

Parent Letter – Autumn Term

The Religious Education Directory (RED) has now been introduced from Reception to Year Five. This parent letter outlines what the children will learn, following the RED, during the Autumn Term. Year Six continue to follow the previous programme of Come and See. By September 2027, they will also follow the RED. The termly parent letter will reflect the changes in learning for these classes.

Branch One – Creation and Covenant

This will be delivered in the first half of the Autumn Term. (The colour green is used to represent 'ordinary time' within the church's liturgical calendar)

Branch Two – Prophecy and Promise

This will be delivered in the second half of the Autumn Term. (The colour purple is used to represent the season of advent)

Reception

The children begin by learning that God made each of us. Children explore how families are a gift from God and that we show love in our families towards each other. The children recognise that God created everything and said it was good. Children take time to explore what good means and that all creation is good, should be cherished and looked after. They reflect on how they can look after our beautiful world and how we are asked to show stewardship to God's creations. Finally, the children learn about the Sacrament of Baptism and how we celebrate becoming part of God's family through this special sacrament.

Throughout Branch 2, children will know that Mary was chosen by God to be Jesus' mother. They will learn that Mary and Joseph travelled to Bethlehem and that Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Children will know that the shepherds visited Jesus at the stable and that Advent is a time to get ready for Christmas. Finally children will know that Jesus came for the whole world.

Year One and Year Two

Pupils will consider how the world exists and how all that is came to be. They will learn about the Christian belief that all that exists comes from God, the Creator, who Christians call Father, and that this belief is found in Scripture. The children will learn to recognise that it is a story about how God reveals his love, not a scientific account. Children will hear the opening words of the Nicene Creed as they express the belief that all that is comes from God, who created all that is seen, and all that is unseen. All pupils will be invited to reflect on what prayer means for them in their lives. Finally, children will reflect on the message in Laudato Si and how we all need to take care of God's creation

Throughout Branch 2, children will understand that the Bible is a special book and encounter the stories and accounts of how people came to know God and the Good News of Jesus in the gospels. Children will sequence the accounts from the Annunciation through to the visit of the shepherds and know that in the Annunciation, God called Mary and she said 'Yes' to his call. Children will recognise that, for Christians, the Christmas story reveals God's love by sending Jesus his Son.

Year Three and Year Four

In Years 3 and 4, the children begin by learning that the Creation stories in Genesis use symbolism to explain the relationship between God, human beings, and the world. They reflect on the notion that without God, our lives are empty, chaotic and lack purpose. The children read prayers, poems and psalms about creation, acknowledging the meaning behind them and reflecting on what is wonderful about our world. They also reflect on how the praise of Creation is reflected in St Francis's Canticle of the Creatures before understanding what it means to be a steward of creation. Children then recognise that in Laudato Si', Pope Francis teaches that human beings are called to have a loving relationship with God, with each other, and with the world.

Children learn about the first part of the Mass. They will recognise and name some of the objects in a church and will understand why Catholics go to Mass. They will learn the different rules people have when they take part in Mass as well as the structure of Mass, naming the different parts of the Liturgy of the Word. Children will then learn about Advent and the signs and symbols that help Catholics live out this special season. They will learn about the Annunciation to Joseph and explore the meaning of the story.

Year Five and Year Six

Pupils will explore the historical, cultural, and religious context out of which Abraham was called. They will think about the historical context of biblical stories and that God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity. They will also discuss how faith is believing in God, trusting what God reveals, and following God's loving purpose to live a good life. They will explore the lives of the faithful and how through living out virtues of faith, hope, and love (sometimes referred to as charity), Christians are drawn into a closer relationship with the Holy Trinity.

Children will reflect on the prophets Elijah and John the Baptist as examples. For example, they will show some understanding of the cultural and religious context of Elijah's time and why people needed to be reminded of God's covenant. They will make links with the words of Isaiah, the preaching of John the Baptist, and the season of Advent. Children will know that the feast of Christ the King marks the end of the Church's year and describe what is celebrated, making links with the ancestry of Jesus and the Jesse tree.

Year Six Come and See Units:

1. Loving – God who never stops loving
2. Vocation and Commitment – The vocation of priesthood and religious life
3. Judaism
4. Expectations – Jesus born to show God to the World

Learning at Home – How can you support your child at home?

- † Read the story of Creation together from a child's version of the Bible and say a prayer to God to give thanks for all the wonderful things that He has created.
- † Talk to your child about their role and responsibility in God's creation and how we can all create a positive world around us following the example of Jesus.
- † Go on creation walks to inspire awe and wonder.
- † Take your child outside to take photos of things they love in the world
- † Ask your child to think about what they can do to make the world a better place.

- † Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.
- † Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree. Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.
- † Discuss with your child how we prepare for the coming of Jesus. Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.
- † Challenge your child to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas through their actions. You could visit the CAFOD or Mission Together website to get a religious Advent calendar and complete their daily task to help you prepare for the coming of Christ.

Our Charity Work This Term

In September, we hold a fairtrade fortnight across the school. This is an opportunity to raise awareness of Fairtrade for the children and their families. School council plan and lead a whole school assembly and initiative, encouraging our community to make small changes, promoting fairtrade and supporting everyone to have a fair share.



During the month of October, we hold our annual Porridge Day to raise money for the wonderful charity, Mary's Meals. By bringing 'a pound for porridge' and participation in this national day of charity, Mary's Meals are able to feed millions of hungry children around the world. - <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>

Throughout October, we focus on Harvest. Children are invited to 'Dress Happy for Harvest' for a small donation. Our Year Four children share a wonderful assembly to raise awareness of Harvest and invite parents for an afternoon tea to raise money. All money raised is donated to CAFOD. We also ask for donations of food which are donated to our local food bank, The Trussel Trust.



During the month of November, we pray for peace in our world. We think of those who have given their lives for our country. The children of Year Three share a wonderful assembly about WW1 and the children sell poppies to raise money for The Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

Throughout December, we raise money for CAFOD's World Gifts. Year Two children share the annual Nativity performance in which donations are collected. The school CAFOD Club also take part in the fundraising ideas, coming up with their own ways to raise money. This year, as it is the Jubilee Year of Hope, they will be selling 'an envelope of hope' for a small donation. Keep your eye on Class Dojo for more information!



Through supporting these charities, we are putting Catholic Social Teaching into action! There are nine principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Need a reminder? Head to the CST section of our school website – <https://www.twelveapostlesleigh.co.uk/religion-in-our-school/catholic-social-teaching/> Through this charity work, we will put the principles of; The Common Good, Distributive Justice, Participation, Solidarity, Preferential Option for the Poor and Promoting Peace into action.



IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

ALL SAINTS (1 November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS) (2 November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING (22nd November)

ADVENT (Begins 29th November)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (8th December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD (25th December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH (27th December)