

St. Thomas of Canterbury RE & Catholic Life Newsletter



Autumn Term 2019

Welcome to the Autumn Term 2019 RE Newsletter. We hope you have had a wonderful summer and that everyone has had a great start to the new school year.

Last year, we focused a great deal of energy into developing RE and the Catholic Life of the School, and we are very proud of the strides we made. We hope to continue this focus over the current year, working hard to grow our faith and build links in the school, parish and wider community. We thank you for your support last year and look forward to our continued partnership in developing our children spiritually.

This term we will be studying the three themes of Domestic Church (Family), Baptism/ confirmation (Belonging) and Advent/ Christmas (Loving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics. On the final page of this newsletter you will see a breakdown of the topics year by year.

At the end of each RE topic, you will continue to receive a 'Respond' booklet which will invite you to reflect as a family on the learning of your child/ren through their RE topic. You are then warmly invited to send this back to school.

Key Dates for your Diaries

Please look at the yearly planner which accompanies your child's newsletter; in this document you will find all the key religious dates and activities for Autumn Term.

Family Mass

We introduced family masses last year and will have more throughout the year. More details will follow.

House Activities

Last year saw the hugely successful introduction of House Communities at St Thomas of Canterbury. Children from Reception up to Year 6 joined together for activities such as our Winter Warmer and First World War Centenary commemoration. This year, houses will meet once a month, with activities linking to our Value of the Month.

Prayer Garden

Towards the end of last year, we made an effort as a school to renovate our prayer garden. Each class presented an object to decorate the garden which represented their year in some way.

First School Mass

Many thanks to Father Gus and Father John, who celebrated mass with us on Thursday 12th September.



This Term's Charities

We support a number of charities during the academic year, and for Autumn Term, we will be supporting Missio and Cafod. On 4th October we would like to invite you to bring a tin of food which will be donated to St Wilfrid's Centre in support of the Cafod Fast Day.



Collective Worship

All children will continue to get daily chances to reflect and worship together. Our school benefits from use of the Ten Ten collective worship resources, with daily readings guiding us through the week. We will also continue to encourage our children to lead collective worship, with one child-led session each week.

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM

ALL SAINTS

(1 November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God's invitation to love.

THE COMMEMORATION OF ALL THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED (ALL SOULS)

(2 November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died. Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

(24 November)

ADVENT

(Begins 1 December)

Advent means 'coming'. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

(9 December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus. She was 'full of grace' from the very beginning and co-operated with God throughout her life.

CHRISTMAS DAY, THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

(25 December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

AUTUMN TERM 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

This term we will be studying the three themes of Domestic Church (Family), Baptism and Confirmation (Belonging) and Advent and Christmas (Loving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics. The children will also spend a week studying Judaism.

DOMESTIC CHURCH - FAMILY

(September-October)

Early Years	MYSELF - God knows and loves each one
Year 1	FAMILIES - God's love and care for every family
Year 2	BEGINNINGS - God is present in every beginning
Year 3	HOMES - God's vision for every family
Year 4	PEOPLE - The family of God in Scripture
Year 5	OURSELVES - Created in the image and likeness of God
Year 6	LOVING - God who never stops loving

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles etc. who show God's love.

Write underneath it
"We show God's love to one another."

BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION - BELONGING

(October-November)

Early Years	WELCOME - Baptism: a welcome to God's family
Year 1	BELONGING - Baptism: an invitation to belong to God's family
Year 2	SIGNS AND SYMBOLS - Signs and symbols in Baptism
Year 3	PROMISES - Promises made at Baptism
Year 4	CALLED - Confirmation: a call to witness
Year 5	LIFE CHOICES - Marriage, commitment and service
Year 6	VOCATION AND COMMITMENT - The vocation of priesthood and religious life

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Talk to someone who has been to a Baptism and/or Confirmation about their memories of this celebration.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS - LOVING

(November-December)

Early Years	BIRTHDAY - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday
Year 1	WAITING - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas
Year 2	PREPARATIONS - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas
Year 3	VISITORS - waiting for the coming of Jesus
Year 4	GIFT - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus
Year 5	HOPE - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the promised one
Year 6	EXPECTATIONS - Jesus born to show God to the world

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.

Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.

Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.