

Big Question
What is a saint?



Reception
Autumn 2



ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE

By the end of this half term, the children will know...

- That Advent is a special time leading to the birth of baby Jesus 'The Christmas Story'.
- That we can help others to prepare for Christmas through our Nativity play.
- A range of new songs and rhymes to celebrate Christmas.
- How to recognise Phase 3 sounds and hard to read words.
- How to retell the story of 'Star in the Jar' through words and song.
- How to write some recognisable sounds.
- How to subitise numbers to 5.
- About some special days such as Bonfire night, Remembrance day etc.
- The names of planets in the solar system.
- How to move safely in different ways.

Caritas Theme

Family and Community

We are all different and we love and care for each other.

We love and look after each other because we are all brothers and sisters in God's family

CST

November – Remembrance

Anti-Bullying Week

10/11/25-14/11/25

Odd Socks Day on 13/11/25

Switch Off Fortnight

11/11/25-24/11/25

Advent Giving

Holy Days

All Saints Day
1st November

All Souls Day
2nd November

Advent
1/12/25

Celebrations

De Los Muertos – Day of the Dead
2nd November

Remembrance Day
11th November

UK Parliament Week
17/11/25-21/11/25

Specific Areas of Learning

Religion

Prophecy and Promise

Hear

Mary was going to have a baby. His name will be Jesus (Lk 1:26-31, 38).
 Jesus was born in Bethlehem (Lk 2:4-7).
 Shepherds hurried to see Mary and Joseph and baby Jesus (Lk 2:8-20).
 The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-31, 38).
 The Nativity (Lk 2: 4-7).
 The Shepherds visit the manger (Lk 2:8-20).

Believe

Mary had a baby called Jesus.
 Mary was chosen by God to give birth to his Son. Jesus was born in a stable and laid in a manger. Shepherds were told by angels to visit him.

Celebrate

Advent wreath.
 The tradition of the crib.
 Nativity celebration.
 The tradition of the crib to tell the story of Jesus' birth.

Live

Celebrate Advent, it is a time to get ready for Christmas.
 God sent Jesus to love us all.
 Various cultures celebrate Jesus' birthday in different ways.
CST By our work in Advent, we help others and ourselves and we show our love to God.
CST All people work in some way. Everyone should be able to work safely so that it helps them because God loves them. *The Dignity and Rights of Workers*

Mathematics

Children will further develop their subitising and counting skills. They will explore the composition of numbers within 5. They will begin to compare sets of objects and use the language of comparison.

- Develop counting skills and knowledge, including: that the last number in the count tells us 'how many' (cardinality); to be accurate in counting, each thing must be counted once and once only and in any order; the need for 1:1 correspondence; understanding that anything can be counted, including actions and sounds
- Compare sets of objects by matching
- Begin to develop the language of 'whole' when talking about objects which have parts

Circles and Triangles

- Identify and name circles and triangles
- Compare circles and triangles
- Shapes in the environment
- Describe position

Shapes with 4 Sides

- Identify and name shapes with 4 sides
- Combine shapes with 4 sides
- Shapes in the environment

Literacy

Phonics

- Phase 3

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
j	y	sh	ai	-es	
v	zz	th	ee		
w	qu	ng	igh	review	
x	ch	nk	oa		

- HRS Words – he, she, buses, we, me, be, push, was, her, my, you

Literacy

Star in a Jar by Sam Hay

GENRE: Narrative – A star theme

GENRE: Information – Poster to find a lost star

Represent words in print using known GPCs to make phonetically plausible attempts

Spell the common words: is, I, the, to, into, no, go, so, he, we, me, she, was

Orally rehearse sentences and word count the number of words spoken in a piece of writing

Combine words to make labels, captions, lists, phrases and short sentences

Retell stories

Letter formation and separation of words with spaces

Expressive Arts and Design

Being Imaginative and Expressive

To learn the song and rhymes:

- 5 little fireworks
- Diwali –festival of lights (Cbeebies)
- 10 little friends
- The more we get together
- Catch a Falling Star – Paul Vance
- EYFS Nativity songs and rhymes
- Use a xylophone to play Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star
- Role play – astronauts

Creating with Materials

- Secondary colours
- Jackson Pollock – splatter paintings 'fireworks' and to create a galaxy
- Poppy paintings
- Firework paintings/sparklers
- Poppies and planet printing
- Astronaut backpacks and control panels
- Junk model rockets, star catchers and telescopes
- Alien art
- To experiment with filter paper and pipettes with food colouring – 'planets'
- Use cotton buds to paint on foil
- Use coffee filter and food colouring to create planet art

Specific Areas of Learning

Understanding the World: Past and Present

- Bonfire night – a celebration to remember what happened a long time ago
- Learn about Guy Fawkes
- Bonfire night safety
- Poppy day – learn why we wear a poppy
- To learn about astronauts, including Neil Armstrong and Tim Peake
- Learn about Mae Jemison – female astronaut
- Learn what transport astronauts use to travel and explore – rockets
- Learn about other modes of transport – cars, trains, planes, rockets, boats etc.

Prime Areas of Learning

Communication and Language

- Retell and role play stories using small world resources
- Talk about experiences of Bonfire night and fireworks.
- Describe seasonal changes – Autumn to Winter
- Talk about real life journeys and imaginary journeys

Understanding the World: People, Culture and Communities

- Understand our indoors and outdoor environment and where things are located – map our classroom and outdoor area
- Talk about their classroom, the outdoor areas to see and appreciate God's world around them
- Understand our different family and communities that we belong to
- Learn about Hannukah – the Jewish Festival of Lights
- Learn about Advent and Christmas
- Learn the Christmas story through the Nativity – share what special things Christians do at Christmas to share God's love
- Make an advent wreath
- Bonfire Night safety - people who help us – firefighters

Physical Development

- Finding sensible spaces
- Stopping safely
- Moving in a variety of ways
- Establishing warm up and cool down routines
- Simple group games
- Following instructions
- Small world activities, puzzles, arts, crafts related to people and stories they have heard.
- Fine motor – dough – make impressions in dough using a range of materials, roll, pinch and manipulate dough to create star shapes
- Fine motor – cutting skills, threading
- Gross motor – large movements using chalk to draw outside – draw stars and create maps to find the lost star

Understanding the World: The Natural World

- Seasonal changes: autumn.
- To know the difference between night and day, light and dark
- Investigate light sources – dark tent, torches, fibre optic lamps, fairy lights, battery powered candles, paper and clipboards – observe and make comparisons
- To learn about the sun, the moon and the stars
- To know the names of planets in the solar system
- Know that we live on planet Earth
- Discuss how we can care for our Earth – our Common Home

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- We are a family and we look after each other
- Friends – what makes a good friend
- Being kind – we don't bully
- Sharing
- Hear how scripture helps us cooperate with one another, and resolve conflicts peaceably
- Say sorry. Shake hands to share peace with their friends.
- Develop strong, warm, and supportive relationships with adults in their care as their role models.
- Listen to a variety of stories that help them to understand and show love, peace, and kindness, saying sorry just as Jesus told us about.

Created and Loved by God

- Know that we are all created individually by God as part of His creation plan
- We are all God's children and are special
- Our bodies are created by God and are good
- We can give thanks to God