

Core RE Knowledge Overview

Below is an overview of all of the core history knowledge gained during Key Stage One and Two as St Thomas'.
For more detailed knowledge, please refer to the unit overview sheets for each class.

Year Group	Core Knowledge & Key Experiences (Learning objectives from each lesson)	Key Christian Concepts	Assessment Outcome
Reception	Harvest I am Special Giving thanks to God for His wonderful creation and for the Harvest. To widen pupils understanding of the world and where food comes from. To explore the value of being thankful, recognising that we have access to plenty of food in Britain but there are many places and people in the world who do not have enough. To take some part in a harvest festival celebration in church or school. To have the opportunity to talk about their favourite foods and to enjoy tasting different food.	God Creation Harvest	To give pupils an understanding of why we say thank you to God at harvest time and talk about him being creator.
	I am Special Talking about God as Heavenly Father and that He makes each one of us different and special, He knows us and loves us An opportunity for children to explore all about themselves, their likes, dislikes, physical features, abilities etc, including looking at handprints, footprints and fingerprints. Talk about emotions and the experiences related to them.	God Creation	To give pupils an understanding that they are unique and special. To know they are loved, valued and made by God.
	Christmas Discussing all the different ways in which we celebrate the birthdays of people of all ages.	Love Joy Hope	To explore the nativity story in a variety of ways and ensure pupils know that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus' birth.



Jesus said, 'Come follow me, live your lives the way God wants you to.'



	Talk about the ways in which the children will be celebrating Christmas. Tell and retell the story of the nativity several times using different storytelling techniques. Clearly emphasise that Christmas is a celebration of the birth of Jesus. Look at the ways in which the local church is going to celebrate Christmas. Invite the vicar/minister and/or a member of the congregation to visit and describe the celebrations. The story of Anna and Simeon (Luke 2:21-40)		
	Stories Jesus heard Hearing stories from the Old Testament that Jesus probably would have heard as a boy, choose from Noah, Joseph, Moses, Joshua, Gideon, David, Jonah or Daniel. Exploring the feelings and characteristics of the people in these stories.	Faith Courage Trust	To introduce pupils to stories of the Old Testament and understand that Jesus would have heard these stories as he was growing up.
	Stories Jesus told Jesus told important stories called parables. These stories can be found in the Bible. Jesus told these stories to teach us about God and how to live our lives.	Compassion Love Faith	To explore the stories that Jesus told and know that he told them to teach us about God.
	Special Places Creating a special place. Talking about special places in the children's own experiences indoors and outdoors. Visiting the church and talking about why the church is special. Choosing special places to visit in travel brochures. Links with Non-Christian Faiths – removal of shoes.	Creativity Friendship Respect Reverence	To begin to develop pupils understanding of a place being considered as a special/holy place where believers go to worship.

	Special Times Festivals and rites of passage. The children's own experiences of special times. The story of Pentecost and talking about times of prayer.	Thankfulness Love Faith	To develop pupils understanding of special/holy times. Increasing their knowledge of the ways special times are celebrated, remembered and the reasons why. To introduce pupils to the story of Pentecost and God as Holy Spirit.
Year One	Harvest How can we help those who do not have a good harvest? Why do we celebrate Harvest Festival? Where does our food come from? Which foods do you enjoy the most? How can we help those who do not have a good harvest? Why should we help those who do not have a good harvest?	Responsibility Justice Compassion Generosity God as Creator Gospels	To raise awareness that we harvest food all around the world and that we usually have plenty but others do not. To discuss what our response as Christians should be to the need of others.
	My World Jesus World Reading Bible stories that highlight the differences between our world and Jesus' world. Role play and food tasting. Creating a book of comparisons.	Incarnation Creativity	To help children understand that Jesus lived a long time ago and that the world we live in is very different to Jesus' world over 2000 years ago.
	Christmas To listen to the nativity story, the story of the Wise Men and the story of St Nicholas. To experience giving and receiving gifts- why are these important? How do they make us feel?	Love Generosity Thankfulness.	To deepen the children's understanding of the true meaning of Christmas through emphasising that Jesus was a gift from God. To discuss the thoughts and feelings associated with giving and receiving gifts.
	Jesus was special Discussing Friendship- what makes a good friend? Relating the feelings and experiences of the characters in the stories with their own feelings and experiences.	Friendship Compassion Trust	To enjoy exploring these Bible stories that reveal Jesus' power and divine nature. To talk about how and why Jesus was special.
	Easter. Celebrating new life & new beginnings What makes an Easter garden? To hear, discuss and retell the events of the Easter Story. To study the miracle of the life cycle of a butterfly, plant, frog etc.	Faith Hope Love Joy	To give children an opportunity to reflect upon the miracles of nature and new life during springtime. To for pupils to hear and be able to retell the Easter Story. To make links between the transformation of plants and animals and the Easter story in order to develop an understanding of the resurrection.

	Why is baptism special? What is a baptism service like? The Story of Jesus being baptised by John. Exploring the objects in the chatterbox and the religious traditions of at least 2 other faiths.	Faith Love	To deepen children's understanding of what it means to belong through exploring the celebration of baptism and the ways in which people of faith welcome babies.
	God and Creation		
Year Two	The Bible. Why is it such a special book? Opportunity to look at and handle many different Bibles. Look at the Bible as a library. Hear stories from both Testaments and know where they can be found. Hear about the Dead Sea Scrolls. Hear and discuss the story of Mary Jones.	Faith Reverence Respect Wisdom	To widen the children's understanding of the Bible, its contents, presentation and importance to Christians. To begin to develop children's understanding of holy books from faiths other than Christianity and their significance in the lives of believers.
	Christmas. Why was the birth of Jesus such good news? To listen to the nativity story, the story of the Wise Men and the story of St Nicholas. To experience giving and receiving gifts.	Love Generosity Thankfulness	To deepen the children's understanding of the true meaning of Christmas through emphasising that Jesus was a gift from God. To discuss the thoughts and feelings associated with giving and receiving gifts.
	Jesus friend to everyone Art work interpretation of Jesus and the children. Using drama to explore feelings and experiences. Considering how the events in these stories connect to Christian belief.	Friendship Compassion Faith Hope	To enjoy these stories of Jesus' Miracles and to increase the children's awareness that Jesus was an extraordinary person who welcomed everyone as a friend.
	Easter. How do symbols help us understand the story? Signs and symbols The Symbolism of the Paschal candle. Look at a variety of crosses and make one.	Faith Hope Love	To give children an understanding that symbols are pictures or objects with a deeper meaning and a story to tell. To extend pupils knowledge of the details of the Easter story. To develop pupil's understanding of the importance of Easter and the concept of salvation.
	Why is the church a special place for Christians? To visit the church and meet the clergy.	Faith Respect	To give pupils an understanding of 'church' as a holy place and a body of people.

	An opportunity to sense the atmosphere of a special holy place. Answering the key questions.	Reverence	To begin developing in pupils an understanding of what happens in church and why. To give pupils an opportunity to begin exploring places of worship other than a church.
	What happened at the Ascension & Pentecost? Listening to the stories of the Ascension and Pentecost. Exploring the symbolism and power of the Holy Spirit. Looking at pieces of art work that interpret these events.	Faith Courage Trust	To begin to develop the children's knowledge and understanding of these two very significant events. To give children an opportunity to begin to explore the concept of God as three in one. To emphasize the importance of these events in the life of Jesus and the Church, then and now.
Year Three	Called by God Exploring the stories of Old Testament Prophets. Interviewing Clergy and/or those in Ministry. Considering what Prophets of today would speak in favour of or speak out against.	Faith Service Courage	To give children an opportunity to consider what it means to be called by God and the responses people have made to that call.
	Christmas. God with us A guided meditation to the hills of Bethlehem.. Discussing preparations for Christmas and the presence of Jesus. The story of Papa Panov. Thinking about the story of the statue in Strasbourg.	Faith Compassion Love	To give children the opportunity to reflect upon Christmas as a celebration of God's presence with us 2000 years ago and now.
	Jesus the man who changed lives Discuss the concept of change. finding answers to the key questions.	Forgiveness Humility Service	To deepen children's insight into the impact Jesus had/has on people's lives.
	Exploring the sadness and Joy of Easter To listen to and retell the Easter Story, emphasising the emotions expressed by the people. To consider how the emotions of the events of Holy Week and Easter are reflected in church services.	Faith Love Hope	To explore the Easter story from the angle of the feelings evoked by the different events throughout Holy Week. To discover how the services held in churches during Holy week reflect the sadness and joy. To develop further the pupils' understanding of the concept of salvation.
	Which rules should we follow? To listen to the story of Moses receiving the 10 Commandments. Discussion about the rules given by God and following those rules. To interview a Christian and ask questions about following the 'rules'.	Justice Responsibility Love Forgiveness	To give pupils an opportunity to consider the value and purpose of rules. To examine Christian rules for living and the source of these rules.

			To encourage pupils to reflect upon their own lifestyle and the influences upon it. To consider the rules followed by other faiths and the ways in which the rules influence behaviour and decisions.
	What do Christians learn from the creation story?		
Year Four	God, David and the Psalms To discuss important values. To read the stories of David and consider the qualities of kingship and friendship. Exploring the nature of God and creating images to illustrate the Psalms.	Friendship Responsibility Creativity	To explore the Story of David and his strengths and qualities. To read the Psalms and use them to discover more about the nature of God.
	Christmas. Exploring the symbolism of light. Discussing the key questions. Sitting in a darkened room in candlelight. Considering how Jesus and the actions of his followers brings light into people's lives.	Hope Peace	To give pupils an understanding of the Christian belief that Jesus is the, 'Light of the World'. To explore the multi-faceted metaphor of bringing light into people's lives.
	Jesus Son of God Exploring Jesus' authority revealed through his teaching and miracles. Exploring the Jewish celebration of the Sabbath.	Justice Responsibility Respect Reverence	To deepen the children's understanding of Jesus, who he was, his teaching and behaviour. To use the events covered in the stories in this unit to illustrate and emphasise that Jesus is the Son of God; that he was born both God and man.
	Exploring Easter as a story of betrayal and trust Critical analysis of Easter story, highlighting times of trust and betrayal. Role play of Peter's denial and Jesus' forgiveness. Looking at artwork depicting the events in the Easter story. Ask pupils to describe/explain what they could learn from the behaviour of Peter, Judas and the women.	Trust Forgiveness Hope Reconciliation	To give children the opportunity to reflect upon the importance of power and the effect of betrayal, trust and forgiveness. To deepen pupil's understanding of the concept of salvation. To focus on the significance of the incidents of betrayal and trust in the Easter story.
	Are all churches the same?	Faith Respect Reverence	To give children an understanding of the church in its widest sense.

	Visiting the Parish Church and at least one church of a different denomination followed by a discussion of the similarities and differences.	Service	To ensure pupils know that Christianity is a multi-cultural worldwide faith. To enable pupils to see the similarities and differences between denominations and to develop further their understanding of symbolism. To further develop children's understanding of places of worship from faiths other than Christianity e.g. Islam, Sikhism, Hinduism etc.
	What is prayer? As part of daily life in a church school the children should have experienced opportunities to pray in many different ways. They may also have different experiences of prayer as members of different faiths and this will affect their answers to the key questions. A large collage display could be made of their responses to the questions and added to as the unit progresses.	Hope Faith	To ensure that the children know that prayer is a way of communicating with God. To know that we/Christians believe that God listens and responds.
Year Five	How and why do Christians read the Bible? To see and handle a wide variety of Bibles. To talk to an adult about how and why they use/read the Bible. Compare the teaching of the Bible and Christian behaviour. Making connections between Bible passages and Christian values, attitudes or beliefs.	Wisdom Faith Truth	To deepen children's understanding of the importance and impact of the contents of the Bible.
	Christmas. The gospels of Matthew and Luke. Identifying the two nativity stories and considering the purpose of the Gospel writers.	Hope Humility	To give children a Biblical perspective on the nativity story. To challenge their ideas and deepen their understanding of the true meaning of Christmas.
	Jesus the teacher Discussion about Jesus' teaching content and method. Reading parables new to them and unpacking the imagery that Jesus gives us of the Kingdom of God.	Wisdom	To emphasise Jesus' skills as a great teacher. To consider carefully the messages of the parables and how they impact on the lives of practising Christians.
	Why do Christians believe that Easter is a celebration of victory? Looking at the imagery and words of Easter hymns and songs. Reading and discussing the story of The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by CS Lewis.	Faith Hope Service Joy	To explore the Easter story from the perspective of it being the story of Christ's triumph and victory over death.

	Pentecost, what happened next? The story of the conversion of Saul/Paul, his life and teaching. Thought given to the task of mission and stories of Christian missionaries today and in the past. The arrival of Christianity in Britain; Columba, Aidan and Augustine.	Faith Courage Perseverance	To provide children with an opportunity to gain greater understanding of the lives and resilience of the early Christians. To realise the significance of the life of St Paul and the concept of mission. To learn basic facts about how Christianity came to Britain.
	Exploring the lives of significant women in the Old Testament To explore the story and festival of Purim. To discuss choices, values and behaviour.	Wisdom Justice Perseverance	To widen the children's knowledge and understanding of the role and significance of women in the Bible and God's big story. To reflect upon the actions of these women and consider what we can learn from their stories.
Year Six	Life as a journey and pilgrimage Creating a map of the children's journey so far. 'Mapping' the journey of a Christian highlighting rites of passage. Researching places of pilgrimage.	Perseverance Trust Hope	To give children an opportunity to think about the idea that that life is a journey and what it means to make that journey as a Christian. To enable pupils to begin to understand the concept of undertaking a religious pilgrimage.
	How do Christians prepare for Christmas? Discuss in what ways Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecies. Think about what John's message would be today. Talk about the pupils' hopes and dreams. Be introduced to the belief that Christ will come again.	Hope Faith Wisdom Truth	To delve deeper into the themes of the season of Advent. To introduce pupils to the Christian belief that Jesus will return (the second coming).
	Why is the Exodus such a significant event in Jewish and Christian history? Revisiting knowledge of the Exodus story. Re-enacting a Passover meal. Discussing the meaning of freedom. Easter. Who was Jesus? who is Jesus Using the Bible to find answers to the key questions. Answering the question from the point of view of the suggested people in the activities below.	Justice Faith Hope Peace Faith Hope Humility	To give pupils a greater understanding of the significance of the Exodus and Passover. To introduce pupils to the links between Christianity and Judaism. To allow children the opportunity to stand back and consider 'Who was Jesus?' and

			‘Who is Jesus?’ from their own point of view and the views of others in the past and today.
	Why do Christians celebrate the Eucharist? Speaking with a member of the clergy about the Eucharist. Considering the ways different denominations celebrate the Eucharist. Unpacking the deeper meaning of the words used in the Eucharist service.	Faith Forgiveness	To identify the links between the Passover meal, Last Supper and Eucharist. To develop pupils’ understanding of the Eucharist and the symbolism connected with it. To develop pupils’ understanding of the importance of the Eucharist and why it is celebrated.
	Ideas about God Reading and discussing at least two of the Old Testament stories. The Celtic Trinity knot and prayers. Creating a graffiti wall. Exploring how Christian beliefs are reflected in worship.	Faith Wisdom Respect Reverence	To further the children’s understanding of the nature of God, His characteristics and His relationship with people.
	People of faith Jesus’ teaching on faith. Learning about the life of at least one extraordinary person of faith. Considering the opinion of a person of faith on a specific issue. Discussing the ways in which Christian people build God’s kingdom on earth today.	Faith Courage Compassion Perseverance Service	To explore what it means for a person to have faith and how having faith affects people’s lives, values and decisions. To discuss that Christian people are called to build God’s kingdom here on earth.