Parents' Religious Education Newsletter 1

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to the new academic year. Below you will find information about what your children will be learning in their Religious Education this half term.

The following table provides dates from the Catholic Church's calendar that mark or celebrate significant days or saints days during this half term.

3rd September	St. Gregory the Great	7th October	Our Lady of the Rosary
4th September	St. Cuthbert	9th October	St. John Henry Newman
8th September	Our Lady's birthday	10th October	St. Paulinus of York
13th September	Education Sunday	12th October	St. Wilfrid of Ripon
14th September	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	12th October	St. Carlo Acutis
15th September	Our Lady of Sorrows	13th October	St. Edward the Confessor
21st September	St. Matthew, Evangelist	15th October	St. Teresa of Avila
24th September	Our Lady of Walsingham	17th October	St. Ignatius of Antioch
29th September	Ss. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	22nd October	St. John Paul II, Pope
30th September	St. Jerome	26th October	Ss. Chad and Cedd
1st October	St. Therese of Lisieux	28th October	Ss. Simon and Jude, Apostles
2nd October	Guardian Angels	1st November	All Saints' Day
2nd October	CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	2nd November	All Souls' Day

Throughout Ordinary Time in the Autumn Term the Church asks Catholics to pray for the following intentions: *The Harvest, the Fruits of Human Work, and the Reverent Use of Creation* (1st September and Harvest time), *Students and Teachers* (Education Sunday and during September), *The Spread of the Gospel* (20th September and 18th October), *Justice and Peace in the World* (especially on Harvest Fast Day 2nd October), *Prisoners and their Families* (11th October).

From this September religious education (RE) will be taught to every class using the Catholic RE programme called '*Lighting the Path*' published by Oxford University Press and approved by the Diocese of Leeds. *Lighting the Path* follows a spiral curriculum which means that each year group follows the same broad theme, but the content differs depending on the age of pupils.

Lighting the Path

'Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path'
Psalm 119:105

Creation and Covenant

"Creation is the foundation of all God's saving plans, the beginning of the history of salvation that culminates in Christ"
Religious Education Directory



Reception

This half term children in Early Years will be learning about God's beautiful world. Throughout this unit of work, the children will begin to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the world and know that God made it. They will learn that God loves each one of us and reflect on this. They will hear about and respond to the things God created for us. They

will know that God has asked us to care for the world and think of ways in which we can help to do it.

At home
You could help your children by:
• looking at pictures of animals and plants and talking about how special creation is
• encourage them to notice different parts of God's wonderful creation and think of ways to care for the world.

Key Stage One:
Year One

Pupils will hear and retell the story of Creation from the first chapter of the Book of Genesis and talk about its meaning. They will learn that in the story of Creation God gave human beings the responsibility for taking care of the world and everything in it and in doing this they show their love for each other and for God. Pupils will study how belief in Creation is expressed in diverse creative and artistic ways and talk about their responses. They will learn that the beauty of the world leads people to expressions of wonder and awe and how for Christians and other people of faith this leads to prayers of praise and thanksgiving.

At home
You could help your children by:
• talking about how we can look after the world, e.g. recycling, not dropping litter, conserving energy and how we can care for plants and animals
• look at the trees during the autumn season and talk about the different colours. You could collect leaves to make a collage or painting.

Year Two



Pupils will learn about the story of Noah, focusing on God's promise that is symbolised by the rainbow. They will learn that hope is a key virtue, because after the destruction of the flood, the path back to living a good life was restored by the hope of Noah and his family. Through Noah, humanity was again given the responsibility of taking care of the world. The pupils will then focus on the sacrament of baptism because of its link with Noah: humanity was given a new start from the waters in the story of Noah and through the water of baptism a person is given new life in the Christian family.

At home
You could emphasise:
• care of the environment by encouraging them to take simple steps to care for insects, birds and other creatures.
• if applicable, talk about their baptism and look at and talk about objects or photographs from the celebration.

Key Stage Two

Year Three
Creation and Covenant

Pupils will explore what the seven day Creation account in Genesis chapter 1teaches about stewardship and reflect on the inspiring vision of Creation offered by St Francis of Assisi. They will encounter the concept that human beings are created in God's likeness and reflect on the meaning of this for human uniqueness and dignity. Pupils will learn about the connection between God resting on the seventh day and the practice of a day of rest in Judaism and Christianity.

At home
You could help your children by:
• giving them responsibility for a space in the home, an object or a pet, encouraging them to show their care through their actions.

Year Four
Creation and Covenant

In Year Four the focus of Branch One is on covenant: a relationship of love between God and people. Pupils explore the life and significance of Abraham. Abraham is one of the most important figures in religious history because Judaism, Christianity and Islam trace their belief in one God back to him. They will reflect on the significance of Abraham by considering how he lives a life filled with faith, hope and love. Pupils will begin to think about how bible texts can be interpreted by different communities or at different times, showing that the biblical text still speaks to us today.

At home
You could help your children by:
• encouraging them to read the story of Abraham and the story of Joseph and his brothers.

Year Five
Creation and Covenant

Pupils will explore how adopting a set of rules or code of living helps people find true happiness. They will explore how the covenant with God requires faith and compassion reflecting both the religious person's relationship with God and their treatment of others. Pupils then study the Greatest Commandment stated by Jesus and explore the link between this and the Ten Commandments.

At home
You could help your children by:
• encouraging them to read or reread the story of Moses from the Bible.

Year Six
Creation and Covenant

Pupils will explore of the second account of Creation in Genesis (the creation of the man and the woman in the Garden of Eden) and their separation from God in the first sin known as the Fall. They will learn to interpret the symbolism in the account and how it moves from perfect harmony to disorder prompted by the consequences of the action of the man and the woman. Pupils will explore how the account seek to answer the question 'Why is the world like it is?' which will enable them to reflect on what the account teaches us about God, stewardship and human relationships. Pupils will then consider how Christianity interprets the life, death and resurrection of Jesus as a restoration of the relationship with God in the new covenant relationship with Jesus.

At home
You could help your children by:
• encouraging them to read or reread the account of Creation and Fall in Genesis, the first book in the Bible.
• If applicable, talk to them about their baptism and what it meant for you and your child to become a member of the Church.