

TODDINGTON ST GEORGE CHURCH OF ENGLAND SCHOOL

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Lighting a Spark in Every Child

R.E Newsletter No.

Dear Parent and Carers,

We send home newsletters about the work going on at school in relation to Collective Worship, Religious Education and Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Development. Mrs Collins led this area of the school very well and I am pleased to say that Mrs Archer will be taking this role over from Mrs Spencer to lead our RE work in school from February.

The values we will share for this term are:

January	Hope
February	Compassion
March	Endurance
April	Wisdom



Festivals and Celebrations this term

There are many festivals and celebrations for different faiths. As we focus on 3 faiths in particular (the children learn about 6 by the time they are 11) we share details of the 6 faiths they will learn about as they move through their primary school years.

- Epiphany
- Christingle
- Chinese New Year
 - Lent
 - Easter

A full list of the faiths festivals for 6 faiths, national days and some additional celebrations are included for Parents and Carers to see at the end of this newsletter.

What are we up to in RE in school?

We teach the RE syllabus for Bedford Borough, Central Bedfordshire and Luton: Identities, Meanings and Values. Year groups will be studying different key questions. In the Early Years RE is not taught as a specific subject but festivals and celebrated and stories are shared within the year group themes and Early Learning Goals (e.g. Understanding the World, PSE Respect for others).

- Year 1
- How do we show we care for others?
 - What does it mean to belong?
 - Who is a Christian and what do they believe?



- Who is Jewish and what do they believe?
- Year 2
- How and why do we celebrate special times?
 - Who is an inspiring person?
 - What can we learn from sacred books and stories?
 - Why should we care for the earth?
- Year 3
- How and why do believers show their commitments during the journey of life?
 - How and why does a Christian follow Jesus?
- How should we live and who can inspire us?
 - What do religions teach about the natural world and why we should care about it?
- Year 4
- What are the deeper meanings of festivals?
 - What does it mean to be a Jew?
Where, how and why do people worship?

The RE curriculum is challenging and thought provoking and uses music, art, drama, poetry to support children's learning. We focus on the three faiths of Judaism, Islam Christianity and as children move on to Year 5 and 6 they learn about at least 3 other faiths.

What have we been learning about and celebrating?



Diwali

One of the major festivals of Hindus and Sikhism darkness and good over evil. We celebrated the festival of Diwali by learning about the festival, watching some films on Purple Mash about how children enjoy celebrating Diwali in your home if you are a Hindu or Sikh. We tried some new food and held a food tasting, made coloured rice to make our Rangoli patterns, used Henna for hand designs and made and decorated holders for lights.



Advent.

We began Advent by making our Advent wreath and lit the candles weekly to take us through the time of waiting and preparation to Christmas.

Christmas

Celebrating Christmas was a lively and happy as ever and each class contributed to wonderful Christmas displays to tell the Nativity Story. Years R, 2 and 4 presented three great Christmas productions (Wriggly Nativity, Shine star Shine and The Little Match girl). These were available on DVD for families and we had lovely feedback on how families enjoyed watching these at Christmas. We were also amazed by the confidence of so many children up on the stage! Our Christmas service was a special time shared with Reverend Linda and the School Choir was in great demand again at the local Christmas celebrations. Thank you for sending in your Nativity Cribs too. The children love coming to see all the different cribs and are amazed to find so the varied ways the Nativity story has been shown in model format.



Epiphany and King and Queen Day!

Mrs Spencer led two acts of Collective Worship explaining Epiphany. It marks the end of the 12 days of Christmas and celebrates the visit of the Wise Men to the baby Jesus. These men, often called Kings or Magi, brought valuable gifts of



gold, frankincense and myrrh to honour the baby. The gift of gold was the gift people usually gave to their King. By giving gold they were recognising Jesus as their King. The second gift, frankincense, is a white gum from a tree which when hardened will burn giving off a fragrant smell. It was burnt as an offering to God during worship, used as a medicine and a perfume. The third gift, myrrh, also a gum from thorny tree was used for healing wounds because it is antiseptic, soothes redness and relieves pain. The day before Epiphany is the twelfth day of Christmas and is sometimes called Twelfth Night. In the Church calendar the Epiphany season lasts until Shrove Tuesday. Mrs Spencer set a problem for the children to solve $20 + C + B + M + 18$. The children worked out what this means. (Ask your child and see if they can remember). Children were randomly selected (by sitting by chance on a golden sticker on the floor in the hall) to come and try the Galette des Rois, the special Epiphany cake. Two children, Caitlin Gadsden and Ollie Scholes, found a special sweet and were crowned king and queen for the day. They wrote the puzzle in chalk on the door of each classroom, or on the whiteboard as a blessing.



