|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Week Commencing 08.05.17 |  |
|  |  |
| LISTENING TO OTHERS AND CHANGING |  |
|  |  |
| Teacher Lead- Mrs Batey | Tuesday |
| Aims: To explore the Christian festival of Pentecost (the coming of the Holy Spirit).  Show the word ‘FIRE!’ to the children and ask them what words come to mind when they think of fire. Write up words as the children suggest them: exciting, warm, gives light, dangerous, destroys.  Ask the children to think of happy occasions when we have fires, e.g. Bonfire Night, camp fires at Brownies or Cubs.  Fire can also be dangerous so we have to be careful when we are near it. Explain how we need to take precautions not to get hurt by it. Refer to the need for adult supervision when having anything to do with fire.  Say that fire is sometimes used by Christians as a metaphor (picture) for God. Tell the children the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit to Jesus’ disciples at Pentecost. Ask them to imagine this scene and suggest that closing their eyes may help them to focus on it in their minds.  Jesus has risen from the dead and has shown himself to his disciples (followers) on several occasions. After 40 days, or nearly six weeks, he leaves them again to return to heaven, but not before he has asked them to go and tell other people about him. He also gives them a promise that even though he cannot be with them any more as a person to help them do this, he will send the Holy Spirit to be with them.  The disciples are puzzled – what does Jesus mean? They gather together in a room in Jerusalem and wait for Jesus to keep this promise. Nothing seems to happen, even though about 120 of Jesus’ followers are praying! How is the Holy Spirit going to come, and when? Why do they have to keep waiting? How do you think they feel? Frightened, anxious, or just curious?  Still they wait, and while they are waiting they choose another disciple, Matthias, to replace Judas Iscariot. Judas was the one who had betrayed Jesus to the authorities.  It seems as if nothing is going to happen. Has Jesus let them down? Is it a matter of out of sight, out of mind? Questions keep going round and round in their heads. Everyone and everything is very quiet, but still they keep sitting there in that room.  Then in that quietness the followers suddenly hear a new sound – it’s like a strong wind blowing towards them. They become aware that God’s presence is with them and at the same time they see something incredible: flames or tongues of fire resting on each person’s head – but not burning them! Instead they each feel a new power sweeping through them, making them happy and excited. In fact they are so excited they all start speaking at once and in different languages.  The day of Pentecost had come and the disciples' lives had changed for ever. Jesus had kept his promise, and sent the Holy Spirit to be their friend – the fire was a sign of the presence of the Spirit, and the different languages they were speaking were a sign that now they could go and tell other people in other parts of the world about Jesus too. | |
| Comments from the children-  Upset and distress turned to joy and happiness.   * Every cloud has a silver lining? Children discussed if this is an appropriate saying to reflect on the enormity of the situation.   How did they feel initially? Distress, sadness, mournful, traumatised, stressed  How powerful was the image? Inspiring, unbelievable, powerful | Time for reflection- Reflection  As a large candle is lit, ask the children to focus on the flame and think about the story they have just heard, about the disciples’ anxiety turning to joy.  The Bible describes the Holy Spirit in different ways – being strong like the wind, but gentle as a dove and as bright, warming and powerful as fire. What would it have felt like to have been with the disciples in that room on that special day of Pentecost?  Prayer  Dear God,  We thank you for sending the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.  Thank you that you keep your promises and can turn sadness to joy.  Amen. |
|  |  |
| Teacher Lead- Miss Jones | Wednesday |
| JESUS GOES TO THE FATHER  Show the children the pictures and ask if they can see a link between them. The link is the number three. Triangle: three sides; tricycle: three wheels; clover: three leaves; tripod: three legs. (You may prefer to use actual objects or pictures.)  Explain that the word ‘tri’ means three. See if the children can come up with other ‘tri’ words for things involving threes. You could give them the clues below if they can’t guess immediately.  – When a mother is pregnant with three babies at the same time, the babies are called . . . (triplets).  – If you have three times as much of something, you have t--- the amount (triple).  – If you put some juice in a glass, and then put three times as much in a second glass, you could say that in the second glass there is . . . the amount (triple).  – The study of the angles in a triangle is called . . . (trigonometry) – you may need to ask an adult this one!  – Three plays or stories that are linked to one another are called a . . . (trilogy).  – In the Olympic Games, a contest that consists of three events that follow one another without a break, for instance, swimming, cycling and running, is called a . . . (triathlon).  Christians use a word with three in it to describe God. Ask if anyone knows what that word is. Explain that the word is ‘Trinity’ and that the Trinity is very important in Christian teaching.  Christians believe that there is only one God but that he exists as three separate persons – God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. It is very important to Christians that there are not three separate Gods but that one God shows himself in three different ways.  Ask for a volunteer. (Make sure you choose a volunteer who is a sister to someone in the room.) Explain that your volunteer is the sister of another child. Ask someone to hold the paper with ‘sister’ written on it.  Say that your volunteer is a sister + daughter + friend – she is three different things to different people but there is only one of her. Explain that it is a bit like that with God. God is Father and Son and Holy Spirit. The three are all one God but they show different characteristics.  Just before Jesus went back to heaven, he said to the disciples, ‘Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the nameof the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit’ (Matthew 28.19). Jesus said ‘name’ not ‘names’.  On the evening before he died, Jesus said something interesting about the Trinity. He told his disciples that when he went back to heaven, he would ask his Father to send the Holy Spirit to live inside his followers (John 14.16).  When Jesus did go back to heaven, his disciples were very scared and were hiding in a locked room. Suddenly there was the sound of a mighty wind. Fire appeared on the disciples’ heads and they were filled with the Holy Spirit. This experience changed the disciples’ lives; immediately they were brave enough to go outside and begin to tell everyone about Jesus (Acts 2.1–6).  Christians call this day ‘Pentecost’. For Christians, Pentecost is a special time when they remember that God the Father sent the Holy Spirit to live in the followers of Jesus. | |
| When Jesus was on earth he could only be in one place at a time.  But now God the Father has sent the Holy Spirit to live in us.  This means that God is with each of us, all the time.  Remember that we are never totally alone because God is always with us.  God is always with us- through good times and bad Christians can pray anywhere- as well as in Church.  They hope and pray for guidance from their God.  Christians believe that God will help them/ support them wherever they are as he can hear their words. | Prayer  Dear God,  sometimes we find things hard to understand,  but we thank you that you are always with us.  Thank you that when Jesus went back to heaven  his friends were not left all alone.  Thank you that you still send your Holy Spirit to live in us.  Please help us to live our lives  in a way that shows that you are always here.  Amen. |
| Class 5 | Thursday |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Teacher Lead- | Friday |
| Time to Shine 10 |  |
|  |  |