

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 do take special note of the suggestions for ways that you can support your child's learning and faith journey at home.

On Monday 1st 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 Saturday 4th October, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

Each year from September 1 to October 4, the Christian family unites for this worldwide celebration of prayer and action to protect our common home. It is a special season where we celebrate God as Creator and acknowledge Creation as the divine continuing act that summons us as collaborators to love and care for the gift of all that is created.

We rejoice in this opportunity to safeguard our common home and all beings who share it. This year, the theme for the season is "**Peace with Creation**."

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 st September	World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation		
8 th September	Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary	2 nd October	The Holy Guardian Angels
14 th September	Exaltation of the Holy Cross	4 th October	St Francis of Assisi
15 th September	Our Lady of Sorrows	7 th October	Our Lady of the Rosary
24 th September	Our Lady of Walsingham	9 th October	St John Henry Newman
27 th September	St Vincent de Paul	15 th October	St Teresa of Jesus
30 th September	St Jerome	18 th October	St Luke
1 st October	St Therese of the Child Jesus	22 nd October	St John Paul II



SEASON OF CREATION



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’

Psalms 19:1

The Vine and The Branches

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.



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

The Vine and The Branches



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 – Creation and Covenant

The Vine and The Branches



In this branch, pupils will learn about Moses, focusing on two critical events in his life. In the first event in Moses' life, pupils will study his theophany, or 'God manifestation', where God reveals his name to Moses and Moses encounters God in the form of a burning bush. Pupils will spend some time reflecting on the words and imagery of the revelation to Moses. Unlike the gods of mythologies, God does not reveal himself as having a 'superpower'; God is God.

The children will have the chance to:

- understand the term 'covenant' and learn about the different covenants God has made with His people throughout history.
- recognise the context in which the Ten Commandments arise in the Bible and see how the Ten Commandments help human beings live good and happy lives.
- understand that a virtue is a positive habit and can these help us to accomplish what is good.

At home

You could help your child by:

- talking to the children about how the story of Moses and exploring how artists have depicted events of his life, including the symbols and colours they have chosen.
- discuss the Ten Commandments and notice how these are lived out today.
- recognise the virtues which are valued in your family life on a daily basis.

Year 6 – Creation and Covenant

The Vine and The Branches

Pupils will come to learn more about the second account of Creation in the Book of Genesis and also study its literary form. Aetiology is a form of literature common in the ancient world that uses a story to explain the cause of something or why things exist the way they do. They are not factual stories, but stories told to expose a more profound truth and are akin to parables. The second text pupils will study is St John's gospel prologue. In this poetic passage, St

John lets his readers know that, in Jesus, nothing less than a new Creation is beginning. For Christians, the first sin is a 'happy fault' (Felix culpa) because, consequently, God empties himself into humanity, and in Jesus, we meet him face to face. The Nicene Creed expresses these beliefs. Through reading Pope Francis' words in *Laudato Si'*, pupils will learn that the Church teaches that a theological understanding of Creation and a scientific understanding are not incompatible.



The children will have the chance to:

- immerse themselves in the second account of Creation in the Book of Genesis and St. John's gospel prologue which tells us about Jesus.
- use the term 'stewardship' in exploring an understanding of humanity's responsibility towards the earth.
- deepen understanding around Christian beliefs about Baptism.
- learn more about the Christian belief that in Jesus, God restored humanity's relationship with Him..

At home:

You could help your child by:

- celebrating the beauty of creation together, using examples detailed in the introduction to this newsletter.
- talking to them about their Baptism, or a Baptism you or they may have attended.
- discussing the second account of Creation in the Book of Genesis together and exploring artwork linked to this text, including the symbols and colours artists have used.

Mrs. Bannister

Religious Education Subject Leader