Christingle

On our return from the Christmas holidays we had the opportunity to make Christingles. On the first Friday in January Mrs Spencer took a Christingle service. We thought about the light of the candle and how light can be a sign of hope. We lit the candles and saw how the light overcame the darkness in our hall. We thought about light being like the love of God in our lives and hope for the year ahead.

See if your child can remember what the orange, red ribbon, fruits/sweets or the candle represent in a Christingle

Back again!

Jo Ann Gaunt who visits from Impact trust has been back to lead a Collective Worship on each child being loved, valued and special. She had an injury before Christmas so we were delighted to welcome her back, fit and well, to school this January.

Open the Book

Our team of Open the Books storytellers who come in and enact plays from The Storyteller Bibles are back! The children love their plays and the time to reflect on the story told. We are so grateful to the team for coming in to school and giving up their time to be with us.

Hooked on Worship



Back Soon!

We are looking forward to Hooked on Worship starting again this term. We will let the children know in Collective Worship when to meet to plan their next Hooked on Worship!



Religious festivals and celebrations January to April 2018



BIRTHDAY OF GURU GOBIND SINGH (1666 CE) *Sikh*

This is celebrated as the Birth Anniversary of the tenth Guru, who instituted the Five Ks and established the Order of the Khalsa on Vaisakhi (Baisakhi). Like other anniversaries associated with the lives of the Gurus, the day is referred to as a Gurburb, and is marked by the ending of an akhand path, an unbroken reading of the whole Guru Granth Sahib, which lasts for 48 hours.



EPIPHANY *Christian (Anglican and Roman Catholic)*

This is the twelfth day of Christmas. It celebrates the visit of the *magi* or wise men to the infant Jesus, bearing symbolic gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. Some Mediterranean Catholic countries welcome the 'magic wise men' who arrive by boat, bearing gifts for children. In the Church calendar the Epiphany season lasts until the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. Roman Catholics celebrate this day on Sunday 7th January.



BAPTISM OF CHRIST *Christian*

Christians commemorate the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist; they recall how at this event the heavens were opened and a voice was heard proclaiming Jesus, while God's spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. During this event God was manifest as three persons in one – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. 'Theophany' means 'Manifestation of God'. The first miracle of Jesus, performed at Cana in Galilee, is also remembered at this time.

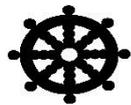


BIRTHDAY OF SWAMI VIVEKANANDA *Hindu*

Born Narendra Nath Datta in 1902 in Calcutta, he was an Indian Hindu monk who became the chief disciple of the 19th century saint Ramakrishna. Vivekananda, as he became known, was a key figure in the introduction of the Indian philosophies of Vedanta and Yoga to the Western world and helped to develop Hinduism during the latter part of the 19th century to the stage where it held the status of a major world religion. He pioneered the development of the Ramakrishna Mission and the creation of the Ramakrishna Vedanta Centre movement first in India and then throughout the world, travelling widely and emphasising the devotional and social aspects of the teaching and practice of his beloved Guru, Ramakrishna.

MAKAR SANKRANTI / LOHRI / PONGAL *Hindu*

Sankranti (Sangrand in Punjabi) is the start of a new zodiac sign i.e. the date is based on the solar rather than the lunar calendar. Tamils celebrate Pongal and eat a rice dish which gives the festival its name. For many Hindus it is a day for almsgiving and patching up quarrels and disagreements. Punjabis (including some Sikhs) celebrate the day as Lohri. Fires are lit outside and peanuts and sesame sweets are eaten round them. The traditional Punjabi meal consists of cornmeal chapatis and a mustard leaf dish. If a baby boy has been born during the previous year he is carried around the fire.



SHINRAN MEMORIAL DAY *Buddhist*

Shinran Shonin (1173-1262) was the founder of Jodo Shin-shu (or Shin Buddhism), one of the schools of Pure Land Buddhism. It is celebrated by some Mahayana Buddhists.



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY *Christian*

This week was first set aside in 1908. The theme for 2017 is: 'Reconciliation – the love of Christ compels us'. Each year the growing commitment to ecumenism has increased the impact and the impetus of the week: special services are held, and dialogue on unity is encouraged; some worshippers attend united services, while others may visit each other's churches or invite preachers from denominations different from their own. The Week runs from the Confession of Peter (Jan 18) to the Conversion of Paul (Jan 25).





