

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,

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 symbols. Talk about their meanings.**

Year 3



The children will study in depth the scripture reading of the Easter story and 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.

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 learn about the symbols of Easter including incense and the term alpha to omega. They will hear resurrection story and will look at how the disciples reacted when they found Jesus had risen from the dead, focusing particularly on Peter.

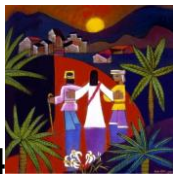
Help at home

- **Read the biblical story of the resurrection or watch an animated version of the story (one on youtube 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.**
- **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.**

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During April your child(ren) will be studying **EASTER** in Religious Education:



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.
- 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.
- Look up the festival of Diwali and discuss how important light is in our religion.
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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.

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.
- 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 class debate. Following this, Christian beliefs in life after death will be explored, specifically by studying the funeral liturgy within the Catholic Church; readings, prayers and symbolism will all be explored in order to reveal meaning. Opportunities will also be provided to explore the Hindu belief in reincarnation in the multi-faith element.

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.

