

**Pioneer Federation**  
**Medium term plan**  
**Cycle 2, Term 2**  
**RE**



<b>Subject:</b> RE			
<b>Key Concept/ Theme:</b> F2 Why is Christmas special for Christians? Understanding Christianity - INCARNATION			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Prior Learning or topic links:</b></li> <li>- Personal experience of Christmas celebrations at home</li> <li>- Talking about what is important to me as part of cycle 1</li> </ul>			
<b>Vocabulary:</b> Christmas, Nativity, Mary and Joseph, Jesus, stable, wise men, shepherds, star, advent.			
<b>School specific areas to cover (Add in any local areas of study, trips and people)</b>			
<b>CP</b>	<b>EH</b>	<b>SMV</b>	<b>PM</b>
	<b>Christingle Service and Advent specific celebrations in church</b>	<b>Christingle Service and Advent specific celebrations in church</b>	
1.	<p><b>Reconnect:</b> Reflect back to our learning about how we grow from baby, child to adult. Complete the topic page front cover as a whole class to capture what we already know. Add to the front cover before adding to learning journals.</p> <p>Explain lots of the stories about Jesus are about him as an adult and the nativity story is about from when he was a baby-3 years.</p> <p><b>LO: Let's learn about the nativity story.</b> Children to learn that Christians believe God came to earth in Human form as Jesus. Jesus was 'God's Son'. Use the nativity figures to tell the story- an angel telling the birth of Jesus to Mary. Paint pictures of the characters as babies....could be Jesus, Mary, Wise men, Sheep. Make figures of the nativity out of plasticine</p> <p><b>Future learning links:</b> Can anyone tell any of the next bit of the nativity story?</p>		
2	<p><b>Reconnect:</b> Reflect back to our learning about the story of Jesus birth in the nativity. Add to your class vocab list as a class.</p> <p><b>LO: Let's learn about how Christians prepare for Christmas.</b> Use costumes in class to dress up in costumes. Look at old nativity photographs. Unpack a box of Christmas things- cards, decorations, nativity figures. Make mince pies- link to the tradition of them being oval, like the manger with a pastry Jesus.</p> <p>Talk about what Christians do at church at Christmas, how we celebrate at school and church, is this similar or different to how children celebrate in their homes. Learning nativity nursery songs and making a poster for the Nativity production.</p> <p><b>Future learning links:</b> Learning the key characters in the Nativity story ready for the Christmas show and other Christmas prep.</p>		
3	<p><b>Reconnect:</b> Reflect back to our learning about the main characters in the nativity. Add to your class vocab list as a class.</p>		

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	<p><b>LO: Let's learn about advent.</b> Advent is a time of waiting. Make a class advent calendar or have an advent candle in the classroom. Learn Advent songs. How long is advent? Link with maths to count up and down to the date of the end of advent. Discuss who the children's families prepare for Christmas. Talk about Why do Christians perform Nativity Plays at Christmas.</p> <p><b>Future learning links: Being ready for the nativity play in the following week – understanding what parts of the story of the birth of Jesus is being celebrated.</b></p>
4	<p><b>Reconnect:</b> Remind that Christians celebrate Christmas at the end of advent.</p> <p><b>LO: Let's learn why the nativity story tells Christians they are precious to God.</b> Dress up in costumes and photograph each other, exploring the characters in role play, rehearse songs, perform nativity play! Make gifts for our friends and family. Make Christmas cards inspired by the nativity story. Allow children to wrap gifts and role play post office and gifts. Understanding that everyone is special and our families are a gift to us at this time.</p> <p>After the performance talk about feelings of nervousness, excitement, pride, link this to feelings PSHE/ thrive aspects.</p> <p><b>Future learning</b> – start considering how different families celebrate differently and how it feels to share celebrations with others. Start to explore why we create gifts for people that are special to us.</p> <p><b>Complete an end of topic class summary page</b> sharing what they now know about Christmas and the why is it special to Christians. Capture their ideas in photos/postit comments/observations on quiz page.</p>
<p><b>End Points:</b></p> <p>To begin to recount an outline of the Christmas Story.</p> <p>Start developing respect for their own cultures and beliefs and those of other people.</p>	
<p><b>Evaluation:</b> What have the end of unit quizzes, pupil self-reflections and termly work told you about what the children can remember and recall? What are the gaps? Ensure that the areas that need further reinforcement are documented in the next subject unit MTP.</p>	

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East Sussex Agreed Syllabus for RE 2022-2027

## Unit F2: Why is Christmas special for Christians?

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

Suggested questions you could explore:	Learning outcomes: Plan learning experiences that enable children to ...	Suggested content: Teachers can select content from this column to help pupils achieve the learning outcomes in column 2. Teachers can use different content as appropriate. <i>'Making connections'</i> is woven through this unit: as you explore the ideas and stories with children, talk about how they affect the way people live, making connections with the children's own experiences.
<p>What special stories about Jesus are in the Bible?</p> <p>Why do Christians perform Nativity plays at Christmas?</p> <p>Why do Christians celebrate Jesus' birthday?</p> <p>What special things do Christians do at Christmas to share God's love?</p> <p>What makes every single person unique and precious?</p> <p>How does the Christmas story tell Christians they are precious to God?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk about people who are special to them</li> <li>• Say what makes their family and friends special to them</li> <li>• Recall simply what happens at a traditional Christian festival (Christmas)</li> <li>• Begin to recognise the word 'incarnation' as describing the belief that God came to Earth as Jesus</li> <li>• Retell religious stories, making connections with personal experiences.</li> </ul> <p><i>Colour key:</i>  <b>Making sense</b>  <b>Understanding impact</b>  <b>Making connections</b></p>	<p>A way into this section could be to ask children to use special bits and pieces to make a lovely picture for a special person, talk about the person they have created it for and why they are special; then take it and give it to them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Show baby photos of known adults to the children. Can they match them to the adult photo?</li> <li>• Use a story sack to introduce a crib scene, beginning with the three figures, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus, and including shepherds, wise men, donkey, angels, etc. Discuss the children's knowledge about the role of each key figure as it appears, as the crib scene grows. Place the figures in a line of value, starting with the figure that the children think is the most important to the least important. Read the story of Christmas from a children's Bible, matching the figures as you read. Redo the value line, including what Christians might say – most would say Jesus is the most important: that God came to Earth as Jesus (the term for this is incarnation). Act out the story. Set up a Bethlehem stable filled with costumes and/or props for the children to re-enact the story.</li> <li>• A parcel arrives in the classroom. Discover the contents with the children: birthday party props such as cake, candles, a banner, etc. Talk about children's own experiences of birthdays. Link to Jesus' birthday and Christmas celebrations with the next suggestion:</li> <li>• Bring out a Christmas box containing traditional Christmas artefacts, such as Nativity scene, cards, decorations, Father Christmas, special food, etc. Share some traditional carols with the children and discuss where and why Christians sing carols.</li> <li>• Talk about Christmas gifts and what the children would like. Connect with the story of the wise men who gave gifts to Jesus. Reinforce the most important gift to Christians would be Jesus. Mime passing a precious gift around a circle; discuss what children think it is. Link to how precious the Bible is to Christians. Christians believe God demonstrated his love for all people by sending Jesus to Earth – they say that shows how precious people are to God.</li> <li>• Provide follow-up activities to respond to the story as part of your continuous provision, e.g. playdough, Nativity figures, Christmas cards and songs, etc.</li> </ul>

These outcomes and activities are abridged from *Understanding Christianity (Unit F2: Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?)*, published by RE Today © 2016. Used by permission.