

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. |

