



Giving Thanks—Christmas

Christmas is a Christian holiday celebrating the birth of Jesus. The English term 'Christmas' means 'mass on Christ's day'. In school we celebrate this time of year as a religious festival with a meal together and a nativity shared with parents.

Background Information

Advent comes from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'Coming.' Advent begins the church year starting four Sundays before Christmas. The season of Advent has been set aside as a time of preparation since the 6th century. Advent is a time for preparing for Christ's second coming, even as we remember and celebrate his first coming at Christmas. This is why the colour of the season of Lent is purple, the colours also of Lent, of forgiveness and repentance. The Advent wreath symbolises the passage of four weeks leading up to the celebration of Christ coming to the world.



This Advent, Lord, come to the manger of my heart. Fill me with Your presence from the very start. As I prepare for the holidays and gifts to be given, Remind me of the gift You gave when You sent Your Son from Heaven

In this unit the children will...

- Understand 'Advent' as a time of preparation.
- Share the lighting of a candle for hope, faith, joy, charity, peace and Christ
- Think about the charities we support, and raise some money to help others in the community.
- Share a meal together as a school family, to remember those that have gone before us leading the way to Jesus, and the Christian values we live to.
- Celebrate together, in mass, the coming of Jesus and joy and salvation his birth brought to the world.
- Know the miracle of the birth of Jesus.

By the end of this unit....

All children can:

Describe the lighting of the Advent candles, the first for hope (the patriarch's candle), the second for faith (the prophet's candle), and the third for joy (the John the Baptist's candle), the fourth candle for peace (Mary's candle), and the final candle is for Christ.

Retell the story of the birth of Jesus.

Link our Christian values to the birth of Christ.

Discuss how you feel (in your heart) and what this makes you think about (in your head).

Most children will:

Understand God as a Patriarch who sent his only son as a saviour to earth.

Understand the significance of the visitors and Jesus being born in a stable, as a gift to all mankind.

Some children will:

Understand Jesus as 'fully God and fully human'.

Understand anticipation and preparation for a great event.

Discuss God as with us and in control.



'Love begins by taking care of the closest ones – the ones at home'

"For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

Key Vocabulary

Prophacy Patriarch Incarnation Gift Preparation Celebration Awaiting

Useful Websites

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=pj6vzfkk8!!>

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=4KzFe5ORQ>

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=UEQahdq-q4&List=PLVHuODxuc>