

## RE Newsletter Summer Term 1 2016

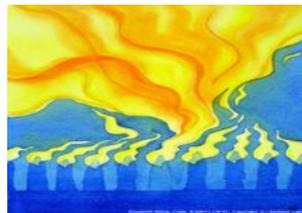
Dear Parents,

As we return to school the Church continues to celebrate the great feast of Easter – Jesus risen from the dead. This celebration goes on until the feast of Pentecost (Sunday 15th May), the birthday of the Church. At Pentecost we celebrate the outpouring of the Holy Spirit who empowers and enables us to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Christians believe that it is the Holy Spirit who gives life to the Church. The symbols of wind or breath and fire speak of this life-giving and creative energy present in everything we do, empowering us to live the life Jesus calls us to.

### **During this half-term the Church dedicates the month of May to Mary, Jesus' mother.**

The children will learn about Mary as the Mother of Jesus and how she is a help and comfort to us in our faith. The children will learn some of the prayers we say to Mary, and about some of the places of Pilgrimage dedicated to her.

The children will reflect on Mary's role as the first believer – the first disciple – of Jesus.



### **Important dates this term:**

*Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - St. George's Day*

*Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May - English Martyrs*

*Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May - Ascension*

*Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May - Pentecost*

*Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - The Holy Trinity*

*Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May - Corpus Christi*

*Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Sacred Heart*

*Wed 29<sup>th</sup> June - St. Peter and St. Paul*

## Summer Term 1

### Early Years Foundation Stage

## New Life

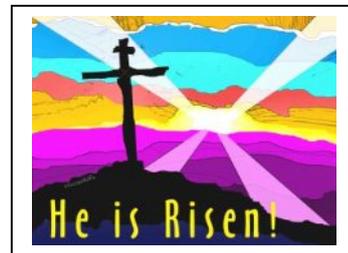
**“Jesus’ life, death and resurrection are the central event of all human history and at the heart of faith”**

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

This half term, the children in the Nursery and the Reception classes will be learning about new life. They will learn about the story of the empty tomb, and learn that Jesus appeared to his disciples. The children will begin to understand the special gift of joy and peace that Jesus gave to his friends (John 20: 19-21) and can give to us as well. They will hear the story of Jesus going back to his Father and learn that one day we shall hopefully go there too. The children will learn about Mary as the Mother of Jesus.

**At home you could help your children by:**

- planting an Easter garden
- looking for signs of new life
- practise the Sign of the Cross, ‘Our Father’ & ‘Hail Mary’
- encouraging them to write their own prayers



### Key Stage 1

## Eastertide

**“It is the Holy Spirit who forms and guides God’s people to know God and enter into communion with God through Jesus Christ.”**

*Religious Education Curriculum Directory*

Key Stage 1 will learn that Jesus rose from the dead and still lives with us. They will hear that Jesus told his disciples that he would go back to Heaven but promised that the Holy Spirit would come. They will learn that Jesus ascended into Heaven and promised to return again and that this gives us hope. They will also know the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit on the apostles at Pentecost and know that the Holy Spirit is promised to us. The children will learn about how Mary helps us as followers of her Son.

**At home you could help your children by:**

- talking about how the Holy Spirit helps us
- having a close look at the Paschal (Easter) Candle when at Mass



## Lower key Stage 2

### *The Mission of the Church*

**“Through the Church, Christ fulfils and reveals God’s plan to unite all things in him. Christ gave his Church a structure in calling and choosing twelve apostles. In the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost the Church’s mission was begun through the love of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.”**

***Religious Education Curriculum Directory***

In Lower Key Stage 2, the children will learn that Peter was chosen to play a special role in the Church and that Jesus gave his followers a mission – to spread the Good News to others. At Pentecost Jesus sent his promised helper to in the form of the Holy Spirit and that this is the Church’s Birthday ... The beginning of the Christian Church. The children will learn about the early church and the role of Peter and Paul and the challenges they faced. The children will hear about Stephen, the first martyr of the Christian faith and what he had to endure to carry out his mission.



#### **At home you could help your children by:**

- \*Discussing the life of St. Peter and reflecting on his role as the first Pope.
- \*Reading about the challenges that St. Paul faced setting up the early Church in the Acts of the Apostles.

\*Visiting the site: [www.tere.org/interactive\\_site/KS2link](http://www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link)

## Upper Key Stage 2

### *The Work of the Apostles*

**“Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. I am with you always, to the close of age.”**

*Catechism of the Catholic Church CCC2*

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**At Home you could help your children by:**

- visiting [www.tere.org/interactive\\_site/KS2link](http://www.tere.org/interactive_site/KS2link)
- reading the story of Pentecost with them and discussing how the apostles changed
- discussing what they have learned about the Holy Spirit and how they can apply this to life

The children will learn how the apostles were changed forever when they received the Holy Spirit. They will reflect on the power of the Holy Spirit working through the early apostles and how the Gifts of the Holy Spirit works

through us today. The first Christian Community was built the work of the first apostles, facing extreme challenges achieve their mission but they were ordinary people like The children will learn about how ordinary people can achieve great things through the power of the Holy Spirit.

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