SARASWATI PUJA/ VASANT PANCHAMI *Hindu BASANT Sikh (Punjabi)*

This festival marks the beginning of Spring, and is widely celebrated in north India. In eastern India, and notably in Bengal, Hindus worship especially Saraswati, the goddess of learning and the arts. Yellow is particularly associated with the festival and so *murtis* of Saraswati are dressed in yellow. Another (secular) tradition is kite-flying, associated especially with the city of Lahore.



HONEN MEMORIAL DAY *Buddhist*

Honen (1133-1212 CE) is one of the outstanding figures in the history of Japanese Buddhism, and was the founder of Jodo Shinshu, one of the schools of Pure Land Buddhism.



HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY *National*

This is a remembrance day for all the different categories of people who suffered at the hands of the Nazis during the second World War (1939-45). It aims to keep fresh in the mind the memory of all those who suffered and died at that period, and to help ensure that no such atrocity happens again. The date was chosen as the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.



TU B 'SHEVAT *Jewish*

A popular minor festival which celebrates the New Year for trees. Jewish tradition marks the 15th of Shevat as the day when the sap in the trees begins to rise, heralding the beginning of spring. It is customary for Jews all over the world to plant young trees at this time and to eat fruit produced in Israel. For religious accounting purposes all trees have their anniversaries on this festival, regardless of when they were planted.

February



CANDLEMAS THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD *Christian (Roman Catholic)*

This is often called **Candlemas** from the custom of congregations holding lighted candles during the celebration in church. It records the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and his recognition by the aged Simeon, expressed in the words of the *Nunc Dimittis*. ore



PARINIRVANA *Buddhist 8th or 15th February*

Mahayanists mark the final passing away from this world of Gautama Buddha at Kushinagara, India, at the age of 80. The Buddha's last days are described in the Pali text called the Great Parinirvana Sutra (*Parinirvana* meaning "completed *nirvana*"). The Buddha's living *nirvana* (achieved during enlightenment) at death transforms to nirvana without any human residue. Here is the heart of all Buddhist teaching about Life and Death, where entry into *nirvana* is the goal of all being, as shown to us today in the perfect example all Buddhists seek to emulate.



SHROVE TUESDAY (Pancake Day) *Christian (Western Churches)*

Commonly known as Pancake Day, this is the day before the start of Lent. Traditionally it is a day for repentance and absolution in preparation for Lent ('shrove' means to receive or make confession). Pancakes were originally made to use up all the rich foods, such as butter and eggs, before Lent. In some parts of the world people celebrate Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) by holding carnivals.





MAHASHIVRATRI (Great Shiva Night) *Hindu*

Every night of the new moon is dedicated to Shiva, but this moonless night in February is particularly important since it is the night on which Shiva is said to perform the cosmic dance, the *Tandava Nritya* many Hindus and all devotees of Shiva fast throughout the festival. All-night prayers focus on Shiva and his shrines and statues, where milk, water and honey are regularly poured on his symbol, the *lingam*, which is decorated with flowers and garlands. The festival is observed for one day and one night only.



ASH WEDNESDAY *Christian (Western Churches)*

The first day of Lent when Christians remember the forty days that Jesus spent in the wilderness and the temptations he faced during this time. In Catholic and some Anglican churches, services are held where the worshipper's forehead is marked with a cross of ash, which has been made from burning the palm crosses of the previous year – hence the name Ash Wednesday.



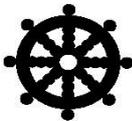
LENT *Christian (Western Churches) 14th February – 31st March*

A period of forty days (not counting Sundays) that leads up to Easter. It is a time of fasting and discipline in preparation for Easter. Traditionally Christians give up something during this time to mark the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, which end on Easter day. Many Christians still do this, but for some the emphasis is now more on following a simpler lifestyle throughout the year. Those who give something up save the cost of these items, perhaps in a box, for Church funds or for a charity. Many Christians feel it is a time for study groups, prayer and Bible reading.



