

We hope you will join with us in our celebrations throughout the term.

God Bless

Miss Hodgson

Dates to Remember:

The Epiphany 6th January
(this year to celebrated on Sunday 2nd January)

The Baptism of Jesus 9th January

The Presentation of Jesus 2nd February

Ash Wednesday 9th March

Saint David 1st March

Saint Patrick 17th March

Saint Joseph
19th March

The Annunciation 25th March

HOLY WEEK

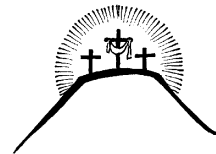
April 17th
Palm Sunday
The day we remember Jesus when he rode on a donkey into Jerusalem



April 21st
Holy Thursday
We remember the last meal Jesus shared with his friends



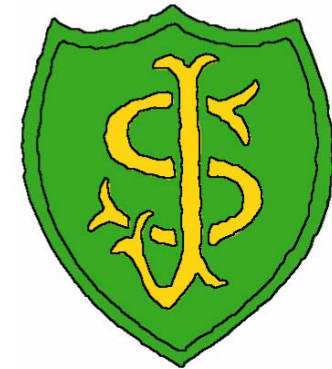
April 22nd
Good Friday
The day on which Jesus was crucified and died.



April 24th
Easter Sunday
The day the tomb was found empty and Jesus had risen from the dead



Parents' Letter



Religious Education
Spring Term 2011

Dear Parent(s),

The Spring term begins with recalling the celebration of *The Epiphany* when we remember that the wise men came from other countries to bring their gifts to Jesus. This reminds us that Jesus was born for all human beings.

The key question we will explore with the children this term is 'Who Am I?' The focus of the term's work is to begin to understand the wonderful answer to this question. Jesus, the Son of God, who became fully human shows each of us that our real identity is as a child of God. The topics to be studied are Books, Memories and Death & New Life.

Our work in the Spring term takes us into our Lenten preparations. Lent is a special time when we prepare to celebrate Jesus' Death and Resurrection at the end of Holy Week.

BOOKS

(10th Jan - 4th Feb 2011)



In this topic we focus on the importance of books in our lives as a means of recording and passing on ideas, thoughts, knowledge and wisdom to others. Christians believe that the Bible is God's Word to us so it is regarded as our most important and treasured book. It is through these sacred writings that the community of the Church learns about, and

shares, the wonderful truth that God loves each one of us.

Suggestions for home activities:

- *Show your child(ren) special books such as a Bible, a Prayer Book, family history account or a favourite book from your childhood. Read to them from one of these books.*
- *Invite them to talk about their favourite books and why they are special to them.*
- *Take your child to a local library and enjoy a good read.*

MEMORIES

(7th Feb - 11th Mar 2011)



In this topic we help children to understand that memories are important to individuals and to communities. We often use special activities to ensure that we do remember outstanding events. The celebration of sharing bread and wine is the special way the community of the Church remembers the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.

Ash Wednesday (9th March) marks the beginning of the Lenten season, the time in which we prepare to celebrate Easter.

Suggestions for home activities:

- *Look through the family photograph album to help the children remember important events and special people in their lives.*
- *Older children may find it useful to remember some important world event*

such as September 11th. Discuss with them what sort of things are done to remember people who have died e.g. put up a memorial or place a memorial in the local paper, write a poem, light a candle holding a minute's silence.

DEATH & NEW LIFE

(14th March 2011 to end of term)



The final topic reminds us that just as new life emerges in Spring after the deadness of Winter, so too the Resurrection of Jesus could only happen after he had given his life on the cross. It is important to help the children to understand that when changes happen in 'death' of something familiar, and 'life' when a new beginning occurs. Lent is an important time to think about the changes we need to make in our lives in order to make a new beginning at Easter.

Suggestions for home activities:

Grow a seed such as pea or broad bean in a clear glass jar. Soak the dried seed; roll a piece of absorbent paper such as kitchen paper and place it inside the jar; slide the seed between the glass and the paper so that the seed's growth can be observed; put enough water in the jar so that it reaches the paper. Watch with your child over the weeks and see the new life emerge while at the same time the seed begins to die.