**IMPORTANT DATES THIS TERM:**

**WC 25th September – Launch of our Harvest Appeal –** Children are invited to bring in tins and other items such as cereal, pasta, rice etc for our local foodbank (Billingham and Stockton Foodbank).

**All Saints**

(1 November)

We celebrate the lives of special and ordinary people who have responded to God’s invitation to love.

**The commemoration of all the faithful departed (All Souls)**

(2 November)

Today and throughout the rest of November we pray for those who have died.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace. Amen.

**Our lord jesus Christ, King of the universe**

(26 November)

**ADVENT**

(Begins 3 December)

Advent means ‘coming’. We think of the coming of Jesus when he was born but we also think of his promise that he would come again at the end of time. It is a time of waiting and preparing. It is only in the last week of Advent that we focus upon the events to be celebrated at Christmas.

**The Immaculate Conception of the blessed virgin mary**

(8 December)

This feast marks the first stage of the existence of Mary, the mother of Jesus.

She was ‘full of grace’ from the very beginning and

co-operated with God throughout her life.

**Christmas Day, The nativity of the lord**

(25 December)

On this day we begin our celebration of the birth of Christ.

**The holy family of jesus, mary and joseph**

(31 December)

**baptism and confirmation - Belonging**

***(WC 16.10.23 – WC 13.11.23)***

**Early Years welcome -** Baptism: a welcome to God’s family

**Classes 3, 4 and 5 signs and symbols -** Signs and symbols in Baptism

**Classes 6, 7 and 8 called -** Confirmation: a call to witness

**Class 9, 10 and 11 vocation and commitment -** The vocation of priesthood and religious life

**Suggestions for home activities**

Discuss with the children how your family welcomes visitors to your home.

Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse tree.

Use the CAFOD or Missio websites to get a religious Advent calendar.

**advent/Christmas - Loving**

***(WC 20.11.23 – WC 11.12.23)***

**Early Years birthday -** Looking forward to Jesus’ birthday

**Classes 3, 4 and 5 preparations -** Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas

**Classes 6, 7 and 8 gift -** God’s gift of love and friendship in Jesus

**Class 9, 10 and 11 expectations -** Jesus born to show God to the world

**Suggestions for home activities**

Talk to someone who has been to a Baptism and/or Confirmation about their memories of this celebration*.*

**Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),**

**This term we will be studying the three themes of Domestic Church (Family), Baptism and Confirmation (Belonging) and Advent and Christmas (Loving). Each class will approach the themes through different topics. The children will also spend a week studying Judaism.**

**JUDAISM *(WC 09.10.23)***

Pupils will study various aspects of Judaism for one week. Ask them what they have been learning about.

**Suggestions for home activities**

Make a collage using family photographs of all the significant family members—grandparents, parents, children, aunts, uncles etc. who show God’s love.

Write underneath it

**“We show God’s love to one another.”**

Include those who have died.

**Domestic church - family**

***(WC 11.09.23 – WC 02.10.23)***

**Early Years Myself -** God knows and loves each one

**Classes 3, 4 and 5 Beginnings -** God is present in every beginning

**Classes 6, 7 and 8 People -** The family of God in Scripture

**Class 9, 10 and 11 Loving -** God who never stops loving

**Religious Education**

**Autumn Term 2023**

**Come and See at home**