

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

◆ God Matters ◆

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During November your child(ren) will be studying Prayers Saints and Feasts in Religious Education:

RECEPTION



During this unit your child will be exploring family relationships and how we show love to one another by the way we act. They will also hear how Jesus was part of a family and how Mary cared for him. They will make links with how Jesus cared for people and God cares for us and others and the signs of his love. They will also consider how we pray to Mary. They will also be introduced to the concept of Disciples and how they became his friends.

Help at Home

- **Talk about your family and how you show each other how you care for one another. Talk about Jesus' family and how they would have shown love to one another-what is the same. Model the Hail Mary for your child and look at pictures of Mary.**



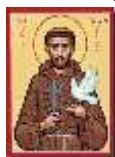
Year 1

This unit is designed to develop children's understanding of prayer. It will introduce them to different kinds of prayer including the psalms. We will gain an understanding of why the Church has Saints and begin to appreciate how Saints provide an example of faith. In this unit children will also begin to understand that we follow a liturgical cycle, helping us to explore different aspects of our faith.

Help at Home

- **Recite the Hail Mary and the Our Father and say together with your child**
- **Sensitively say a prayer for those close to them who may have died or link it with those who have died because of war etc and Remembrance Day.**

Year 3



In this unit, the children will explore the qualities of a Saint. Year 3 will focus on St Francis of Assisi and his use of prayer, looking at how he was displayed the qualities of a Saint. We will look at Saint Francis of Assisi's prayer in detail and will learn about Saint Benedict and what made him a Saint. We will look at the Sacrament of Reconciliation and how we can be forgiven, linking this to the story of Zacchaeus. We will also be challenging ourselves by discussing the question 'Can I be a Saint?'

Help at Home

- **Look up where Assisi is and talk about what life here might have been like in Francis' time.**
- **Look up at the life of St Francis and discuss its importance.**

Year 2

This unit is designed to introduce the children to the idea of a liturgical year. The children will study the main seasons of the church's year and recognise that each season has its own colour and symbols. They will also study Holy Days, including All Saints Day.

Help at Home

- **Ask the question if they had been one of the saints would they have followed Jesus – do they follow him now?**



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Year 4

During this unit the children will learn about the prayer life of Jesus as he grew up in the Jewish faith. They will be introduced to some prayers of the Old Testament and reflect on the importance that Jesus attached to prayer, and how he taught his followers to pray.

Further to this, the children will also reflect on the importance of prayers to Mary in the life of the church and research the history of the rosary.

Help at Home

- **Follow on from Black History Month – research black saints and advice they gave about prayer**
- **Consider opportunities for prayer and reflection at home. What happens now? What would you like to do?**



Year 6

Within this unit, children will focus on why November is the month where Catholics remember those who have died. They will consider the church's view on prayer and different people's responses to it. The concept of heaven and hell will be discussed and children will share their ideas and beliefs related to this. Finally, prayers use to pray for the dead will be studied as we consider why we remember those who have died and whether we should pray for those who have died.

Help at Home

- **Discuss how you feel about prayer and what people get from it.**
- **Discuss your child's and your view of heaven.**
- **Consider how you would like to remember special people no longer with us.**

Year 5

Children will focus on the idea of undertaking a pilgrimage, why people go on pilgrimages and look at the places where these occur. They will examine the healing miracles carried out by Jesus and consider the links between them. We will then link this to the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick and consider why someone might want this Sacrament. Saints Teresa and Zeno will be studied to consider their impact on people's lives today.

Help at Home

- **Research places of pilgrimage e.g. Lourdes or Knock.**
- **Read and discuss Jesus' miracles of healing i.e. ten lepers, paralysed man, discuss how the healing would have changed them in terms of having a faith.**
- **Find out about the life of either Saint Teresa or Saint Zeno.**



Feast Days

- All Saints Day 1st November
- All Souls Day 2nd November

DETAILS ABOUT SPECIAL EVENTS AND SCHOOL CELEBRATIONS WILL BE ISSUED IN THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER.