



# St Martin de Porres Primary School

## RE Newsletter for Parents      Advent Term 2023

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 as part of our 'Other Faiths' Topic

### Domestic Church - Family

In the first topic, the children explore the importance of the home and family in their lives. They will learn about the Family as the Domestic Church and recognise the loving presence of God in every home

- YR - **Myself** - God knows and loves each one.
- Y1 - **Families** - God's love and care for every family.
- Y2 - **Beginnings** - God is present in every beginning.
- Y3 - **Homes** - God's vision for every family.
- Y4 - **People** - The family of God in Scripture.
- Y5 - **Ourselves** - Created in the image and likeness of God.
- Y6 - **Loving** - God never stops loving.

### At home

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.

### Baptism and Confirmation - Belonging

In the next topic children are learning about the signs and symbols connected with Baptism and, in Key Stage 2, Confirmation as well.

The symbols used for Baptism are water, oil, candles, a white garment, prayers and promises.

The symbols used in Confirmation are oil of chrism, prayers and promises.

- YR - **Welcome** - Baptism: a welcome to God's family.
- Y1 - **Belonging** - Baptism: and invitation to belong to God's family.
- Y2 - **Signs and Symbols**- Signs and symbols in Baptism.
- Y3 - **Promises** - promises made at Baptism.
- Y4 - **Called** - Confirmation: a call to witness.
- Y5 - **Life Choices** - Marriage, commitment and service.
- Y6 - **Vocation and Commitment** - The vocation of priesthood and Religious life.

### At home

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



### Judaism

Pupils will study various aspects of Judaism during this week.

### Advent/Christmas - Loving

- YR - **Birthday** - Looking forward to Jesus' birthday.
- Y1 - **Waiting** - Advent: a time to look forward to Christmas.
- Y2 - **Preparations** - Advent: preparing to celebrate Christmas.
- Y3 - **Visitors** - waiting for the coming of Jesus.
- Y4 - **Gift** - God's gift of love and friendship in Jesus.
- Y5 - **Hope** - Advent: waiting in the joyful hope for Jesus, the Promised one.
- Y6 - **Expectations** - Jesus born to show God the world.



### At home

Discuss with the children how your family welcome visitors to your home. Find out about some Christian symbols for Advent e.g. Advent wreath, calendar, Jesse Tree. Use the Mission or CAFOD website to find a religious Advent calendar.

**Important dates for the Church  
this term:**

Sept 10<sup>th</sup> Education Sunday  
Nov 1<sup>st</sup> All Saints  
Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> All Souls  
Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> St Martin de Porres (school feast day)  
Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Christ the King  
Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent begins  
Dec 8<sup>th</sup> Immaculate Conception  
Dec 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day  
Dec 26<sup>th</sup> St Stephen's day  
Dec 29<sup>th</sup> Feast of St Thomas of Canterbury  
Dec 31<sup>st</sup> Feast of the Holy Family

During the month of October, we remember Our Lady and ask her to pray with us.



Try to say a decade of the rosary together as a family.

We look forward to welcoming for reflection mornings during the period of Advent, more details on this will follow soon.