CHINESE NEW YEAR / SPRING FESTIVAL / CHUNJIE / YUAN TAN

Chinese New Year's Day is the most important event in the traditional Chinese calendar and marks the beginning of the first lunar month. The festival is colourfully celebrated with fireworks, dances (such as the famous Lion Dance) and the giving of gifts, flowers and sweets. Gold is a dominant colour to symbolise the wish for prosperity, and red is also much used as a lucky colour. Business accounts should be settled and all debts paid before the New Year begins. Celebrations can last three or more days. 2018, which is 4716 in Chinese culture, is the year of the Dog, one of twelve symbolic creatures whose character is held to affect the nature of those born at this time. Chinese New Year is actually celebrated for 15 consecutive days, but the first three days are most important. The 15th and final day is also a big event, where houses are decorated with an abundance of brightly coloured lights. It is a way of ending with a grand finale rather than the festivities just fading away gradually. Chinese New Year celebrations are notable for colour, noise, giving gifts and paying debts. It is a time for looking both backwards and forwards.



LOSAR *Buddhist 16th – 17th February*

Tibetan New Year festival, but it is often celebrated in Nepal as well. Although largely a secular celebration, it also includes the rededication of the country to Buddhism. It especially celebrates the miracles performed by the historical Buddha at Sravasti, the capital city of the kingdom of Kosala.



FIRST DAY OF LENT / THE GREAT FAST *Christian (Orthodox)*

This is the beginning of the Lenten Fast, which involves abstinence from meat, fish and dairy products until Easter. Unlike the Western tradition, where Lent begins on the *Wednesday* before the first Sunday of Lent, Eastern Churches start Lent on

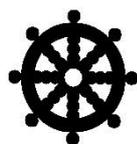


the *Monday* before the first Sunday. In addition, since Lent is calculated in relation to Easter, it follows that when the Orthodox date for Easter differs from that of the Western Churches, as here, the whole Lenten period will similarly differ.



PURIM *Jewish*

Purim is a carnival festival recalling the saving of the Jewish community of Persia through the actions of a young Jewish woman, which is retold in the Book of Esther (the *Megillah*). The whole book/scroll is read twice in the synagogue, once on the evening of Purim and then also on the morning after. Colourful costumes and masks are often worn amid lots of noise as the name of Haman (the villain of the story) is drowned out by the congregation with rattles and hooters and boos whenever it is read. Many people come in fancy dress. *Hamantashen* (cakes filled with poppy seeds, literally ‘Haman’s pockets’, or with jam or chocolate) are baked and eaten at this time.



MAGHA PUJA *Buddhist*

This commemorates the occasion when 1,250 enlightened personal disciples of the Buddha came spontaneously to the Bamboo Grove on the full moon of Magha (usually February). The Buddha predicted his death and recited a summary of his teachings and a code of discipline (which monks are expected to recite every fortnight). The day is observed with meditation, chanting and listening to sermons.

March



ST DAVID’S DAY *National*

Anniversary of the death of St David, the patron saint of Wales, who lived in the 6th century CE. As monk, abbot and bishop he helped to spread Christianity among the Celtic tribes of western Britain.



LANTERN FESTIVAL / YUANXIAOJIE / TENG CHIEH *Chinese*

This is the Lantern Festival which marks the first full moon of the year and the lengthening of the days. Strings of lanterns in various designs are hung out as decoration.



THE WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER *Christian*

This international, interdenominational prayer movement was begun in 1887. The service material is produced by a different country each year. In 2018 the theme will be ‘*All God’s Creation is Very Good*’ and the material has been prepared by Christian women in Suriname.





HOLI *Hindu*

A spring festival lasting one to five days. Bonfires are lit and revellers throw coloured powders and dyes over each other. Various stories and customs are associated with the festival: the throwing of coloured dyes is linked with Krishna and his antics with Radha and the gopis (milkmaids); another story associated with Holi is that of Prahlada and during Holi, practices, which at other times could be offensive, are allowed. Squirting coloured water on passers-by, dunking friends in mud pool amidst teasing and laughter. In fact, on the days of Holi, you can get away with almost anything by saying, "Don't mind, it's Holi!"



HOLA MAHALLA/HOLA MOHALLA *Sikh 2nd – 3rd March*

In 1680 Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, introduced this festival at Anandpur in Punjab, India, as an alternative to the Hindu festival of Holi. It includes competitive displays of swordsmanship, horsemanship, archery and wrestling, together with displays of weapons and symposia of poetry. It is a colourful occasion, particularly for young Sikhs. It is celebrated on the day of Holi, or the day after.



MOTHERING SUNDAY (Simmel Sunday) *Christian*

Mid-Lent Sunday, the 4th Sunday in Lent, has now become secularised and is more popularly known as Mother's Day. It was, traditionally, a Sunday when Christians revisited their 'mother church' and took gifts to their mothers, which often included a *simmel* cake.



