

# RE NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

God Matters

The RE Topic your child(ren) will be studying this term is LENT.

## 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.

### 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.
- 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 1

The children will begin to explore the basic meaning of Lent and links it to the life and teachings of Jesus. Opportunities are provided to help pupils understand how they can get ready for Easter by changing.

### Help at Home

- 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 to pray more, to help others and to become better people. The children will also focus on the events of Holy Week and learn why the Stations of the Cross are important for Christians.

### Help at Home

- Revisit the stories of 'The Lost Sheep' and 'The Lost Son'. What do the stories tell us about forgiveness?
- Encourage your child to do a good turn for someone each day during Lent.
- Watch an animated version of the events of Holy Week (available on youtube).

## YEAR 3

This unit further explores Lent as a time when we prepare for Easter. It allows the children to explore how this preparation involves change. During this unit the children will look at the traditions and symbols of Lent and will focus on the idea of forgiveness and penance and how it can be expressed in various ways, more specifically through fasting, prayer and almsgiving. The children will explore how these, and other forms of penance can be practiced in daily life, particularly during the time of Lent. We will look at the story of the Widow of Nain and consider how Jesus showed compassion here and how we too can show compassion during Lent.

### Help at Home

- 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 YouTube of some of the miracles of healing Jesus performed i.e. the healing of the paralysed man.



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## YEAR 4

In this unit the children develop an understanding of how the season of Lent can be used as a time to try and put away the things that distract us from our relationship with God and each other. There is a focus on the Temptation of Jesus and the children are invited to express what they learn from his example. They will make links with the temptations that they have experienced. Children will be enabled to develop and explore how prayer, fasting, almsgiving and living out the Beatitudes help us prepare for Easter.

### 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.
- Say a prayer of your child's choice each day together.
- Create a Lent calendar, giving ideas of kind gestures or actions that could be performed each day in Lent eg. Write a card to someone far away.

## YEAR 5

The children will recap on their understanding of the season of Lent. They will explore in depth the concept of repentance and how this involves making a change, using evidence from the Bible to support them. In particular, the letters of St Paul will be used as examples of teachings for Christians to live out their faith and we will consider how in order to inspire change in others, we first need to consider how we can change ourselves.

### Help at Home

- Read the biblical events of Jesus' time in the desert
- Research some examples of Jesus' teaching that show Him challenging people to change - Zacchaeus is a good starting point
- Research the meaning of Lent for Christians
- Think about things that are particularly tempting for your child and what they can do to resist this temptation

## YEAR 6

The children will recap on their understanding of the season of Lent, considering what Lent actually means to Christians. The connection between the Beatitudes and Lent/journeys will be explored with particular focus on how Christians can live out the Beatitudes in today's world.

### Help at Home

- Research the meaning of Lent for Christians, focussing particularly on the practices of fasting, praying and almsgiving.
- Research the Beatitudes and discuss which ones are most relevant to your home life
- Use the Beatitudes to create a list of good deeds that could be completed during the season of Lent.
- Give time or goods or money to those in need eg collect coins to donate to our 'Spend a penny' appeal, give food to the food bank or visit someone who lives on their own.



