

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

God Matters

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

RECEPTION



This unit develops the children's awareness of Jesus rising from the dead and focuses on Easter Sunday and the wonder of finding an empty tomb. The look at the meaning of new life and the signs and symbols of new life. They are introduced to the term Christian and its meaning.

The multi-faith element identifies Hinduism as a religion.

Help at Home

- Make an Easter garden (can look up ideas on the internet as to what should be in there)
- Go out for a new life walk and talk about all the signs of new life.
- Get your child to paint or draw a picture of something they saw on the walk and pin it up someone.
- Say a prayer together thanking God for the new life around and all the things they see.
- Talk to your child about why we have Easter eggs on Easter Sunday.

YEAR ONE



During this unit the children will deepen their knowledge and understanding of the resurrection and the impact on the people who found the tomb empty. It will also look at what the Disciples did after finding the tomb empty and particularly Peter. They will also look at the Easter candle and the symbolism of it.

The multi-faith element looks at the stories linked to Hinduism

Help at home

- Read the biblical story of the resurrection or watch an animated version of the story (one on utube but to be accessed by a parent)
- Ask the children to tell you the story and you write down their version or they do it themselves.
- Visit the church and look at the Easter candle and talk about it and its importance.
- Look up who St Peter is.

Year 3



The children will study in depth the scripture reading of the breakfast on the shore following the resurrection of Jesus and the Disciples reactions and reasons why they reacted in such a way. They will make the links with how we celebrate the risen Lord during Mass and the Eucharist. They will learn how long the season of Easter lasts which is 50 days.

Help at Home

- Ask your children about the story they have heard and school and ask them to explain what happened.
- Let your child draw a picture of what they think the disciples at that time may have had for breakfast and draw a picture of what we now may have.
- Make some bread with your child if possible make unleavened bread and discuss what why it is called unleavened bread.

YEAR 2

The children will focus on the difficulties that some people including the Disciples had in believing Jesus had risen. They will look in depth at Thomas and the gospel reading linked to his doubts. They will look at the symbols of Easter including water, frankincense and the term alpha to omega.

The feast of Holi is studied in the multi-faith element

Help at home

- Talk to your child about the phrase being a doubting Thomas and what it means if you call someone that.
- Re-read the gospel reading of Thomas and his doubts and talk about what made him believe.
- Get your child to draw Thomas' face when he say Jesus and add a speech bubble of what they think he may have said.
- Talk to your child about why some people doubt that God exists. Talk about what symbols are around that help people believe i.e. the plants, the cycle of the plants and animals etc.
- Research the feast of Holi





Year 4

In this unit there is a continued focus on the appearances of Jesus with an explanation of the road to Emmaus story. Pupils are introduced to and examine the Ascension and what it teaches us.

The Hindu festival of Diwali is explored in the multi-faith element.

Help At Home

- Talk to your child about how Jesus walks with us today on our lives.
- Make two footprints and paste or draw a picture of themselves on one and an image of Jesus on the other and put up on an appropriate wall to symbolise Jesus being with them. Can say a prayer using these each day.
- Find a copy of the poem Footprints in the sand and read together and discuss what it means.
- Look up what the work to ascend means and then discussion how this is linked to the word Ascension.
- Get your child to tell you the story of Ascension.
- Look up the festival of Diwali and discuss how important light is in our religion.
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Year 6

The children will explore in depth the resurrection as seen through the eyes of the Disciple Thomas and how this story links with us and our faith. The Christian beliefs in eternal life are explored through examination of Scripture and the Catholic funeral liturgy.

Opportunities are also provided to explore the Hindu belief in reincarnation in the multi-faith element.

Help at home

- Ask your child to write down questions about their faith that they have difficulty with. You also write down questions and compare the two. Have a talk about them and why you find them difficult.
- If the children have experienced the death of someone then talk through the concept of eternal life and how the death of someone affects us but that we should also be pleased and celebrate their life.
- Get the child to write a prayer to the person who has died.
- Get your child to draw a picture of what they think heaven may look like and talk about their picture.

Year 5

In this unit the children will study the Easter Vigil in detail to develop an understanding of the symbolism of Easter, as well as the beliefs that lie behind it. The story of Lazarus helps explore the concept of eternal life. The children also look at the Nicene Creed and how this is an expression of faith.

The Hindu religion is explored in the multi-faith element.

Help at Home

- If you have gone to the Easter Vigil then talk through all the key aspects of the service. The service of light, liturgy of the word, renewal of baptismal promises and the Eucharist.
- Bring out your child's baptismal candle if you have one and relight it and say together the baptismal promises.
- Get your child to draw or paint a picture of the story of Lazarus and include some speech showing what the people watching would have said or thought.
- Say the Nicene Creed together at some point and if you go to church pay particular attention to it during mass.
- Discuss the recent changes to the creed and why do they think we now say I instead of we



KEY EVENTS

The Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday

EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS