Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	RE	YEAR 6	AUTUMN TERM 2

Key Knowledge
Christianity – Incarnation
How significant is it that Mary was Jesus's mother?

Christians believe in one God and they believe that Jesus Christ was his son who died in order to bring humans **salvation** from **sin**. A key belief of all Christians is the belief in the **Trinity** – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who were all present at the Creation of the world and who all take on different roles.

The incarnation

The **incarnation** is the Christian belief that God took human form by becoming Jesus. Incarnation literally means 'to take on flesh'. For Christians, the incarnation shows that Jesus was fully God and fully human. It is an essential part of belief in the **Trinity**, and in many ways it forms the basis of Christianity.

Jesus as incarnate

Through the incarnation of Jesus, humans were able to start repairing their damaged relationship with God. This relationship had been imperfect since Adam and Eve disobeyed God. Through Jesus' incarnation, God began the process of **salvation** from sin, making it possible for humans to have a full relationship with him and go to Heaven. As Jesus was the son of God, most Christians believe he could not have been conceived and born like a normal human. Because Jesus was the son of God, and his father was God rather than a human man, his mother Mary was a **virgin** when Jesus was born. God chose a Jewish young woman called Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph the carpenter, to be the mother of his earthly son and sent his angel, Gabriel, to ask this of her. Mary agreed to allow this to happen and Jesus was born in Bethlehem. This idea is known as the **immaculate conception**.

Biblical accounts of the incarnation

The incarnation is referred to several times in the **Gospels**, in particular the Gospels of Matthew, Luke and John.

- The **Gospel of Matthew** tells Christians about the miraculous conception of Jesus and describes the events leading to his birth.
- The **Gospel of Luke** tells Christians of the miraculous birth of John the Baptist. It also describes the journey Mary and Joseph took from Nazareth, where they lived, to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born.
- The **Gospel of John** is less like a story and takes a more theological approach. At the start of this Gospel, Jesus is identified as the Word of God: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God **(John 1:1)**.
- After identifying the Word as the second person of the Trinity, John highlights the human nature of Jesus, emphasising that Jesus was God in human form. John states that, The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us **(John 1:14)**

In Jesus, humans can see what God is like. By becoming incarnate, God came closer to human understanding. Jesus acted as a messenger who was able to reconnect humanity to God's teachings.

Key Vocabulary

incarnation	God in human form
Trinity	Three persons in one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The three are "consubstantial", which means that they exist separately and together as one.
salvation	The healing of a broken relationship between people and God.
Gospels	The teachings of Jesus and the apostles.
sin	An immoral act.
virgin	A person who has never had sexual intercourse.
immaculate conception	The Immaculate Conception is a Catholic doctrine that the Virgin Mary was preserved by God from the transmission of original sin at the time of her own conception
messenger	A person who carries a message.
humanity	The human race

Possible experiences

- Investigate the relevance to modern-day actions at Christmas to Christians today in regard to the Christmas story.
- Explore different depictions of Mary in art.
- Explore not only the meaning of the incarnation but also the awe and wonder for Christians about this at Christmas, that the God they believe made the Earth, chose to come to Earth as a tiny baby in order to save humanity.

Learning Outcomes

I can explain the qualities needed in different people because of the important jobs they are chosen to do.
I can make links between the Virgin Birth and Christian beliefs about Jesus (Incarnation).
I can start to consider my own response to the Christian belief in the Virgin birth, showing respect to Christian views.