ST PATRICK'S DAY *National*

This is a day celebrated in honour of the patron saint of Ireland, who lived in Britain in the 4th century CE. After his escape from being held hostage in Ireland, he became a priest and returned there to evangelise. His symbol is the shamrock, sprigs of which are worn on this day. Parades are held in Dublin and elsewhere, often of a secular nature.



PASSION SUNDAY *Christian*

This is the 5th Sunday in Lent, when Christians begin to concentrate their thoughts on the Passion or suffering of Jesus.



HOLY WEEK *Christian (Western Churches) 25th – 31st April*

This is the most solemn week of the Christian year, in which Christians recall the events of the final week of the earthly life of Jesus.





PALM SUNDAY *Christian Western Churches* (Orthodox date: 24 April)

Palm Sunday is the first day of Holy Week, when Christians remember Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem, where later he would be arrested and crucified. Many churches commemorate the day by processions, with the congregation carrying symbolic palm leaves folded in the form of a cross, or branches of palm trees.



RAMA NAVAMI *Hindu*

This is the birthday of Rama, the seventh avatar of Vishnu. It is celebrated at twelve noon (since Rama was reputedly born at noon) by the ceremony of *arati* (pronounced aar-tee), usually performed in front of either the baby Rama (represented by a doll) in a swinging cradle or a devotional picture showing this.



MAUNDY THURSDAY *Christian (Western Churches)*

Christians remember the Last Supper, at which Jesus blessed bread and wine and commanded his disciples to remember him whenever they did this. From this instruction comes the institution known under a variety of names – the Eucharist, the Mass, the Holy Communion, the Breaking of Bread. It has become the central act of worship in almost all Christian traditions. In Roman Catholic and some Anglican churches, the feet of twelve members of the congregation are washed in remembrance of Jesus washing the feet of the twelve disciples. The name 'maundy' comes from a Latin term '*mandatum*' ('commandment'), signifying Jesus' new commandment to his disciples, as recorded in John 15.



GOOD FRIDAY *Christian (Western Churches)*

This day commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus. Although essentially a sombre day, it is called 'Good' since, for Christians, it is the ultimate example of God's sacrifice when Jesus gave up his life for the world. Meditative services are held in church to mark the time that Jesus spent on the cross. Traditionally, particularly in the Roman Catholic world, fish rather than meat is eaten on Fridays. Hot cross buns, although now found in supermarkets throughout the year, were formerly associated with Good Friday.



PASSOVER/PESACH *Jewish 31st March – 7th April*

This major Jewish festival lasts eight days and commemorates the liberation of the Children of Israel and their Exodus from slavery in Egypt. The highlight is the *Seder* meal, held in each family's home at the beginning of the festival, when the story of their deliverance is recounted, as narrated in the *Haggadah* (the Telling, or the Story). *Matzah*, (unleavened bread) is eaten throughout the festival, as are other foods that contain no leaven (yeast). There is a major spring cleaning in the home shortly before the festival to ensure that no trace of leaven is left in the house during Pesach. Coconut pyramids and *matza* balls (which are put in soups) are foods that might be eaten at this time. As a result of the regular telling of the story of slavery and freedom, Jews are called upon (more than 30 times in the Torah) to remember the stranger 'because you were strangers in Egypt'. This sense of having been a slave people and a migrant people is central to Jewish consciousness and is recalled daily in Jewish liturgy and weekly in the practice of *Shabbat* . . .





HOLY SATURDAY (Easter Eve) *Christian (Western Churches)*

This is the last day of Lent. Special services involving the lighting of the *Paschal* Candle and the renewal of baptismal vows take place in the evening in preparation for Easter.



HANUMAN JAYANTI *Hindu*

Hanuman Jayanti is a Hindu festival which recalls the birth of Lord Rama's supreme devotee, the monkey-headed Hanuman, whose feats figure in the Ramayana epic. Hanuman's birth is celebrated at sunrise on the full-moon day of the lunar month of Chaitra.



EASTER DAY *Christian (Western Churches)*

Easter Day is the most important festival of the Christian year, since this is when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus three days after his death by crucifixion in Jerusalem over 2000 years ago. For Christians, Easter is a day marked by special religious services and the gathering of family members together. Easter Candles are lit in churches on the eve of Easter Sunday, as a resurrection symbol of Christ as the light of the world, though some believe that these may have originated in the Pagan customs of lighting bonfires to welcome the rebirth/resurrection of the sun God. Easter and the Jewish Passover are closely related, especially in the complex method of fixing the date of Easter. The resurrection of Jesus took place during the Passover. Christians of the Eastern church initially celebrated both holidays together, but the Passover can fall on any day of the week, and Christians of the Western church preferred to celebrate Easter on Sunday, the day of the resurrection. The name Easter comes from Eostre (pronounced yo'ster), an ancient Anglo-Saxon goddess. In pagan times an annual spring festival was held in her honour. Some Easter customs have come from this and other pre-Christian spring festivals.

The Easter Bunny, a popular image of the festival, originated with the hare, an ancient symbol for the moon. According to legend, the bunny was originally a large, handsome bird belonging to Eostre, the Goddess of Spring. (Eostre is also known as Ostara, a Goddess of fertility who is celebrated at the time of the Spring equinox.) Eostre 'resurrected' the bird into a rabbit, which may explain why the Easter bunny builds a nest and fills it with (coloured) eggs. The first edible Easter bunnies were created in Germany during the early 1800s, made of pastry and sugar. The white lily as a symbol of the resurrection and of purity has become the typical Easter flower. The Madonna lily was used for years as the Easter lily, but it often failed to bloom in time for Easter, and so the Bermuda, or white trumpet, lily is often used instead. The egg is another popular symbol of Easter. Eggs were dyed and eaten during spring festivals in ancient Egypt, Persia, Greece and Rome. Coloured eggs were not, however, associated with Easter until the 15th century. Many churches today follow old traditions of colouring hard-boiled eggs and giving children little chocolate eggs as symbols of the resurrection.



FESTIVAL OF PURE BRIGHTNESS/TOMB SWEEPING DAY/QINGMINGJIE/CH'ING MING *Chinese*

This is the first occasion in the year when Chinese visit their family tombs. After sweeping the tombstones, people offer food, flowers and paper replicas of favourite items dear to the dead, such as a telephone, a car or a house; they then burn incense and paper money and bow before the memorial tablets. In Chinese culture, even though a person has died, he/she may still have need of these. This practice reflects a form of belief and care for their deceased family members, who still survive in some way in the after life. Families make a special effort to come together and to return to the family graveyard on this occasion. Many people picnic by the grave to 'join' the ancestors in the feast. No food is cooked on this day and only cold meals are served. There should always be an even number of dishes put in front of the grave, along with a bowl of rice with an upright incense stick. Then family members start taking turns to bow before the tombs of the ancestors, starting with the most senior members of the family. People love to fly extravagant kites during the 'Festival of Pure Brightness. Many people fly kites not only during the day, but also – and especially – at night. A string of little lanterns tied onto the kite or its tail look like shining stars, and therefore are called 'god's lanterns'. Respect for the dead and also for



the elderly has long been a feature of Chinese practice, belief and culture. This annual family meeting at the tombs is a time of solemnity but not sadness, and enshrines a message of hope for a brighter future ahead.



PASCHA/EASTER *Christian (Orthodox)*

Easter is calculated on a lunar calendar, and thus moves each year in relation to the solar calendar. Orthodox and Western churches calculate differently when the necessary intercalary adjustments should be made; consequently, there is no consistent relationship between the dates of Orthodox and Western timings of Easter. In 2018 the Orthodox Easter cycle dates fall a week later than the Western traditions. For Orthodox Christians Easter Day is the most important festival of the Christian year, as this is when Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. A vigil is kept during the preceding night, and the resurrection of Christ is greeted with the lighting of candles and the affirmation 'Christ is risen'. Customs include colouring and decorating of hard boiled eggs as symbols of new life – cracking them symbolises the opening of Christ's tomb.



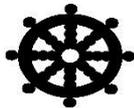
YOM HA-SHOAH (HOLOCAUST DAY) *Jewish*

A day of remembrance when Jewish people remember the six million Jews, including one and a half million children, who were victims of the Nazi Holocaust. Memorial candles are lit and special services are held. The date is chosen as the closest date (in the Jewish calendar) to the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.



THE PROPHET'S NIGHT JOURNEY AND ASCENT/LAILAT (LAYLAT) UL ISRA WA-L-MIRAJ *Muslim 27th Rajab*

This festival celebrates the journey of the Prophet Muhammad, in the tenth year of his prophethood, from Makkah to Jerusalem, and through the heavens to the presence of God, all in one night. On this night Muslims believe the Prophet received the command that they should pray five times each day. The rock in Jerusalem from which the Prophet ascended is now contained in the Dome of the Rock. Muslims mark this night by reading the *Qur'an* and saying additional prayers.



