



ST MARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

R.E. NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

Autumn/Advent Terms

This term your child(ren) will be studying four topics in religious education:
Creation, Prayers, Saints and Feasts, Advent and Christmas

CREATION

This topic is supported by the scripture in Genesis which tells the story of God's Creation. Your children will learn how God knows and loves us all and how we should celebrate our differences. We are 'People of God' and we explore how He works through us to protect His creation. We will also learn the need to follow God's law by upholding the Ten Commandments.

Help at home:

At home you could talk about the new beginnings there have been in your child(ren)'s life, like starting school, moving house, a new brother or sister. Emphasise that God is there loving us all the time. With the younger children you could explore your local environment drawing attention to the wonders of God's Creation. Older children should be encouraged to look at the impact of current issues on harmony within the world.



PRAYERS, SAINTS AND FEASTS

This topic is designed to develop children's understanding of prayer. It will introduce to them the different kinds of prayer, especially the Rosary. Children will be able to develop an understanding of why the Church has Saints and appreciate that Saints provide an example of faith. At this time of year the children will be celebrating important feasts. Please see Special days this term

Help at home:

It would be useful to set aside some quiet time at home for family prayer. October is the month of the Rosary so why not take this opportunity to use the Rosary to assist you in prayer? You may also wish to select a family member named after a Saint and find out what you can about this Saint.

Special days this term

* **8th September**

The birthday of Our Lady

* **October**

Month of the Rosary

* **1st Nov.** All Saints

* **2nd Nov.** All Souls

Sunday 26th November

Christ the King

Sunday 3rd December

First Sunday of Advent

* **8th December**

Immaculate Conception

* **25th December**

Christmas Day

ADVENT ~ This topic is about preparing. Your child(ren) will be helped to appreciate how it is necessary to plan and prepare for special times. They will learn about Advent, the Church's time of preparation for the coming of Jesus at Christmas and how the scriptures show that God promised to send Jesus to us.

CHRISTMAS ~ Towards the end of term we will begin to look at the Christmas Story in preparation for our Christmas celebrations. However, it is important to note that the Christmas season does not finish on Christmas Day. The children will continue to celebrate the events of Christmas in the New Year.

Help at home: It might be possible to make an advent wreath with four candles light one for each week of Advent and say a prayer each day like '*Dear Jesus I am looking forward to your coming at Christmas, help me to prepare well.*' Perhaps later you could help your child(ren) make a crib or design a Christmas card to show the real meaning of Christmas.

