

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

God Matters

During May and June your child(ren) will be studying **PENTECOST** in Religious Education:



RECEPTION

During this unit the children will hear the story of Pentecost and be introduced to the Holy Spirit. They will look at what the Disciples did when Jesus left them.

Help at home

- Set up a small prayer area at home with a candle that is lit when you/they say a prayer. Talk to the children about the fact that Jesus is not with us but that when we light a candle it is a sign of him.
- Get your child to make a flame out of red or yellow paper and stick it on a piece of white card. On the back write the names of their special friends and why they are their friends.
- Watch an animated version of the story of Pentecost.



YEAR ONE

The children will again focus on the story but look at the symbolism i.e. the wind, flames and dove. They will be introduced to the idea of the Holy Spirit also being God. They will also look at what it means to be a Disciple.

Help at home

- Get your child to draw you a picture of the Pentecost story.
- Draw and cut out a picture of a dove and hang it somewhere where it can move because of the wind.
- Using an old shoe box help your child to construct a 3D image of the Pentecost story.
- Get the children to investigate if they can see the wind, discuss how they know it is there.

YEAR 2

The children will listen to the hymn “God’s Spirit is in my heart” and consider its meaning.

Help at home

*Listen to the hymn “God’s Spirit is in my heart and focus on the line “Just as the Father sent me, so I’m sending you out to be, my witnesses throughout the world, the whole of the world.” Discuss what the disciples had to do. Also discuss the line “As the Father sent me so I am sending you” and consider what this might mean. Devise a list of things you might do if you were sent out by God.

YEAR 3

Children will gain a deeper understanding of the gift of the Holy Spirit and help prepare children who are preparing for their first Holy Communion. The children will look at the effects on St Paul and explore the transforming nature of the Holy Spirit. They will also look at the Eucharistic Prayer in the Mass and links with the Holy Spirit.

Help at home

- Read or watch the story of Phillip and the Ethiopian and how he transformed his life because of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Talk to the children about how they would have changed if they had been in the room when the Holy Spirit came.

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During May and June your child(ren) will be studying **PENTECOST AND MISSION** in Religious Education:

YEAR 4

The children will explore what it means to be a witness to Christ and how this is linked to the Pentecost story.

They will explore the use of symbolism in paintings to describe Pentecost. They will also look at how others from the religious community live in the way the disciples did; showing the qualities St Paul says we should.

Help at home

- **Talk to your child about what it means if you were a witness to a crime. What type of things would you have to tell the police? Discuss why police need witnesses to help them.**
- **Get your child to look at a picture and then describe it to or draw it for another person to see how much they remember.**
- **Help your child research their house group Saint and discuss how they showed they were a witness to Christ.**



YEAR 5

The children will be looking at the impact that the Holy Spirit had at Pentecost and still has in the world today. They will examine the different titles associated with the Holy Spirit, explore why the disciples needed the gift of tongues from the Holy Spirit and consider representations of the 'Trinity' to portray one God as three persons with different but equal roles.

Help at home

- **Help your child research the word Holy Spirit or Hello in different languages and make a poster of them all.**
- **Ask your child to draw a poster to encourage people to become a follower of Christ.**
- **Get your children to draw a diagram of what the Trinity means and explain it to you.**



Year 6

The children will recall the story of Pentecost and consider the impact of the Holy Spirit on the disciples in the form of the gifts and fruits it gave them. The experience of being confirmed will be explored and its impact contrasted with that of the disciples' experience at Pentecost. The children will then reflect on how the Holy Spirit helps us to respond to God's call. The gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit will be looked at in closer detail and consideration given to how they could impact on the lives of believers and be used to good effect in the wider world.

Help at home

- **Help your child make up a poem or rhyme to remember all the gifts or fruits of the Holy Spirit.**
- **Discuss with your child how they feel if they give someone a gift and they do not use it.**
- **Help your children research what someone who is a missionary worker does and how this may be linked to being a witness to Christ.**
- **Look at the fruits of the Holy Spirit and together decide on one you feel you struggle with and you will work on. Have chats about how you are doing.**