

God Matters – Advent

Year	Rationale (Aims and purpose of unit)
F2	<p>This unit is designed to introduce reception children to the idea of special times and seasons in the life of the Church, in particular the season of Advent, as well as learning that Sunday is a special day and that Advent is a special time, when we get ready for the Birth of Jesus.</p> <p>They will consider ways in which they can get ready. The children will start to become aware that we have signs to remind us that this is a special time. The signs in this unit include candles and Advent wreaths and the colour purple.</p> <p>Jesus came into the world. We remember his coming at Christmas. We need to get ready for Jesus by getting ready in our hearts through prayer and thinking of others.</p>
Y1	<p>This unit is designed to develop pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the season of Advent further. It looks at getting ready for the Birth of Jesus through the eyes of Mary and Joseph. The main focus is to identify their response to God and the qualities they demonstrated by responding to him in that way.</p> <p>There is also a focus on the joy of the Advent season.</p> <p>We remember his coming at Christmas. We can get ready for Jesus by following Mary’s example and trusting in God. Advent is a time of rejoicing.</p>
Y2	<p>This unit is designed to deepen pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the season of Advent. It looks at getting ready for the Birth of Jesus by helping us remember that God promised to send us His Son and that Jesus is the fulfilment of that promise. It introduces the idea of what a prophet does and what angels do.</p> <p>It helps us understand that people such as John the Baptist help us understand the nature of this promise and provide example and inspiration of how we should respond to it. Further reinforcement is provided on the symbolism of Advent. It also develops the idea that we get ready as a parish community, as the family of God.</p> <p>In Advent we can respond to the example of the prophets and especially John the Baptist by preparing a way for Jesus to be a full part of our lives.</p>
Y3	<p>This unit is designed to deepen pupils’ knowledge and understanding of the season of Advent. The story of the Annunciation details the response of Mary to the news that she is to be the mother of Jesus. This unit will focus on Mary’s acceptance of her vocation. When she declares; “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord: let it be to me according to your word”</p> <p>In the light of this acceptance of her vocation, we explore what we are required to do to get ready for the presence of Jesus. The parable of the sheep and goats provides a challenge to us to respond to the presence of Jesus.</p> <p>In Advent we can respond to the example of the prophets and especially John the Baptist by preparing a way for Jesus to be a full part of our lives.</p>
Y4	<p>This unit is designed to deepen understanding of what God promised when He promised to send His Son. It details how Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment of this promise. The ancestry of Jesus is explored to enable a deeper understanding of the nature of the Messiah. This will link this work to what we celebrate and</p>

	<p>prepare for in Advent. The meaning behind some of the titles and names given to Jesus are explored. Titles such as Messiah and Emmanuel will provide insight into the nature of Jesus, as well as the role of the prophets, who help prepare us for the presence of Jesus.</p> <p>Jesus is the fulfilment of God’s promise of redemption. Advent is a time when we celebrate the coming of Jesus and our redemption.</p>
Y5	<p>This unit is designed to deepen understanding of what God promised when he promised to send his Son. It details how Jesus is the ultimate fulfilment of this promise. The ancestry of Jesus is explored to enable a deeper understanding of the nature of the Messiah. This will link this work to what we celebrate and prepare for in Advent. The meaning behind some of the titles and names given to Jesus are explored. Titles such as Messiah and Emmanuel will provide insight into the nature of Jesus as well as the role of the prophets who help prepare us for the presence of Jesus.</p> <p>There are two parts to Advent, first to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and second through the inspiration of the Spirit to prepare for Jesus to come. Jesus was given many different titles to tell us something of his qualities and attributes.</p>
Y6	<p>This unit builds on work done in previous years in Advent. It provides further detail on the nature of the Messiah who is to come, but provides a deeper opportunity to explore the response demanded of Christ’s followers. The teachings of Christ, through his parables, provide us detailed teaching on watching and being prepared for the coming of God’s Kingdom. The time of Advent is when we also prepare for the Second Coming of Christ through our prayers and by following Christ.</p> <p>Advent is a time to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ and that this season demands preparation from his followers.</p>

*Writing in bold – key theology