

Curriculum Intent:

Religious Education – To equip children with knowledge and understanding of Christianity, Islam and other major world faiths, exploring how beliefs influence lives and communities. Pupils develop respect, moral awareness and deeper thinking to



Subject	Term	Unit
RE	Year 3 – Autumn 2	Christianity: Christmas – Light in the darkness

Key vocabulary

Nativity	The story of Jesus’ birth in Bethlehem.	Advent	The period leading up to Christmas, often marked by candles.
Light	A symbol of hope and goodness in the Christmas story.	Hope	A feeling of expectation and trust, shown through light.
Star	The star that guided the wise men to Jesus.	Candle	Used in churches and homes to represent light and faith.
Festival	A celebration, such as Christmas or Diwali.	Symbol	Something that represents an idea, like light for hope.
Goodness	Moral quality linked to kindness and light.	The Light of the World	A title for Jesus, showing he brings hope.

Key learning

Objective	Learning
Can I recall the main events of the Nativity story?	Pupils sequence the Christmas story using images and captions, then add one sentence to explain each part of the story in their own words.
Can I explain the symbol of light in the Christmas story?	Children create candle art and explain that light represents hope. They will write a simple explanation about why light is important in the story and what it means for Christians.
Can I describe how Christians use light at Christmas (e.g., candles, stars)?	They make links between church services and Advent candles, labelling each candle with its meaning. Discussion why Christian’s light candles.
Can I compare Christmas to other festivals of light (e.g., Diwali, Hanukkah)?	Revisit key facts about Diwali (Hindu/Sikh festival of light) and Hanukkah (Jewish festival of lights). Identify common themes such as light representing hope, goodness, and victory over darkness. Notice differences in how each festival is celebrated (e.g., candles in Advent vs. oil lamps in Diwali vs. menorah in Hanukkah). Use a Venn diagram or comparison chart to organise ideas visually. Discuss what these similarities show about how people everywhere value light as a symbol of hope and joy.

Can I talk about how light is used to show hope and goodness?	They create poetry or artwork based on light and hope. Pupils will use descriptive words and phrases to show how light makes people feel safe, happy, and cared for.
Can I explain why Jesus is called “the Light of the World”?	They discuss and write about Jesus’ role as a symbol of hope. Pupils will include a short explanation of what this means for Christians today and illustrate it with a symbol like a candle or sunrise.