SONGKRAN *Buddhist*

Traditional New Year's Day festival in Thailand, where containers of water are thrown as a symbol of washing away all that is evil. Fragrant herbs are often placed in the jug or bucket containing the water.



VAISAKHI/BAISAKHI *Sikh* The Sikh New Year Festival

In 1699 CE, on Vaisakhi, the tenth Guru, Guru Gobind Singh, founded the Order of the Khalsa. Five men, who later came to be known as the *Panj Piare* (the Five Beloved Ones), were prepared to offer their lives when the Guru asked for volunteers. According to tradition this is when he initiated both these Panj Piare and many others into the *Khalsa*, with men taking the name '*Singh*' (lion) as a reminder to be courageous, and women taking the name '*Kaur*' (princess) to emphasise their dignity. On this day Sikhs, both young and more mature, are nowadays initiated into the *Khalsa* by 'taking *amrit*'; in doing so they commit themselves to a discipline that includes daily prayers and the wearing of the external markers of *Khalsa* identity (the Five Ks), dedicating their lives to the service of others and the pursuit of justice.



YOM HA'ATZMA'UT *Jewish*

Israeli Independence Day, commemorating the declaration of independence of Israel in 1948.





ST GEORGE'S DAY *National*

St George is the patron saint of England. His particular significance to England is not clear since he lived and died in the Middle East as a martyr for his Christian faith, but it is possible that his popularity grew after the Crusades, when his red cross on a white background was adopted as the symbol of the English Crusaders.



THE NIGHT OF FORGIVENESS / LAILAT-UL-BARA'AH (14th Sha'ban) *Muslim*

BIRTHDAY of 12th IMAM. Muhammad ibn Hasan al-Mahdi (Shi'a) Two weeks before Ramadan commences, Muslims seek forgiveness for their sins. Many Muslims believe that it is on this night that a person's destiny is fixed by Allah for the coming year, and the night is often spent in prayer, asking for forgiveness and God's guidance



Success Shields

These are given as recognition of an achievement outside of school.

We have **so** many people to congratulate so **look out** for your name! Well done for the successes you have had, and thank you for sharing them with your friends in school on Wednesdays.

These are given as recognition of an achievement outside of school

Children who received a shield in **October** are:

Sophie Cooley Training Player of the Week	William Garland Flitwick Flyers Runner	
Finlay Lawrence TRYFC Man of the Match	Lily-Jayne Stonnell Stage 2 Swimming Streetdance Star of the Week	Daniel McDonagh Tournament Goal Scorer
Megan Colley-Griffin Stage 4 Swimming Brownie Promise	Arham Islam Stage 2 Swimming	Poppy Tucker Ice Skating Grade 2
Conor Hayes Stage 5 Swimming	Joseph Wheeler Jiu Jitsu Course	Lara Mayne E-tests in Horse Riding Pet sense & yard safety
Charlotte Dow 2 x Brownie Badges Swimming Stage 5	Finley Cooper 3 Football Medals	Ollie Crawford Luton Town Football – most goals
Jack Rivers Karate Student of the Week Swimming Stage 3	Benjamin Bates Go Kart Challenge – 3 rd	Maisie Blacksley Invested at Beavers
Ashton Moss Go Karting – Best Racer	Riley O'Connor Football Tournament	Ramayne Ellis-Newman Charity Cake Sale

Streetdance Stars of the Week – KS1 & KS2

Ellie Lefkaditis, Niamh Bunker, Jack O'Brien, Dillan Wright, Eva Pearson,
Eloise Urquhart and Adam Redmond

Little Mix Concert

Sophie Barton, Jessica Wyncoll, Zoe Gray

Children who received a shield in **November** are:

Vale Rawson Hotshots	Fern Bartlett Swimming	Charlie Dickens Football
Owen Russell Football	Jacob Leigh Swimming / Bronze Chief Scout	Oliver Dobbs Karate & Basketball
Aine Cunningham Swimming	Tom Redman Basketball	Logan Skinner Basketball
Zara Matthews Swimming Competition	Aaron Ward Basketball 25km Virtual Run	Isobella Choosey Blue Peter Badge Stage 6 Swimming
Mark Wilson TRYFC Player of the Week	Benjamin Bates TRYFC Man of the Match	Charlotte Walker Cub badges
Jack Miles Warwick Castle – Village Quest	Rory Lawson Football	Freya Durgahee Gymnastic Squad
Euan Mitchell 1 st Cub – Martial Art	Aydin Khan Football Camp Awards	Mark Wilson Linesman for MK Dons



