



Eversholt R.E. Christmas Curriculum

Class		
EYFS	<p>Key Concept: Advent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say that Christians have a special time of preparation for Christmas called Advent. Explain that Advent means looking forward (coming). Be able to talk about Mary and Joseph preparing for the birth of their baby. Identify the key Advent symbols: Calendar, Advent Ring, Christingle <p>Suggested Activities:</p> <p>Make/decorate advent wreaths and light candles to explore the special light and what each candle represents.</p> <p>Make and open Advent calendars, discuss the excitement and anticipation (counting down) to Christmas – discuss how Christians prepare.</p> <p>Spend time reflecting and looking forward to reinforce the concept of Advent as a time of preparation and looking forward.</p> <p>Key concept: The Nativity Story</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retell the Christmas story and identify the key characters. Say that Jesus was a special baby and that Christmas is Jesus’ birthday. Say how Mary was chosen by God. Say that this story is found in the Bible. Identify some Christian symbols. <p>Suggested Activities:</p> <p>Read the Nativity story from a children’s bible and retell the story – Role-play/ small world</p> <p>Use Christmas card images to sequence parts of the story.</p>	
KS1	<p style="text-align: center;">Year A</p> <p>Key Concept: Light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the importance of the Christingle as an Advent and Christian symbol. Explain the religious significance of the parts of the Christingle. To understand the significance of ‘Light’ as a symbol for Advent. Identify Advent as a special time for Christians. Explain that Advent means looking forward (to come) <p>Suggested Activities:</p> <p>Make a Christingle and label the different parts, explaining what each part symbolises.</p> <p>Present an assembly to the school to explain the Christingle.</p> <p>Compare and discuss candles in the advent wreath and what they mean.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Year B</p> <p>Key Concept: Light</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say how Christians, today, prepare for Advent in Church. Recognise the Advent ring. Identify the symbolism of each Advent candle on the Advent ring/calendar/Advent tree. Talk about the Christian idea of Jesus as the light of the world. <p>Suggested Activities:</p> <p>Visit a church to identify objects and colours that show the season is Advent.</p> <p>Describe the symbolism.</p> <p>Compare different advent ring/calendar designs.</p> <p>Make and decorate Advent rings/calendars and wreaths. Find out what each of the candles on an advent wreath mean.</p> <p>Listen to Christina accounts of Jesus as the light of the world.</p> <p>Read scriptures which show this. Ask children to consider what this means to them and Christians. How can this help Christians? (John 1, 3, 8:12)</p>

	<p>Key Concept: Angels, Annunciation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about how angels appear in the Christmas story. • Say who the angels appear to in the Christmas story. • Talk about the importance of the messages that the angels bring. • Explain the messages brought to Mary. • Compare and talk about different people’s ideas about angels. • Sequence the events of the Christmas story. • Say why the visit of the angels to Mary is important to Christians today. <p>Suggested Activities: Retell and role-play the Christmas story, identifying how angels are special to the story. Look at art, and people’s ideas, which show the angel Gabriel and Mary e.g. Annunciation by Fra Filippo Lippi from about 1445-1450</p>	<p>Draw/paint images of Jesus a light.</p> <p>Key Concept: Incarnation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retell the Christmas story from the view of the key characters. • Sequence events of the Christmas story. • Say why Christmas is so important to Christians. • Describe in simple terms, the relationship between God and Jesus. • Give examples of how Christmas is celebrated by Christians today. <p>Suggested Activities: Retell the Christmas story from the perspective of different characters. Listen to Christmas carols that retell the Christmas story. Use the carol ‘In the Bleak Mid-Winter’ to consider the importance of the birth of Christ to Christians today and the message of Jesus as a gift from God to all. Describe how Christians celebrate Christmas today and compare this to their own family traditions. Handle, draw, and compare Christian symbols – Candles, colours, decorations, cards, nativity scene and gifts.</p>
	Year A	Year B
KS2	<p>Key Concept: Incarnation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the fact that the major part of the Christmas story is only in two gospels (Matthew and Luke) • Find the story in the gospels • Identify the similarities and differences between these gospels. • Recount the sequence of events from the Christmas story as told by the two gospels. • Identify the key characters in the story. • Empathise with the feelings of the Characters in the story. • Explain why this story is important to Christians today. • State how the Christian church might celebrate these events today. <p>Suggested Activities: Compare the Gospels of Matthew and Luke to find similarities and differences. Retell and sequence the different versions of the Gospels versions of the birth of Jesus.</p>	<p>Key Concept: Incarnation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify that expressing faith involves feelings and emotions. • Art can have meaning and express sacred and spiritual feelings for believers. • Christian art conveys knowledge of written text. • Art stimulates emotions and calls for a response. • The church used paintings, sculptures, stained glass windows etcetera for decoration and to convey the beliefs of the church and for education. • That the Christmas story is depicted in different ways in different eras. • Show an understanding of the use of symbolism in the Christian Story. <p>Suggested Activities: Look at art which depicts the Christmas story or events in the nativity. Compare ancient art, modern art and art from different cultures. Look at the symbolism represented in these. Discuss the feelings that art can provoke – in themselves and others. Create artwork to retell parts of the Christmas story for different purposes, cards, wall art, gifts, educate younger children, or form other cultures.</p>

Key Concept: Epiphany

- Explain why Epiphany is celebrated in January.
- Compare a Children's bible version of the Christmas story, including the Three Wise Men and the actual time frame. What are the differences? Why?
- Know the gifts given to Christ and their significance and symbolism.
- Suggest gifts that might be given today – Explain their significance and symbolism.

Suggested Activities:

Choose three gifts for Jesus – What would they be? Why?

The gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh were symbols showing Jesus would be a great king, a priest who stands between God and humanity, and that he would die for others. What symbols could your gifts be of?

Why?

Think about what you know of Jesus as a grown-up – storyteller being kind, healer, miracle worker, teaching, praying, gathering crowds.

Imagine choosing three gifts for his 13th birthday (special for Jewish boys like Jesus). Select three things that were going to make him famous and suggest a symbolic gift to go with each one.

Present an assembly explaining and describing gifts you would choose today – Make models, show photographs, draw/paint pictures, make recipes.

Key Concept: Light, Worship, Celebration

- Understand the Christian idea of Jesus as the Light of the World.
- Find Scriptures that show this e.g. John 8:12.
- Understand that Christians around the world have different customs and ways of worshipping and celebrating Christmas.
- Recognise the similarities/differences between Christian cultures.

Suggested Activities:

Research Christian Christmas customs – Identify similarities and differences.

Prepare a presentation for others showing cultural Christmas.

Listen to Christmas music from around the world and choose or write their own carol/song that best illustrates how Christians celebrate Christmas today.