

Whole School Approach to Learning about Key Christian Festivals: Harvest, Christmas and Easter

In addition to the curriculum learning detailed in the RE Curriculum Maps, children at Fellside are taught about the importance of Harvest, Christmas and Easter in respect of the Christian faith at pertinent points in the school year. We take an age-appropriate, progressive view to this as detailed below:

	Harvest Autumn 1	Christmas Autumn 2 Pupils will listen to versions of the Christmas story annually.	Easter Spring 2
Nursery	How do we know that it is harvest time?	What is a celebration? How and why do we celebrate birthdays? How and why is Jesus' birthday celebrated? How do we celebrate at Christmas?	What is Easter? Exploration of key symbols
Reception	How do we celebrate harvest? What is a harvest festival?	Why is Jesus' a special birthday? Explore with children their understanding of the celebrations they have experienced at Christmas. • What is needed when babies arrive? What was different about Jesus birth? • How did the key figures prepare for Jesus' birth? • Why is Jesus considered special beyond his family group?	What do Christians do at Easter that reminds them of Jesus?
Year 1	What is Sukkot and why is it an important festival for the Jewish community?	Why are gifts given at Christmas? Explore 'giving' as a key aspect of introducing pupils to the real meaning of Christmas.	Getting ready for Easter: How do Christians prepare for Easter (from Lent to Holy Week) Palm Sunday
Year 2	Where does our food come from?	Why was Jesus's birth 'good news'? How was the news of his birth delivered? Why were shepherds given the this 'good news'? How did the Shepherds react to this revelation?	Palm Sunday to Good Friday
Year 3	The world on a plate: the journeys undertaken by some of our produce	Why for Christians is Jesus, 'the light of the world'? Explore the concept of the guiding light	Good Friday to Easter Sunday

Year 4	Harvest traditions from around the world (religious and non-religious)	How and why is Advent important to Christians? Explore this period which helps Christians both remember and prepare.	Easter to Pentecost: what happened in the 40 days after Easter Sunday?
Year 5	The importance of harvest for Christians.	The Prince of Peace What is peace? What type of peace does Jesus bring?	Trial of Jesus
Year 6	Reflections on the importance of a good harvest and on giving thanks for this.	Is the Christmas story reliable? How do the accounts of the Christmas story differ in the gospels according to Matthew and Luke?	What is the significance of the Stations of the Cross for Christians?