Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	RE	YEAR 2	TERM 2

WHAT? – Key Knowledge

Christmas - Christianity

Why do Christians believe God gave Jesus to the world?

Christmas is a special time of the year and is celebrated by **Christians** all over the world.

Christians look forward with anticipation to Jesus' birth at Christmas. This is a time of waiting called **Advent.**

For **Christians**, **Advent** is a time of expectancy of the Good News and **hope** Jesus brought to the world.

Advent means "arrival" or "coming," and it prompts us to pause each day in December and remember why Jesus came at Christmas.

Some children, all over the world, have **Advent Calendars** in their houses to help them countdown to **Christmas Day** or the Birth of Jesus.

Advent Calendars can be large cards with small numbered flap windows that are opened each day up to Christmas Day.

Some advent calendars will have chocolates hiding inside the window flaps which children eat. Other Advent Calendars would have pictures of the Nativity behind each window.

Christians also light **advent Candles** in their houses to as a sign of hope and waiting for the arrival of Christmas.

Christians believe that Jesus taught and lived a life of love and compassion for people.

Christians think God gave Jesus to the world so that He could save people from their sin and make it a better place by teaching people to love and be kind to each other.

Christians believe that Jesus opened a pathway back to God through His death and **resurrection** later on.

WHAT? – Key vocabulary

Christians – a follower of Jesus or the Christian Faith.

Christmas Story – a record of the Birth of Jesus documented in the Bible.

Christmas Day - the day on which the festival of Christmas is celebrated on the 25 December.

Advent – the first four Sundays leading up to Christmas.

Advent Calendars - a large card incorporating small numbered flaps, one of which is opened on each day of Advent to reveal a picture appropriate to the season

Advent Candles – they represent the four weeks of the Advent season and Jesus as "the light of God coming into the world through the birth of Jesus Christ"

Resurrection - the rising of Christ from the dead.

Shepherds - a person whose job is to take care of sheep and move them from one place to another

Wise men – the magi or royalty that travelled from afar to visit Jesus

Gold – a precious, expensive metal.

Frankincense - an aromatic gum resin obtained from an African tree and burnt as incense.

Myrrh - a fragrant gum resin used for perfume, medicines and incense.

Stable - a building set apart and adapted for keeping animals.

Engaged – to be promised to be married to someone

Angel Gabriel – a special messenger from Heaven

Inn – a guesthouse, hotel or motel.

Bethlehem

WHAT? – Key Knowledge

The Christmas Story

God sent the **Angel Gabriel** to a young woman who lived in Nazareth. The girl's name was Mary and she was **engaged** to marry Joseph.

The **Angel Gabriel** appeared to Mary and told her she had been chosen to have a special baby which would be God's Son.

Mary and Joseph were married but they have to make a long journey to Bethlehem to be registered. Mary travelled on a donkey with Joseph. When they got to **Bethlehem**, they could not find any room at the **Inn** so Mary gave birth to Jesus in a **stable** surrounded by animals.

Mary wrapped Baby Jesus in strips of cloth and laid him on a manger.

A host of angels announced the Birth of Jesus to some **shepherds** who were watching their sheep in the fields nearby. They followed the bright star to the stable and worshipped Jesus.

Some wise men from the East spotted a bright star in the sky. This star meant an important King had been born. The wise men set off on a long journey to find Jesus and gave him gifts of **Gold**, **Myrrh** and **Frankincense**.

Possible experiences:

- Bring secular and Christian Advent Calendars, talk about them and compare them.
- Invite a visitor for a church to talk about what the Advent season means to Christians and the meaning of the Advent Candles.
- Visit a local church and speak to the priest/ pastor about the meaning of Christmas to Christians.
- Bring the three gifts from the Wise men for children to smell and some gold to talk about its worth.

Learning outcomes:

I can say how I could help solve a problem by showing love.

I can remember the Christmas story and start to explain that Christians believe Jesus was a gift from God.

I can tell you why Christians think God gave Jesus to the world.

Diagrams and symbols





Advent Calendars





Advent Candles



Nativity scene with the star, stable and the wise men



Myrrh – fragrant gum resin



Gold – a precious metal



Frankincense- an incense



Christmas Wreath