

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

God Matters

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

RECEPTION



The children will begin to recognise the season of Lent and the colours in the church that represent this season. They will begin to look at how they can prepare for Easter during the season. They will hear the parable of the Talents and look at what they are good at and how to use them.

Help at Home

- **Decide on something that the child can do to help other people during lent i.e. give up having something and putting the money in a pot to give to charity at the end of Lent.**
- **Make a daily calendar and get the children to plot the good deeds they have done each day during Lent i.e. tidying their room, going to bed without arguing.**
- **When visiting church during Lent look at the colours used in church and what is different.**
- **Draw a picture of a path leading with a tomb at the end and mark off 40 squares representing the 40 days of lent. Read a different story from the Bible each night and draw a symbol of the story in the square. (Can be from old or new testament)**

YEAR ONE

The children will begin to have an understanding of the term Lent and its meaning. They will explore the story of Jesus in the wilderness and also the story of the tax collector Zacchaeus. They will begin to be aware of Jesus's link with the Jewish faith.

Help at Home

- **Ask your child to talk to you about how Jesus was tempted in the desert.**
- **Ask your child to draw a picture of Zacchaeus watching Jesus.**
- **Discuss with your child how we pay taxes today and what they go towards paying.**
- **Discuss with your child the things that they can change about themselves like Zacchaeus did.**



YEAR 2



This unit reinforces the understanding of Lent as being preparation for Easter, commencing with Ash Wednesday and being a time of seeking forgiveness and doing penance. The parables of the lost sheep and the unforgiving servant will be focused upon together with the words of the Our Father and the relationship between Jesus and his Father.

The multi-faith element looks at the importance of the Torah to the Jewish faith.

Help at Home

- **Say the Our Father together each night.**
- **Watch an animated version of the Lost Sheep available from U tube. Discuss what the message is which is God cares for us all and will take time to find us even if we turn away from him.**
- **Ask your child to draw a picture of the lost sheep and retell the story.**
- **Revisit the story of Jesus in the desert and the link with the 40 days of Lent.**
- **Ask the children to do something different each day for Lent.**



Year 3

During this unit the children will look at the traditions and symbols of Lent and will focus on the idea of forgiveness and reconciliation. They will make the link between the healing of the body physically through the miracles of healing performed by Jesus and the healing of the mind through forgiveness.

They will learn the Act of Contrition and its meaning. The importance of prayer in the Jewish faith will be looked at.

Help at Home

- **Say the Act of contrition on a daily basis during Lent.**
- **Ask the children to explain what Lent means and the symbols we use in the Catholic faith during this season.**
- **Watch some of the animated versions on utube of some of the miracles of healing Jesus performed i.e. the paralysed man**
- **Research the prayers of the Jewish faith.**



Year 4

In this unit the previous understanding of forgiveness and penance is built upon, with a focus on the Temptation of Jesus. The children are invited to express what they learn from his example. The children will develop and explore how prayer, fasting, almsgiving and living out the Beatitudes help us prepare for Easter.

In the multi-faith element, the children will examine Yom Kippur.

Help at Home

- Ask your child to jot down all the things they would find really difficult to give up. Discuss the word temptation and how people are tempted to do things.
- Re-read the Beatitudes with your child and ask them what they understand from them.
- Research the Yom Kippur.
- Research who the Pharisees were.
- Say a prayer of your child's choice each day together.



Year 5

The children will undertake in-depth work upon the letter of St Paul to the Corinthians and make links with their contents to Lent and specifically the idea of temptation. They will develop their understanding of why the specific temptations were offered to Jesus. They will develop how the scripture readings impact upon Catholics/Christians. Links will be made with the Jewish concept of repentance.

Help at Home

- Revisit who the Apostles were and their connection to Jesus.
- With your child look up where the letters of St Paul are in the Bible and read together some of the letters.
- Discuss with your child why the season of Lent is so important to Catholics or Christians.
- If you are of the Catholic faith encourage your child to attend a service of reconciliation in your parish,

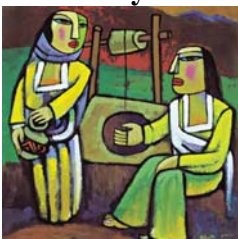
Year 6

The means by which we prepare for Easter are explored in depth through the teachings of Jesus in the parable of the rich man and Lazarus and the account of the Samaritan woman at the well. It allows for understanding of who Jesus is and whom he calls us to be. The Beatitudes are revised as fulfilment of God's promise.

Moses' importance to the Jewish faith is developed and explored

Help at Home

- Research the life story of Moses.
- Research who Samaritans were.
- Ask your child to write or draw all they know about Lent.
- Discuss with your child if they think Lent is important and if so why if not why not?



Key events

- Ash Wednesday
- St David's Day 1st March
- Mothering Sunday
- St Patrick's Feast Day 17th March
- Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin 25th March

EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS