Our Lady and St. Brendan's Catholic Primary School

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Parents' Religious Education Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Welcome back to a new academic year at Our Lady and St Brendan's. We are delighted to begin this autumn term together, walking in the love of Christ and sharing in the joy of learning and growing as a faith community. This year brings an exciting development in our Religious Education, as we begin introducing Lighting the Path, a new programme approved by the Diocese of Leeds. Designed around a spiral curriculum, it will help our children encounter the beauty of God's Word in age-appropriate ways, deepening their knowledge of the Catholic faith while guiding them to live with faith, hope and love. We pray that as we take these steps together, each child feels the warmth of Christ's presence in their hearts and homes.

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.

The following table provides dates from the Catholic Church's calendar that mark or celebrate significant days or saints days during this half term.

3rd September	St. Gregory the Great	2nd October	Guardian Angels
4th September	St. Cuthbert	3rd October	Harvest Fast Day
8th September	Our Lady's birthday	4th October	St. Francis of Assisi
14th September	Education Sunday	7th October	Our Lady of the Rosary
15th September	Our Lady of Sorrows	9th October	St. John Henry Newman
24th September	Our Lady of Walsingham	10th October	St. Paulinus of York
27th September	St. Vincent de Paul	13th October	St. Edward the Confessor
29th September	Ss Michael, Gabriel and Raphael	15th October	St. Teresa of Avila
30th September	St. Jerome	17th October	St. Ignatius of Antioch
1st October	St. Therese of Lisieux	18th October	St. Luke, Evangelist
		22nd October	St. John Paul II, Pope

From this September religious education (RE) will be taught using a new Catholic RE programme called 'Lighting the Path' published by Oxford University Press and approved by the Diocese of Leeds. The implementation of the new programme will be phased in over the next two academic years. Children in Early Years and Year One and Year Two will be taught RE using Lighting the Path from this September, followed by all Key Stage Two classes from September 2026. Lighting the Path follows a spiral curriculum which means that each year group follows the same broad theme, but the content differs depending on the age of pupils.

Lighting the Path

Your word is a lamp to my feet, a light on my path'
Psalm 119:105

Creation and Covenant

"Creation is the foundation of all God's saving plans, the beginning of the history of salvation that culminates in Christ"
Religious Education Directory

Reception

This half term children in Early Years will be learning about God's beautiful world. Throughout this unit of work, the children will begin to appreciate the beauty and wonder of the world and know that God made it. They will learn that God loves 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 children 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.

Key Stage One:
Year One

The children will hear and retell the story of Creation from the first chapter of the Book of Genesis and talk about its meaning. They will learn that in the story of Creation God gave human beings the responsibility for taking care of the world and everything in it and in doing this they show their love for each other and for God. Children will study how belief in Creation is expressed in diverse creative and artistic ways and talk about their responses. They will learn that the beauty of the world leads people to expressions of wonder and awe and how for Christians and other people of faith this leads to prayers of praise and thanksgiving.

At home
You could help your children 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 Two

The children will learn about the story of Noah, focusing on God's promise that is symbolised by the rainbow. They will learn that hope is a key virtue, because after the destruction of the flood, the path back to living a good life was restored by the hope of Noah and his family. Through Noah, humanity was again given the responsibility of taking care of the world. The children will then focus on the sacrament of baptism because of its link with Noah: humanity was given a new start from the waters in the story of Noah and through the water of baptism a person is given new life in the Christian family.

At home
You could emphasise:

• care of the environment by encouraging them to take simple steps to care for insects, birds and other creatures.
• if applicable, talk about their baptism and look at and talk about objects or photographs from the celebration.

Key Stage Two

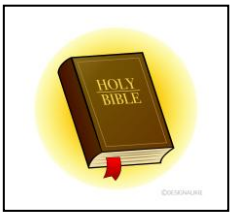
During this academic year (2025-26) children in Key Stage Two will continue their RE using The Way, the Truth and the Life programme which is published by the Teachers' Enterprise in Religious Education.

Year Three
The Christian Family

The children will develop their understanding that the Church is the family of God and know that we join this family when we receive the Sacrament of Baptism. They will learn what happens at Baptism and learn about the signs used and why they are used. They will learn about the promises made by parents and godparents at Baptism and develop their understanding of the Sacrament of Baptism. The children will have a chance to:
• reflect on what it means to be part of a family
• reflect on what it means to be part of the Christian family

At home
You could help your children by:
• if applicable, sharing your experiences about their Baptism. Look at any gifts or photographs that they received on their special day.
• discuss what it means to be part of God's family.

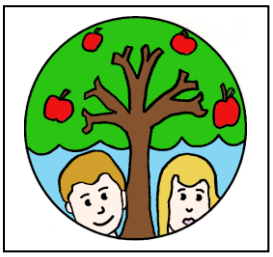
Year Four
The Bible



The children will learn that the Bible is the story of God's love and concern for us. They will learn that the Bible is a living book through which God speaks to us and tells us about himself. They will learn that the Bible is one story told in many books, and they will learn about Moses, David and Jonah, key characters from the Jewish Bible that Christians call the Old Testament.

At home
You could help your children by:
• reading some of the stories the children have covered in class.

Year Five
Gifts from God



The children will learn the second story of Creation (the creation of the man and the woman – Adam and Eve) 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.

At home
You could help your children by:
• talking to them about their own gifts and talents and how they can use them to do good.

Year Six
Called to Serve

The children will learn about Jesus' teaching and example of service of others. They will develop their ability to recognise that God has given us all gifts and talents to use in the service of him and his people. They will learn about the gifts of the Holy Spirit and understand that we receive these gifts in a special way through the Sacrament of Confirmation. The children will have an opportunity to reflect on a life of service through the role of the priest, religious and married life.

At home
You could help your children by:
• discuss the importance of the gifts of the Holy Spirit
•discuss the many ways in which we can be called to serve God and our neighbour
▪ chat about their gifts and talents, both obvious ones and hidden ones.

As we move through this term, we invite you to join us in nurturing your child's journey of faith at home as well as at school. Together, let us continue to shine the light of Christ in our words, actions and relationships, supporting one another as part of God's family. May this new academic year be a time of joy, growth and blessing for all our children and families. "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing." (1 Thessalonians 5:11)

Many thanks

Mr C Spillane
Deputy Headteacher
Religious Education Leader