RE NEWSLETTER

ST MARY'S SPRING FIRST HALF-TERM 2024

Key Dates this term

6th January – Epiphany

12th January – Baptism of the Lord

19th January – Peace Sunday

25th January – The conversion of St Paul.

2nd February – The Presentation of the Lord.

GETTING TO KNOW JESUS

SPRING FIRST HALF-TERM SUMMARY

We hope you all had a wonderful start to a New Year. Spring is fast approaching – and the signs of new life bring us to the most celebrated season in our liturgical year – Easter and the Resurrection of Jesus.

This year, the Catholic Church celebrates the Year of Jubilee, a time of renewal, mercy, and spiritual growth. As "Pilgrims of Hope," we are invited to reflect on God's love, strengthen our faith, and live out forgiveness and generosity in our daily lives. Let us journey together in hope and unity during this special time.

Below is some information about what your child has been learning in their RE lessons this term and some things you can do at home to support them.

NURSERY AND RECEPTION

"God's Self-Revelation and the covenant-relationship reach their fullness in Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God."
Religious Education Curriculum Directory p. 14

This half term, the children in Nursery and Reception learned about how to build a relationship with Jesus. The children learned that Jesus has a great love for each of us and how they can show their love. They heard about times when Jesus healed the sick and how they can help others. They know that Jesus showed us that he was the Son of God at the wedding at Cana and what this means.

At home you could help your children by:

-helping them understand how we can show our love for Jesus.

-talk about how we can help others in need

FAMILIES AND CELEBRATIONS

YEAR 1

"If you want to bring happiness to the whole world, go home and love your family."

Saint Mother Teresa

The children reflected on what it means to be a member of a family. It introduces children to thinking about what it means to be a member of the school community and the Church family.

The topic gave opportunities for the children to think about why it is important that God is our Father in heaven. Children heard about how Jesus' family took him to the Temple and to understand why this was a special occasion. Children linked this in to discuss some of the celebrations in the Church and why we celebrate these occasions.

At home you could help your children by:

-discussing ways they are a part of many families and why this is important,

-preparing them for different occasions within the Church's calendar.

THE GOOD NEWS

YEAR 2

"No duty is more urgent than that of returning thanks."

St Ambrose

The children learned how Jesus can change sadness into joy. The topic explained the importance of thanking Jesus for his help and how He uses His power to help others and reflect on the importance of these events. The children learned that Jesus brought the good news of God's love and what that meant for us.

At home you could help your children by:

-helping them understand why it's important to thank Jesus.

-looking at ways they can spread the good news of God's love.

CALLED TO CHANGE

YEAR 3

"There is no limit to God's grace, nor to God's mercy and forgiveness when we fail."

--Religious Education Curriculum Directory p.24

The children know that Jesus called people to change and turned away from sin to receive the love of God. They learned about Jesus' teaching on sorrow and forgiveness, and that it is not always easy to change and turn away from sin. They learned about individuals who changed and turned away from sin, and know that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a celebration of God's love and forgiveness.

They identified ways we can change this Lent and make our own Lenten resolutions.

At home you could help your children by:

-teaching them what it means to say we are sorry,

-deepening their awareness of how forgiveness makes a person whole again.

JESUS, THE TEACHER

YEAR 4

"Through his parables he invites people to the feast of the kingdom, but he also asks for a radical choice: to gain the kingdom, one must give everything. Words are not enough, deeds are required."

Catechism of the Catholic Church

In this topic, the children learned that Jesus was presented in the Temple, and how he was brought up in the Jewish faith. They learned about how Jesus taught people and showed us the way to live. They understand why Jesus used parables to teach people and know some of the parables Jesus told.

At home you can help your children by:

-teaching them to appreciate the relevance of the parables for us today,

-helping them recognize that Lent is an opportunity for us to change our behaviour and live as Jesus told us.

INSPIRATIONAL PEOPLE

YEAR 5

"The secret of happiness is to live moment by moment and to thank God for all that He, in His goodness, sends us day after day."

St. Gianna Molla

In this topic the children learned that Jesus has come for everyone and they reflected on how we can join his mission. They understand what it means to be a follower of Jesus and how this reflects on what it means for them. They know that the Beatitudes show us the way to live and think of ways they can help us to be true followers of Jesus. They understand why Jesus blessed the merciful and what this means for us. They know why Jesus blessed the pure in heart whilst reflecting on the presence of God within them,

At home you could help your children by:

- helping them think of what they can do to help those suffering today,

- discussing what it means to be a saint and think about how it would affect their life.

JESUS, THE BREAD OF LIFE

YEAR 6

"At the heart of the Eucharistic celebration are the bread and wine that become in reality Christ's Body and Blood. Catholic faith adores this enduring presence of Christ not only within the celebration of the Mass but also outside it."

Religious Education Curriculum Directory p.24I

In this topic the children learned that the Sacrament of the Eucharist is a celebration of thanksgiving for the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. They understand in the Mass that we participate in Jesus' sacrifice to the Father. The children know that the bread and wine are consecrated during Mass and become the body and blood of Jesus. The children were given the opportunity to reflect on all God's gifts to us and thank him.

At home you could help your children by:
- helping them understand why we should appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made for us on the cross.

-reflecting on sacrifices we can make during Lent.

A PRAYER FOR THE YEAR OF THE JUBILEE

Dear God,
Thank You for this year of Jubilee,
A time to share, forgive, and love.
Help us to be kind and caring,
To give to others and bring hope
We thank You for Your many blessings.
Amen.