Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	RE	YEAR 6	SPRING TERM 2

Key Knowledge
Christianity – Easter
Is Christianity still a strong religion 2000 years after Jesus was on Earth?

Christian practices are varied and many of them, such as praying, fit into daily life easily. However, there are other practices that happen throughout the Christian year. The Christian year is divided up with events which remind us of the life of Jesus. It begins with the season of Advent, at the very end of November, which is a period of preparation for the coming of Christ, and then moves through the story of his life to the important focus of Holy Week and Easter.

Christian Festivals

Advent 	Advent is the start of the Christian year and is the four-week period before Christmas. Advent begins on the Sunday nearest to 30th November and lasts until midnight on Christmas Eve. During Advent, Christians across the world prepare for the celebration of the arrival of the Lord into the world through the birth of his Son, Jesus Christ. The beginning of Advent is when preparations for Christmas begin – festive food, gifts chosen and wrapped, carols sung, cards are written and posted, and houses decorated.
Christmas 	Every year in December we celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ. That is why we call this time of year '**Christmas**' - we celebrate the '**Mass**', or church service, for **Christ**. Christmas is a truly magical season, bringing families and friends together to share the much loved customs and traditions which have been around for centuries. Most people are on holiday in the UK and stay at home with their family on Christmas day, 25th December, the main day for Christmas celebrations in Britain.
Lent 	Lent is the 40-day period before Easter beginning with **Ash Wednesday**. In the past it was a long, strict religious fast when people gave up all rich food. The day before Lent starts is known as **Shrove Tuesday**. Lent is the time when Christians prepare for the greatest of the Christian festivals known as **Easter**, by thinking of things they have done wrong. The Christian church no longer imposes a strict fast. Lent is a time when some Christians try to overcome their own faults because they believe that it was man's sin which led Jesus to be crucified. Some Christians try to follow the example of **Jesus in the desert** by giving up luxuries and practising self-discipline. And they try to put aside more time to prayer and religious acts so that they can really let God into their lives.
Shrove Tuesday 	In the UK, **Shrove Tuesday** is also known as **Pancake Day** because it is the one day of the year when almost everyone eats a pancake. Shrove Tuesday is the last day before the period which Christians call **Lent**. **Lent** is a time of **abstinence**, of giving things up. So Shrove Tuesday is the last chance to indulge yourself, and to use up the foods that aren't allowed in Lent. Pancakes are eaten on this day because they contain fat, butter and eggs which were forbidden during Lent.

Christian Festivals

Ash Wednesday 	**Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of six and a half weeks of **repentance**, **fasting** and **abstinence** in preparation for **Easter**. For **Christians**, ashes are a **symbol** of being sorry for things they have done wrong and want to get rid of forever. The marking on the forehead with ash marks the **commitment** to Jesus Christ and God. They wanted to show God that they were sorry for the wrong things they had done in the past year. Many Christians will attend a religious service where the ashes are blessed by the church leader, and placed on their forehead.
Mothering Sunday 	**Mothering Sunday** is a time when children pay **respect** to their Mothers. Children often give their Mothers a gift and a card. Mothering Sunday is always the fourth Sunday of **Lent**. It was a day in **Lent** when the fasting rules were relaxed, in honour of the 'Feeding of the Five Thousand', a story in the Christian Bible. Maids and servants were only allowed one day to visit their family each year. This was usually on Mothering Sunday. For some this could be a significant journey since their mother may have lived some distance away. Often the housekeeper or cook would allow the maids to bake a Simnel cake to take home for their mother.
Easter 	**Easter** is the season in which Christians remember the death and **resurrection** of Jesus. It is the most important festival in the Christian year. Jesus' resurrection is at the centre of the Christian faith. Jesus died for the **sins** of **humanity** and by coming back to life promises eternal life for all those who believe in him. Easter is the story of Jesus' last days in Jerusalem before the death of Jesus. The Easter story includes: **Palm Sunday** This is the Sunday before Easter. Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey. Christians receive palm crosses and may process around the church. **Maundy Thursday** Maundy Thursday is the Thursday before Easter. **Good Friday** Good Friday commemorates the death of Jesus. **Easter Sunday** This is the most important date in the Church Year, when Christians celebrate Jesus' **resurrection** from dead.
Harvest 	Harvest Festival is a celebration of the food grown on the land. In Britain, we have given thanks for successful harvests since pagan times. We celebrate this day by singing, praying and decorating our churches with baskets of fruit and food in a festival known as 'Harvest Festival', usually during the month of **September**. Harvest Festival reminds Christians of all the good things God gives them. This makes them want to share with others who are not so fortunate. People bring food from home to a Harvest Festival Service. After the service, the food that has been put on display is usually made into parcels and given to people in need.

Key Knowledge

Christian Symbols

In Christianity, there are symbols that are frequently used by people practicing the faith.

cross		The cross is the main symbol. It reminds Christians that Jesus died on the cross to save them.
dove		The dove is the symbol of the holy spirit and peace.
fish		The fish symbol was created using the Greek letters which spell out ICHTHUS: Jesus Christ God's Son Saviour. The Romans persecuted the Christians and it became dangerous for them to meet. So the Christians devised a secret code. They drew half a fish in the sand. If a person completed the fish, they knew he or she was a believer too.
Greek letters- alpha and omega		The use since the earliest Christianity of the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha (**α** or **A**) and omega (**ω** or **Ω**), derives from the statement said by Jesus (or God) himself "I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End"

Learning Outcomes

I can explain how the influence people have had on me has affected what I see as important.

I can explain how one of the reasons people use to suggest that Christianity is a strong religion today can be counteracted.

I can give my opinion as to whether Christianity is a strong religion now and say why I think this.

Key Vocabulary

influential	Having great influence on someone or something
significant	Sufficiently great or important to be worthy of attention; noteworthy
memories	Something remembered from the past
festivals	A day or period of celebration, typically for religious reasons
symbols	A shape or sign used to represent something
beliefs	An acceptance that something exists or is true, especially one without proof
oath	A solemn promise, often invoking a divine witness, regarding one's future action or behaviour
Mass	The celebration of the Christian Eucharist, especially in the Roman Catholic Church
abstinence	The practice of restraining oneself from indulging in something
repentance	Sincere regret or remorse
fasting	Abstain from all or some kinds of food or drink, especially as a religious observance
commitment	Being dedicated to a cause, activity
resurrection	The rising of Christ from the dead
sins	An immoral act considered to be a transgression against divine law
humanity	The human race

Possible experiences

- Explore influential people from history through to present day
- Find out about different Christian festivals and how they are celebrated around the world
- Research Christian charities
- Visit Christian buildings