

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT ST MARY'S

SPRING TERM 2026

Go shine in the world and live as Jesus lived

Our school motto is based upon Matthew 5:14-16

Dear Parents/Carers,

During the first half term of the Spring Term at St Mary's, we will be studying a range of different faiths, including Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism. In the second half term, the children will be studying a topic with a Christian theme. The children will take the time, this term, to write prayers for their individual prayer books on Lent and Easter.

1st Half Term

Nursery	CHRISTIANITY - What makes us special?
Reception	CHRISTIANITY – Why do Christians believe Jesus is special?
Year 1	JUDAISM - What is it like to live as a Jewish person?
Year 2	JUDAISM – How are Jewish festivals celebrated and remembered?
Year 3	JUDAISM – What does it mean to be Jewish?
Year 4	HINDUISM – How do Hindus worship?
Year 5	SIKHISM – How did the first five Sikh gurus shape Sikhi?
Year 6	BUDDHISM – What does it mean to be a Buddhist?

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

Help your child to find out about the religion they are studying in class by using books from the library and websites.

e.g., BBC Bitesize → Religious education

2nd Half Term

Nursery	CHRISTIANITY – How do people celebrate Easter?
Reception	CHRISTIANITY – What is so special about Easter?
Year 1	CHRISTIANITY – Why might many Christians say that Easter is the most important festival?
Year 2	CHRISTIANITY – How do the symbols of Easter help us to understand the meaning of Easter for Christians?
Year 3	CHRISTIANITY – Who is the most important person in the Easter story?
Year 4	CHRISTIANITY – What is Holy Communion and how does it build a Christian community?
Year 5	CHRISTIANITY – What happens in churches during Lent, Holy Week and Easter Sunday?
Year 6	CHRISTIANITY – How does the Christian festival of Easter offer hope?

SUGGESTIONS FOR HOME ACTIVITIES

As a family talk about forgiveness and why and how we need this quality in our lives. Ask your children to tell you the Easter story and the meaning of Jesus' death for all mankind. Find out about Shrove Tuesday, Lent and why a cross of ashes is marked on the forehead on Ash Wednesday.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.'

John 3:16-17



A Prayer for the New Year

Lord, You make all things new
You bring hope alive in our hearts
And cause our Spirits to be born again
Thank you for this New Year
For all the potential it holds.
Come and kindle in us
A mighty flame
So that in our time, many will see the wonders of God
And live forever to praise Your glorious name.
Amen

IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND

EPIPHANY

(6th January)

We remember the many ways in which Christ reveals himself to be the Son of God and Saviour sent to atone for the sins of mankind.

THE PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (Candlemas)

(2nd February)

Today is a day of hope and light. It is a time to honour Jesus as the *Light of the World* and to remind us that we too have that light within us.

ASH WEDNESDAY

(18th February)

This is a time for self-reflection, repentance, prayer and fasting as we prepare for Easter. 'This is what the Sovereign Lord, the Holy One of Israel, says, "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength.'" (Isaiah 30:15)



EASTER DAY

(5th April)

How blessed is this day, when earth and heaven are joined and humankind is reconciled to God! May the light of Jesus shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find his light ever burning in our hearts—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.