

RE - Why does Christmas matter to Christians?



Knowledge Outcomes:

By the end of this unit, pupils are expected to be able to:

- Give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians.
- Recognise that stories of Jesus' life come from the Gospels.
- Give examples of ways in which Christians use the story of the nativity to guide their beliefs and actions at Christmas.
- Decide what they personally have to be thankful for at Christmas time.

Pupils will know that:

- Christians believe that Jesus is God and that he was born as a baby in Bethlehem.
- The Bible points out that his birth showed that he was extraordinary (for example, he is worshipped as a king, in Matthew) and that he came to bring good news (for example, to the poor, in Luke).
- Christians celebrate Jesus' birth; Advent for Christians is a time of getting ready for Jesus' coming.

Learning Journey:

- Who was Jesus and why was he special?
- Can I recall Bible stories about the birth of Jesus?
- Can I retell the story of the Nativity?
Can I explain different features of the Nativity?
- Why did the Three Wise Men share gifts with baby Jesus?
- What is advent?
- Why does Christmas matter to Christians?
- What am I thankful for at Christmas?

Wider Curriculum: The children will go on a 'looking for Christmas' walk in the local area. Which signs can they spot that show Christmas is coming? Walk to a local church — which signs of the Jesus story can be seen here in the run-up to Christmas?

Key Vocabulary	
Spelling	Definition / Sentence
Incarnation	'in the flesh' (Latin word carne = flesh; think carnations — flesh-coloured, or carnivore — flesh-eating)
Christianity	A religion that is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ and the belief that he was the son of God.
Bible	The holy book on which the Jewish and Christian religions are based.
Nativity	The birth of Jesus, which is celebrated by Christians at Christmas.
Advent	The season beginning four Sundays before Christmas
Mary	Jesus' mother
Joseph	Jesus' father
Jesus	He name of the man who Christians believe was the son of God, and whose teachings are the basis of Christianity.
Angel Gabriel	The angel Gabriel told Mary that she would have a son, whom she was to name Jesus.
Manger	A trough or open box in which food for farm animals is placed. Baby Jesus was placed in a manger.