



'The water that I will give them will become a spring of water within, welling up to eternal life.'
John 4:14

Springhill Catholic Primary School RE Newsletter

Together, we will do our best for Jesus.

Our new topic is Christmas:



Through this topic, we will explore how the events surrounding the birth of Jesus affected those involved and how it is still relevant for us in the 21st century.

It may seem strange that we will be starting the Christmas topic when we have returned to school in January, but Christmastide is the name given to the time surrounding Christmas Day.

In today's church calendar, Christmastide lasts from Christmas Day until the Baptism of Our Lord, which is the Sunday following 6th January. This time includes many other important Christian holy days. In the past, the season of Christmas lasted from Christmas until Candlemas, at the beginning of February.

Christmas is important because it reminds us that:

- Jesus, the Son of God, came to Earth for all people (symbolised through the visits of the Magi and the shepherds, who represent the universal love of God).
- Mary and Joseph both had a strong faith in God, despite the difficulties they faced.

Our main themes in the Christmas topic are different for each year group. We will learn:

FS - Jesus is special and was born in poor circumstances in Bethlehem.

Y1 - People recognised how special the Birth of Jesus was and that we give thanks and praise for his Birth.

Y2 - The journeys of the Christmas story tell us about Jesus and help us understand how we should care for others.

Y3 - Jesus was born in poor circumstances. He came to call the poor, the disposed and the marginalised.

Y4 - Angels were messengers of the Good News. We are called to be messengers of that Good News today.

Y5 - As followers of Christ, we are called to give witness to the poor at Christmas.

Y6 - Jesus is the Son of God, God becoming human. Belief in the Incarnation is central to our faith.

We will be exploring the meanings behind Christmas through both our RE lessons and our daily Celebrations of the Word.

To help your children understand further, you may wish to read the following Gospel extracts with them at home:



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John 4:14

- **The Annunciation** - Luke 1:26-38
- **The Visitation** - Luke 1:39-45
- **The Nativity** - Luke 2:7-16
- **The Magi** - Matthew 2:1-12

