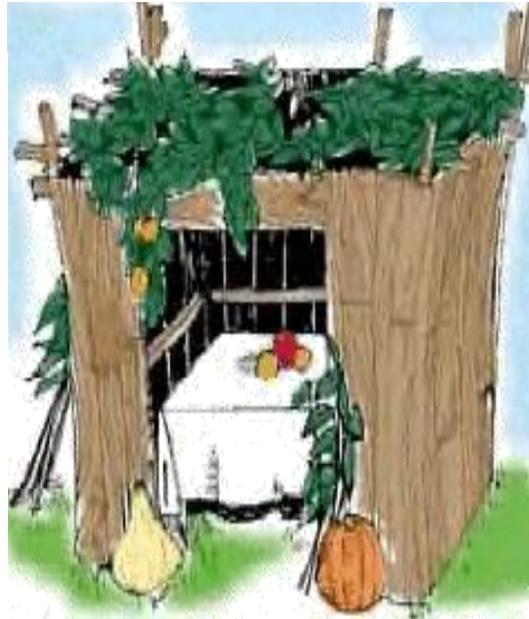


SPECIAL TIMES - CELEBRATIONS

– Harvest, Sukkot, Diwali, Eid & Christmas

Nottinghamshire SACRE RE Syllabus

YEAR GROUP: EARLY YEARS



SPECIAL TIMES - CELEBRATIONS – Harvest, Sukkot, Diwali, Eid and Christmas

EARLY YEARS

OVERVIEW

About this unit:

Through a short initial exploration of celebrations generally and the similar events that occur, the unit then enables the children to investigate a possible five festivals – Harvest, Sukkot, Diwali, Eid and Christmas. There is also an option to join with KS1 children in finding out about Diwali, the Hindu festival of light.

NB It is not envisaged that all activities are used or even that each festival is investigated, but that the teachers choose which festivals and activities are suitable for their classes' needs.

Each festival is introduced by persona dolls, puppets (of that faith) or by the teacher. Dottie and Buzz, 2 puppet friends, from an earlier unit(Belonging), are also involved in some festivals.

These sessions contribute to positive attitudes through exploring feelings at celebrations, talking about helping, being helped, and giving at Harvest time, Diwali, Eid and at Christmas in various ways. Thankfulness is also an attitude that is investigated.

Afterwards, the children's and teddy's birthdays initiate an exploration of the story of Jesus' birth, Christmas celebrations both in and out of the church and the reason why Christians celebrate Christmas.

SESSIONS

Celebrations and Harvest

	1/2	Introducing Celebrations → Harvest Festival Celebrations
<i>Sukkot</i>	3/4	Introducing Moses and Sukkot, Jewish festival
<i>Diwali</i>	5/6	Hindu festival of light - Diwali and Diwali afternoon
<i>Eid</i>	7/8	Muslim festival, Eid al-Fitr
<i>Christmas</i>	9.	Teddy's Birthday
	10.	A Special Birthday - Jesus' Birthday - Christmas Introduced
	11.	Dottie and Buzz introduce giving at Christmas
	12.	Christmas Nativity Plays - in school and in churches
	13.	Jesus' Birth - Story bag

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN THE RE SYLLABUS:

This unit will help teachers to implement the Agreed Syllabus for RE, using concepts of religious practices and ways of expressing meaning as well as questions of identity, diversity and belonging and questions of values and commitments. It contributes to the **continuity and progression** of pupils' learning by:-

- building on the children's experiences of celebrations; and episodes of Dottie and Buzz and persona dolls/puppets met earlier .
- anticipating further studies of Celebrations and stories about Jesus in FS and KS1 eg Diwali, Hanukkah, Eid, Easter and Christmas in KS1

POSSIBLE LINKS WITH OTHER CURRICULUM AREAS and THEMES

Celebrations, Helping in the local area and abroad (harvest and shoebox)

Estimated teaching time for this unit: 13 hours. It is recognised that this unit may provide more teaching ideas than a class will cover in 13 hours and teachers are invited to use their own ideas as well as or instead of these. Depth of learning rather than covering everything is important. The teacher is also invited to choose the festivals and activities that are suitable for their class.

RE AIMS

To know and understand:

- different festivals and how they are celebrated eg Harvest, Sukkot, Diwali and Eid.
- Jesus' birth, and how it is celebrated through Christmas events both in and out of the church.

To express ideas and insights about;

- festivals and how they are celebrated.
- helping, giving and being thankful.

To gain and deploy skills:

- talking about festivals of different cultures, exploring these in a variety of ways.
- talking about and relating Jesus' birthday to Teddy's birthday, and by celebrating both.

ATTITUDES FOCUS: Pupils will explore attitudes of:

- **Self awareness** by becoming increasingly aware of the need to help others, give to others, and to be thankful.
- **Respect for all** by developing a willingness to learn from the celebrations of people with different faiths.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE TEACHER ((Also see Teacher Information paper)

Christianity:- Christians believe that Jesus was a special baby because He came from God. They believe He came on earth as a baby to be a friend to all people and rescuer of all mankind.

Contributions to spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils

- Opportunities for **moral development** come from thinking about helping others, giving, and being thankful.
- Opportunities for **cultural development** come from discovering the ways different cultures show their thanks and celebrate their festivals.

EXPECTATIONS: At the end of this unit

Pupils working towards step 1 will be able to:	Pupils working at step 1 will be able to:	Pupils working at step 2 will be able to:
<p>Meet some requirements of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Communication and Language ❖ Personal, Social, Emotional & Development. ❖ Understanding the world ❖ Expressive arts and design ❖ Literacy ❖ Mathematics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Name some things that happen at Harvest and/or Sukkot and/or Diwali and/or Eid. ▪ Tell someone about some people/ events at Jesus' birth. ▪ Talk about their own celebrations ▪ Find out about helping and giving ▪ Talk about thanking others. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retell the story of Jesus' birth • Identify activities that happen at Harvest/ Sukkot/ Diwali/ Eid. • Ask questions and respond sensitively to the Festival of Harvest, the Jewish celebration of Sukkot, the Hindu festival of Diwali. And the Muslim festival of Eid. • Respond sensitively to the story of Jesus' birth, noticing its importance to Christians. • Respond well to issues of helping, giving, and/or thanking other people.

ASSESSMENT SUGGESTIONS

An assessment of each pupil is not required for RE at Foundation stage. However the following assessment ideas could be used.

Teachers can assess this work by choosing **one** (or more, if necessary) of the following, and by assessing any of the requirements above.:-

Noticing how the pupils talk about/respond to the celebrations during harvest collections, making the succah, Diwali activities, Eid activities and/or the Christmas story bag.