

Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

The principal aim of religious education is to explore what people believe and what difference this makes to how they live, so that pupils can gain the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to handle questions raised by religion and belief, reflecting on their own ideas and ways of living.

Our Learning

Christians believe Jesus is the son of God (God on earth) and that he was born in Bethlehem.

The Bible tells us that his birth showed he was extraordinary and that he came to bring good news.

Christians celebrate Jesus' birth at Christmas. Advent for Christians is a time of getting ready for Jesus coming.

Christians and non-Christians see Christmas as a time of giving.

Lots of people celebrate Christmas but only Christians believe that Jesus is God in the flesh (Incarnation)

KEY VOCABULARY	MEANING
Incarnation	In the flesh (Jesus was sent to represent God on Earth)
Advent	The time of preparation running up to Christmas
Festival	A celebration, a special time in the religious calendar
Nativity	A play about the birth of Jesus
Jesus (The son of God, God on Earth)	Who Christians believe was sent to Earth to teach everyone how to be good people.
Bethlehem	The place Jesus was born
Christmas	25 th December, a holy day to celebrate the birth of Jesus

Focus for the unit

- Incarnation is part of the "Big Story" of the Bible.
- Tell the story of the birth of Jesus and recognise the link with incarnation - Jesus is "God on Earth"
- Give at least two examples of ways in which Christians use the nativity story in churches and at home.
- Think, talk and ask questions about the Christmas story and the lessons they might learn from it, e.g. being kind and generous.

Books you may like to look at, at home...