Niamh Bunker Stage 6 Swimming	Leon Blusch Karate best student award	Ava Cunningham Stage 5 Swimming
Ditu Rao Football	Noah Field-Hall Football	Owen Russell Football
Seth Massink Football	Lara Hastings Tae Kwan-Do 9 th Kup	Fern Bartlett Irish Dancer of the Week
Jemiah Wilson Stage 5 Swimming / Bronze Chief Scout	Cormac Hayes Wreath at Remembrance Service for TSG	Ruby Pickard Wreath at Remembrance Service for TSG
Joseph Curl Football	Lara Mayne Crime Prevention Badge	Amy Michael Crime Prevention Badge
Charlie Gadsden Player of the month / Cub badge, Level 3 Swimming	Aaron Evans 3 rd Kub	Taylor Jempson Football Trophy
Sophie Barton Bronze Scouts Award	Finley Cooper Golf Academy	Sam Tillin Beavers / Road Safety Badge
Lily Jayne Stonnell Stage 2 Swimming	Summer Waller Gymnastics Stage 6 & 7	Lewis Batt Football & Basketball ?
Ollie Scholes Karate Star of the Week TRYFC Man of the Match	Brody Schofield Player of the Match	Gabriel Hydes TRYFC Man of the Match
Amber Cole Basketball Player of the month	Ewan Phelan Unicycling Level 1	Charlotte Dow Under 8's Hockey beat Under 10's Leighton Buzzard

Streetdance Stars of the Week – KS1 & KS2

Florence Hall, Rosie Williams, Izzie Tillin, Fynn McEvoy, Joshua Stone
Helena Roberts, Aaron Ward, Olivia Roberts, Austin Wood, Oliver Dobbs
Zach Collins, Oliver Stack, Eva Pearson
Fern Bartlett, Grace Bennett, Ishaan Machani, Gabriella Hinds, Eva Pearson

Children who received a shield in **January** are:

Joseph Curl Swimming 25m	Gabriella Hinds Gymnastics L6	Freya Henry Swimming 5m
Poppy Tucker Skating grade 5	Niamh Chow Swimming L3	Euan Mitchell Man of the Match
Jack Rivers Karate 10 th Kyu	Gabriel Hydes Hotshots Basketball	Jacob Leigh Karate 10 th Kyu
Daniel Barnish Hotshots Most Skillful Player	Harry Randlesome Karate Player of the Week	Charlotte Dow Brownie Activity Weekend
Jessica Wyncoll Brownie Activity Weekend	Lara Mayne Best Skills - Hotshots	Maisie Blacksley Best Skills - Hotshots
Mark Wilson Goal Keeper of the Week & Respect Award	Cameron Choosey Toddington Rovers Man of the Match	Oliver Dobbs Karate
Freya Durgahee	Isabelle Choosey	Amy Michael



L3 Swimming	Primary Tap Exam	Brownies
Maisie Blacksley Bake Off	Jack O'Brien Hobby Badge	Lara Mayne Blue Peter Badge
Rory Lawson Tampoline L5	Victoria Barker Netballer of the week	Sophie Cooley Football Player of the Match
Jemiah Wilson Hotshots T-Shirt Awarded	Noah Field-Hall Man of the Match	Charlie Dickens Hotshots Player of the Term
Owen Russell Best Player On and Off the Pitch	Josie Finn Irish Dancing	Jemima Cornelius Irish Dancing
Georgia O'Donnell Swimming L3	Jaden Fraser TRFC Respect Trophy	Lara Mayne Swimming L5
Benjamin Bates Body Flight	Lilianna Beben Swimming 5m	Chloe Ragui Gymnastics L7
Lily Reynolds Swimming L3	James Angus Karate Student of the Week	Lewis Batt Football Respect Trophy
Rory Lawson Riding Bike without Stabilisers		

Streetdance Stars of the Week – KS1 & KS2

Ellie Lefkaditis, Jaden Fraser, Austin Wood, Grace Bennett, Oliver Dobbs, Zahra Rookwood, Lucy Stringer, Maisie Blacksley, Zach Collins, Lily-Jayne Stonnell, Cormac Hayes, Oliver Stack, Joshua Stone

If you have any further comments or suggestions, please speak or write to Mrs Archer or Mrs Spencer.
Thank you.

