

Assembly Plan

SUBJECT

Advent

GRADE

Whole School

TERM

1

OVERVIEW

Diocesan Vision: Growing more like Jesus

Summary: Explores the liturgical season of Advent.

PHASES**NOTES****DIRECTIONS**

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PREPARATION AND MATERIALS	Advent Wreath and Candles Battery Candle	Schools are multi faith/belief communities. Please remember to use inclusive, non-gendered language for God (e.g. using God not he or she), give reflective option for children who do not want to pray.
WELCOME	Hello! I'm starting to feel really excited!!!! Can you guess why?	
TELL	We are about to/have just started the season of Advent.	
ASK	Can you think what advent is and why it might be important?	You could ask students to do a think pair share here to facilitate a range of answers.
EXPLAIN	Well before Christmas, many Christians have a time of preparation which we call Advent. Advent is a very important period in the Christian calendar. During the weeks leading up to Christmas we will be making preparations, looking forward to	

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	<p>welcoming friends and family, old and new into our lives. In churches you will see an advent wreath like this one-</p> <p>Usually there are four or five candles. The four coloured candles represent people in the bible and often there is a 5th white candle that is lit on Christmas day that represents Jesus.</p> <p>In Advent we don't only decorate and shop etc. to get ready for Christmas we also think about our behaviour and how we can welcome Jesus into our hearts as well as our homes and churches.</p> <p>In Advent, we open our hearts and think of others at a time which can be joyous and exciting for us but not for all.</p> <p>We remember the homeless, the poor and the refugees that are running away from unimaginable dangers and the injustices of their lives.</p> <p>This is because in Advent we prepare to welcome Jesus: we remember Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem and remember Jesus' birthday.</p> <p>Jesus really cared for people who other people sometimes forgot or treated in a not very kind way. By doing our best to remember, pray for and help those who are poor or homeless or running away from dangerous places it helps us to remember why we celebrate Christmas.</p>	<p>Either show a real advent wreath or you might like to use a picture.</p>
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<p>REMIND/ CONSOLIDATE</p>	<p>Now we can't all do big things like give money or volunteer to help but we can all do little things that don't cost anything or costs very little.</p> <p>We can be kind to people. We can put food in a food bank box.</p> <p>We can help people – Maybe you could offer to help your adult to clean or do the washing up and, if you like to pray, we can pray for people and ask God to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves and thank God for all those people who help make our world a better place.</p> <p>Why don't you take a moment to think about the world and how you can help to prepare for Christmas by helping in your little part of it.</p> <p>(It must be free and safe - no talking to strangers, asking for money or knocking on doors etc.).</p>	
<p>PRAY/REFLECT</p>	<p>In Advent, in church, we light candles to count down the weeks to Christmas.</p> <p>I'm going to light a candle. And while I light that candle why not think about some of your suggestions.</p> <p>Let us pray:</p> <p>Thank you, God for this special period of time, advent, when we look forward to celebrating the Christmas festival.</p> <p>It's an exciting, happy time when we experience an atmosphere of good will amongst all around us.</p>	<p>You will need a battery candle for this as many schools do not allow naked flames for H&S reasons.</p> <p>You may also like to play the reflective advent music (See our Youtube Channel) while the students think and reflect.</p>

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	<p>Help us to remember that we are looking forward to celebrating the arrival of your son Jesus Christ to the world, remembering that he was born in a lowly stable, far from his home.</p> <p>Help us to prepare a special place for Him in our lives during the Christmas celebrations, and help us to share the good news and joy of Christmas with others.</p> <p>Amen</p>	
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