

# R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

God Matters

During April 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.

### 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.
- Paint/decorate a hardboiled egg or if really good blow out an egg and decorate it.

## 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 look at how the women felt on their way to the tomb and when they reached the tomb. Pupils will be looking at what it means to be a witness of Jesus. They will also explore the symbolism of the Easter candle.

### Help at Home

- Read the biblical story of the resurrection or watch an animated version of the story (Youtube but accessed by a parent)
- Visit the church and look at the Easter symbols. Talk about their meanings.
- Discuss with your child how they can show others what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

## YEAR 2

The children will learn about the symbols of Easter including incense and the term alpha to omega. They will hear the resurrection story and will look at how the disciples reacted when they found Jesus had risen from the dead. Thomas will help pupils understand that not all people responded to the resurrection of Jesus in the same way.

### Help at home

- Read the biblical story of the resurrection or watch an animated version of the story (Youtube but accessed by a parent)
- Visit the church and look at the Easter candle and talk about it and its importance.
- 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.
- 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.

## Year 3

In this unit the children will be learning to make connections between the events of Easter, Holy week, the teachings and life of Jesus and the celebration of the Eucharist. The children will be focusing on the appearance of Jesus to his disciples.

### Help at Home

- Ask your children about the story of the Breakfast on the Shore 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.
- Discuss the symbolism of Easter including the liturgical colours.

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## 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.

### 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.
- 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.
- Encourage children to think about how the journey to Emmaus can be linked to modern day scenarios.

## 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 children also look at the Nicene Creed and how this is an expression of faith, as well as why the baptismal promises are renewed at this time. The Easter Vigil is considered as a part of the Easter Triduum, and how it inspires us to change.

### Help at Home

- If you have gone to an Easter Vigil then talk through all the key aspects of the service including, 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.
- 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.



## Year 6

The children will revise their understanding of the resurrection, looking at different accounts within the Bible and exploring their meaning. Theories and evidence around whether or not the resurrection actually happened will be studied and used to inform a class debate. Following this, Christian beliefs in life after death will be explored by studying the funeral liturgy within the Catholic Church.

### Help at Home

- Ask your child to share some of the theories behind the resurrection. Have a discussion about your own thoughts and why you believe what you do
- If your child has experienced the death of someone close, talk through the concept of eternal life and how the death of someone can affect us but that we should also celebrate their life
- Ask your child to draw a picture of what they think heaven may look like and explain why.

