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Parents' Religious Education Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Below you will find information about what your children will be learning in their Religious Education this half term.

The following table provides dates from the Catholic Church's calendar that mark or celebrate significant days or saint's days during this half term.

3 rd September	St. Gregory the Great	2 nd October	Guardian Angels
4 th September	St. Cuthbert	3 rd October	Harvest Fast Day
8 th September	Our Lady's birthday	4 th October	St. Francis of Assisi
14 th September	Education Sunday	7 th October	Our Lady of the Rosary
15 th September	Our Lady of Sorrows	9 th October	St. John Henry Newman
24 th September	Our Lady of Walsingham	10 th October	St. Paulinus of York
27 th September	St. Vincent de Paul	13 th October	St. Edward the Confessor
29 th September	Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	15 th October	St. Teresa of Avila
30 th September	St. Jerome	17 th October	St. Ignatius of Antioch
1 st October	St. Therese of Lisieux	18 th October	St. Luke, Evangelist
		22 nd October	St. John Paul II, Pope

From this September religious education (RE) will be taught using a new Catholic RE programme called '*Lighting the Path*' published by Oxford University Press and approved by the Diocese of Leeds. The implementation of the new programme will be phased in over the next two academic years. Children in Early Years and Year One and Year Two will be taught RE using *Lighting the Path* from this September, followed by all Key Stage Two classes from September 2026. *Lighting the Path* follows a spiral curriculum which means that each year group follows the same broad theme, but the content differs depending on the age of pupils.



'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path'
 Psalm 119:105

Creation and Covenant

"Creation is the foundation of all God's saving plans, the beginning of the history of salvation that culminates in Christ" Religious Education Directory

Reception



This half term children in Early Years will be learning about God's beautiful world. Throughout this unit of work, the children will begin to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the world and know that God made it. They will learn that God loves each one of us and reflect on this. They will hear about and respond to the things God created for us. They will know that God has asked us to care for the world and think of ways in which we can help to do it.

At home

You could help your children by:

- looking at pictures of animals and plants and talking about how special creation is
- encourage them to notice different parts of God's wonderful creation and think of ways to care for the world.

Key Stage One:

The children will hear and retell the story of Creation from the first chapter of the Book of Genesis and talk about its meaning. They will learn that in the story of Creation God gave human beings the responsibility for taking care of the world and everything in it and in doing this they show their love for each other and for God. Children will study how belief in Creation is expressed in diverse creative and artistic ways and talk about their responses. They will learn that the beauty of the world leads people to expressions of wonder and awe and how for Christians and other people of faith this leads to prayers of praise and thanksgiving.

At home

You could help your children by:

- talking about how we can look after the world, e.g. recycling, not dropping litter, conserving energy and how we can care for plants and animals
- look at the trees during the autumn season and talk about the different colours. You could collect leaves to make a collage or painting.

The children will learn about the story of Noah, focusing on God's promise that is symbolised by the rainbow. They will learn that hope is a key virtue, because after the destruction of the flood, the path back to living a good life was restored by the hope of Noah and his family. Through Noah, humanity was again given the responsibility of taking care of the world. The children will then focus on the sacrament of baptism because of its link with Noah: humanity was given a new start from the waters in the story of Noah and through the water of baptism a person is given new life in the Christian family.

At home

You could emphasise:

- care of the environment by encouraging them to take simple steps to care for insects, birds and other creatures.
- if applicable, talk about their baptism and look at and talk about objects or photographs from the celebration.



Key Stage Two

During this academic year (2025-26) children in Key Stage Two will continue their RE using *The Way, the Truth and the Life* programme which is published by the Teachers' Enterprise in Religious Education.



Lower Key Stage 2 The Christian Family

The children will develop their understanding that the Church is the family of God and know that we join this family when we receive the Sacrament of Baptism. They will learn what happens at Baptism and learn about the signs used and why they are used. They will learn about the promises made by parents and godparents at Baptism and develop their understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism. The children will have a chance to:

- reflect on what it means to be part of a family
- reflect on what it means to be part of the Christian family



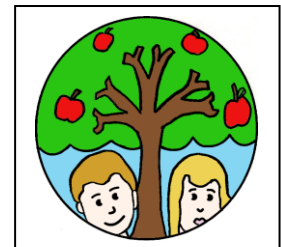
At home

You could help your children by:

- if applicable, sharing your experiences about their Baptism. Look at any gifts or photographs that they received on their special day.
- discuss what it means to be part of God's family.

Year Five Gifts from God (Creation)

The children will learn the second story of Creation (the creation of the man and the woman – Adam and Eve) and the Fall in the Book of Genesis. They will learn that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and know that God calls us to care for others and all creation with love and respect. They will learn that there are times when we fail to be good stewards of creation. They will also learn that there are people who show great respect for creation and for the weakest members of society.



The children will have the chance to:

- appreciate how we can show respect for ourselves, for others and for God.
- reflect on times we have failed to show respect and reflect on the gifts and talents God has given each of us.
- reflect on the use and misuse we can make of these gifts.

At home

You could help your children by:

- talking to them about their own gifts and talents and how they can use them to do good.