesse was,
- Look at the symbols on a Jesse Tree,

Year 5

The children will explore in depth what we learn about Jesus from the Old Testament and the prophets specifically Isaiah. They will investigate the character of John the Baptist and his ministry and how it is linked to Advent. They will also discuss and look at how we prepare for Advent in the church today. They will also be introduced to the Benedictus.

Help at Home.

- When going to church during Advent look at the preparations the church makes and discuss how they are linked with what they know from scripture about Advent.
- Find out where the word Advent comes from.



Year 6

This unit brings together all that the children have learnt and focused on over the previous years. It provides for a deeper opportunity to explore the response demanded of Christ's followers and his teachings through the parables specifically the parable of the Bridesmaids and the waiting servant. It also explores Advent as preparing for the second coming of Christ,

Help at Home

- Revisit the advent wreath and its meaning as well as the meaning of Advent and how as a people we celebrate and prepare during this season.
- Discuss why Jesus told parables and the impact they have on us. Ask which parables your child likes and why and how it impacts on their life.

Key events

- The four Sundays of Advent
- Reconciliation and its purpose in Advent. When is it being celebrated in school or the parish,

EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS