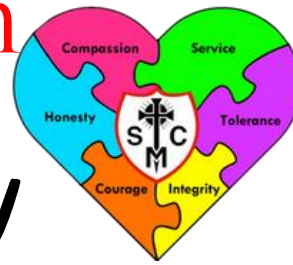


# Religious Education Newsletter



## The new Religious Education Directory (RED)

We're excited to share that as of now, our school will begin teaching the new Religious Education Directory, known as the RED. This marks an important and exciting new chapter in how we teach Religious Education. The RED has its own specially designed model curriculum, made up of six branches. Each half-term, we will explore one of these branches in class. Each one focuses on a core theme, helping children to grow in their understanding of key aspects of the Catholic faith. What makes this new approach so special is that it not only helps pupils learn about their faith in a deeper, more meaningful way, but also invites them to reflect on what it means for their own lives. It helps them to see, judge, and act with greater understanding and compassion. We're really looking forward to bringing this new vision for Religious Education into our classrooms. To help keep you informed and involved, we'll be sending out a newsletter each term with updates on what your child is learning.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.  
We're excited to begin this journey together!.

## Branch 1: Creation and Covenant

Advent 1 will focus on the branch – Creation and Covenant. Children will learn about God as the Creator who calls people into a special relationship with Him. They will explore the Christian belief that everything in the world comes from God. This includes learning about the Creation stories in the book of Genesis, as well as looking at scientific explanations of how the world began. Children will also learn about how God calls people and forms a covenant—a special promise—with them. They will explore this idea through the stories of Abraham and Moses, and other key moments in the Old Testament.

### Eyfs

This term, children in EYFS will hear the creation story and learn that God made them. They will consider ways they can look after themselves. To build on this, they will learn that God made the world and consider ways in which we can look after the world and care for God's creation. By the end of the unit, all children will know that they are invited to be part of God's family.

### At home you could read:

God created the world and said, 'Indeed it is very good' (Genesis 1:31).  
The whole of Creation shows God love for us (Laudato Si' 84–88).



## *Year 1*

In this first branch, children will consider how the world exists and how all that is came to be. They will learn about the Christian belief that all that exists comes from God, the Creator, who Christians call Father, and that this belief is found in Scripture. Children will learn that although we cannot see God, we can sense His presence through the awe and wonder of creation. Then, children will explore the late Pope Francis' encyclical letter, Laudato Si, what this asks of us as Catholics and how to be stewards of creation. Finally, children will learn prayer is a way of drawing closer to God.

### At home you could read:

Genesis 1:1-4, 24-26

Laudato Si – explained for Kids: CAFOD

## *Year 2*

Children will learn about the story of Noah, mainly focusing on God's promise (covenant) with Noah and with all creatures that 'nothing of flesh shall be swept away again by the waters of the flood' (Gen 9:15). Children will then learn how the Sacrament of Baptism is a sign of Jesus' love for all people and a welcome into the Christian family linking back to God's promise (covenant) with Noah. This unit will also enable children to learn how psalms are prayed/sung to praise God and recognise that they are a different literary form in scripture. Finally, children will understand the term 'stewardship' and what it means for caring for God's world as well as how the Christian Bible is split into two parts, the Old Testament, and the New Testament.

### At home you could read:

God created the world and said, 'Indeed it is very good' (Genesis 1:31).

The whole of Creation shows God love for us (Laudato Si' 84–88).

## *Year 3*

In this branch (unit), pupils will revisit the first story of Creation. They will encounter the belief that human beings are made 'in the image of God' (Gen 1:27) and talk about what this might mean. Children will make simple links between the first Creation story, the belief that all human beings are created equal, and an expression of the principle of Catholic Social Teaching about human dignity. Later, children will describe stewardship by making simple links between Genesis 1:26-31 and people's actions today using the late Pope Francis' encyclical letter, Laudato Si, to help. Children will also spend time wondering about the blessings of Creation in their own lives.

### At home you could read:

Genesis 1:26-31

Laudato Si – explained for Kids: CAFOD.

## *Year 4*

In this first branch, children will focus heavily on the life of Abraham. They will not only retell this story and the story of Abraham and Isaac (Genesis 22:1-18), but show an understanding of the importance of its historical context in explaining the meaning of this story then and now. Children will recognise that God's covenant with Abraham is the foundation of the faith of the people of the Old and New Testaments: Judaism and Christianity. They will recognise how Abraham's faith guided his decisions and actions. Through exploration of the work of Jenny Garzon Saavedra, children will recognise how Christians continue to live out their faith today.

### At home you could read:

The call of Abram (Gen 12:1-5)

The Abrahamic covenant (Gen 15:1-6)

Genesis 22:1-18

## Year 5

In this branch, children will learn about Moses, focusing on the two key events of the call and the covenant (the Burning Bush and the Sinai covenant and the Ten Commandments). Children will make links between the Ten Commandments and Jesus' summary of the law in Matthew's Gospel. Children will learn how the Ten Commandments help human beings live good and happy lives as well as how sin is deliberately spoiling our friendship with God and each other. Children will learn more about positive habits (virtues) and negative habits and how virtues might help them grow in goodness. Finally, children will discuss what loving our neighbour means for Christians today, for example, welcoming asylum seekers and refugees, and relating this belief to the Church's teaching on the common good and love of neighbour.

### At home you could read:

Exodus 3:1-15

Exodus 19:3-8, 20:1-17

Matthew 22:36-40

## Year 6

Children will learn about the second Creation story. They will learn about the Church's teachings on the purpose of this story as well as scientific accounts, referencing Laudato Si' and 'stewardship'. They will learn about the Christian belief of 'original sin' and how this links in with the Sacrament of Baptism. Children will reflect on how humans have not always lived as God has wanted, the effects of this on mankind and the environment but also how Christians believe that in Jesus a new covenant is made and through Him, our relationship with God can be restored, making links with John and the Nicene Creed. This branch also enables pupils to look at the work of Christian scientists who have contributed to the scientific understanding of the beginnings of the universe. From this, children will be provided the opportunity to talk and think critically and creatively in response to the claim: 'belief in Creation is compatible with scientific accounts of the beginnings of the universe and the theory of evolution', offering reasoned arguments for their own judgement.

### At home you could read:

Genesis 2:5-10, 15-23, 3:1-7, 9-13, 17-19

John 1:1-5, 16-18

The Nicene Creed

Laudato Si – explained for Kids: CAFOD

## Key dates and celebrations this half term

11<sup>th</sup> September – Whole School Mass

18<sup>th</sup> September – Year 6 Celebration of the Word

25<sup>th</sup> September – Year 5 Celebration of the Word

2<sup>nd</sup> October – Year 4 Celebration of the Word

9<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Mass

16<sup>th</sup> October – Year 3 Celebration of the Word