



Waterbeach Community Primary School

Curriculum Capture for Year 2 Religious Education:

Why does Christmas matter to Christians?

Key Knowledge and Beliefs

- Jesus might not have looked particularly special; Christians believe he was actually very special indeed — they believe he was God on Earth!
- Christians believe that God came to Earth to be with people and show them how to live. When God first came, he was not a big man, just a baby with a mummy called Mary.
- It was not rich people, but poor shepherds that came to visit Jesus. God came to earth to bring good news to everyone, even poor people. The good news was about God and how to be close to him.

Signs of the Christmas story.

- Christmas cards with nativity scenes or characters on e.g. angels, shepherds, Mary and Joseph.
- Giving presents.
- Angel or star on top of Christmas tree.
- Christmas carols e.g Away in a manger, Calypso Carol
- Stained glass windows

The Christmas Story

- An angel appeared to Mary and told her she would have baby named Jesus, the son of God.
- Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem to be counted as part of the census.
- In Bethlehem Mary and Joseph had trouble finding a place to stay, a kind innkeeper offered them room in a stable.
- Jesus was born the stable among the animals, he was swaddled in cloth and laid in the manger.
- Angels appeared to the shepherds looking after their sheep in the hills outside Bethlehem and told them of the news of a baby laying in the manger. The shepherds went to find the Son of God.
- Wise Men followed a bright star in search of the new King. They went to Judea and met with King Herod. King Herod asked the wise men to find the baby and report back to him so he could worship the new king.
- The wisemen followed the star to the stable and presented Jesus with gifts of Gold, Frankincense and Myrrh.
- The wisemen were warned in a dream from God to not go back to Herod.
- God told Mary and Joseph to escape Egypt, to protect Jesus from Herod. When it was safe they returned to Nazareth with Jesus.

Advent

- The arrival of something or someone.
- The four weeks leading up to Christmas are Advent, when some Christians wait and prepare for celebrating the birth of Jesus.

Advent traditions

- Make an Advent wreath — a circle to show that God lasts forever;
- lighting four candles on Sundays leading up to Christmas, with the fifth candle symbolising the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day.
- A crib scene as a reminder of the birth story
- An Advent calendar to count down to the day Jesus was born.



Nativity Scene



Stained Glass Window



Christmas tree with star on top

Vocabulary

Christians	People who believe in the teachings of Jesus.
God	In the Christian church God is the creator and ruler of the universe.
Jesus	The son of God.
Advent	The first season of the Church year, leading up to Christmas and including the four preceding Sundays. The arrival of a notable person or thing.
Christmas	The annual Christian festival celebrating Christ's birth, held on 25 December.