



Dear Parents and Carers,

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. Please feel free to discuss any of the information outlined with us and take special note of the suggestions for ways that you can support your child's learning and faith journey at home.

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September, the Church marked the **World Day of Prayer for Creation**. This is the start of the Season of Creation in the Church which ends on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi and the Church's Harvest Fast Day.



## **SEASON OF CREATION**

Pope Francis, in his message for the World Day of Prayer 2024, says to us all:

**our lives can become a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and find their fullness in holiness.**

Here are some practical ways you might wish to contribute to this wonderful season:

- \* Notice something in the natural world and tell someone about it.  
It could be a bird, a leaf, the colour of the sky, anything!
- \* Make sure you reuse and recycle what you can.
- \* Take care of your belongings and keep spaces tidy.
- \* Be grateful for the food and drink you have. Don't waste anything.
- \* Use water wisely. Turn taps off when you are not using them.
- \* Use electricity wisely. Turn lights and other electricals off when you are not using them.
- \* Enjoy being outdoors.

Dates from the Church's calendar:

1 <sup>st</sup> September	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation	
8 <sup>th</sup> September	Education Day	4 <sup>th</sup> October St Francis of Assisi
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	7 <sup>th</sup> October Our Lady of the Rosary
15 <sup>th</sup> September	Evangelii Gaudium Day (Home Mission)	
21 <sup>st</sup> September	St Matthew	9 <sup>th</sup> October St John Henry Newman
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Our Lady of Walsingham	15 <sup>th</sup> October St Teresa of Avila
27 <sup>th</sup> September	St Vincent de Paul	18 <sup>th</sup> October St Luke
30 <sup>th</sup> September	St Jerome	20 <sup>th</sup> October World Mission Day
1 <sup>st</sup> October	St Therese of Lisieux	

## Reception –God’s World

“Creation is the first and universal revelation  
of God’s love”

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

The Way,  
The Truth and  
The Life

This half term, the children in the Reception class will be learning about God’s world. Throughout this topic, the children will begin to appreciate the beauty of the world and know that God made it.

They will learn that God loves and cares for 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 child 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.

## Year 1 – Creation and Covenant

‘The heavens are telling the glory of God’

*Psalm 19:1*

In this branch, pupils will encounter the God who creates and calls a people. They will explore revelation of the Christian belief that all that is comes from God, the Creation accounts in Genesis, and scientific explanations of the process of Creation. They will explore the call of God and his covenantal relationship with his people first through Abraham and Moses, then through the narrative of the Old Testament.

The Vine and The Branches



### At home

You could help your child 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 2 – Creation and Covenant

### The Vine and The Branches

Baptism is the meeting point where people are reborn to a new life in Christ and become part of the Christian community. In the story of Noah creation is reborn from the waters of the flood. Pupils will encounter John the Baptist and journey through St Luke's gospel as they come to know the signs in the gospel that Jesus is the Messiah spoken of by the prophets.



They will consider how the power of the Holy Spirit transforms the lives of people in the writings of St Luke, for example Mary, Elizabeth, and St Paul, and consider how a life in Jesus calls people to be good neighbours. Pupils will also begin to think about good and bad choices (sin) and why the Sacrament of Reconciliation is needed.

#### At home

You could help your child by:

- reading some of the stories the children have covered in class.
- talking about times when people might need to put their trust in God and make the right choices.

## Year 3 – Creation and Covenant

### The Vine and The Branches

Celebrating the Eucharist. Pupils will study the story of Creation: humanity, made in the image and likeness of God, is given the task of caring for the Earth, stewardship. At Mass, Catholics give thanks for the fruits of the Earth at the Offertory. Pupils will learn about what happens at Mass, making links with scripture, for e.g. the feeding of the five thousand and Jesus' last supper. Pupils encounter different literary forms as they study parables and study the Gospel of St Matthew and learn about the signs of God's kingdom in this gospel. They will be introduced to the mystery of Trinity.



#### At home

You could help your children by:

- sharing some parables told by Jesus together.
- discuss how your family might care for the Earth, in small ways.
- talk about British Values, with particular focus upon mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs.

## Year 4 – Creation and Covenant



Pupils learn about people whose lives have been transformed by faith and hope in God. Pupils will study Abraham and consider how he changed through acting on his faith and entered into a covenantal relationship with God. They will find out more about Abraham, Sarah and Isaac, recognising the importance of historical context in explaining the meaning of this story then and now. Pupils will also recognise that God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity. Pupils will explore aspects of the story of Joseph whose story shows the importance of faith and hope in God even in desperate times. They will also learn and pray with prayers from the Catholic tradition, such as 'May today there be peace within' from the prayer of St. Therese.

### At home

You could help your child by:

- reading some of the stories the children have covered in class.
- discuss some of the ways that the children (and yourselves) live out our school core values in everyday life.

## Year 5 – Gifts from God

**"Each human person is unique and made in God's image and likeness"**

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

The children will learn the story of Creation and the Fall in the Book of Genesis. They will learn that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and know that God calls us to care for others and all creation with love and respect. They will learn that there are times when we fail to be good stewards of creation. They will also learn that there are people who show great respect for creation and for the weakest members of society. The children will have the chance to:

- appreciate how we can show respect for ourselves, for others and for God.
- reflect on times we have failed to show respect and reflect on the gifts and talents God has given each of us.
- reflect on the use and misuse we can make of these gifts.

**The Way,  
The Truth and  
The Life**



### At home

You could help your child by:

- talking to the children about how they could care for creation and the environment.
- discuss the gifts and talents each person in your family has. Celebrate these and notice how they make a positive impact in God's world.

## Year 6 – The Kingdom of God

**“The Kingdom belongs to the poor and lowly, which means those who have accepted it with a humble heart”**

*Catechism of the Catholic Church*

The children will learn about the beginning of Jesus’ public life and that he was tempted by the devil. They will know about the conditions for following Jesus and know that Jesus performs mighty works, wonders and signs.

They will learn that through his parables Jesus invites people into the Kingdom of God. They will develop an understanding that deeds, and not just words, are required by Jesus, through the example of the Parable of the Two Sons.

They will learn why Jesus chose to eat with sinners, learn that we must make use of our talents to gain the Kingdom and develop an understanding that God has boundless love and mercy.



The children will have the chance to:

- reflect on our invitation to have an active role in the Kingdom of God.
- be aware that we have to do good to enter the Kingdom.
- deepen our awareness of how we use the talents God has given to us.
- be aware that through the Sacrament of Reconciliation we can make a fresh start to follow Jesus.

Jesus said, “What is the Kingdom of God like? To what can I compare it? It is like a mustard seed that a man took and planted in the garden. When it was fully grown, it became a large bush and the birds of the sky dwelt in its branches.”

Mk 10:46-47



### At home:

You could help your child by:

- discuss some of the ways that the children (and yourselves) live out our school core values in everyday life.
- talking to them about their talents and how they can use them to help others.
- share some parables that Jesus told together and talk about what they mean for us as followers today.

*Mrs. Bannister*

Religious Education Subject Leader