

YEAR

6

UNIT J

PENTECOST

ABOUT THE UNIT

In this unit the children will learn about two stories from the New Testament about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Through their study of the Sacrament of Confirmation they will learn about the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and how they are important in the lives of Christians.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

The unit builds upon previous work on the Sacrament of Confirmation and upon the story of Pentecost.

PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if the children have:

- some knowledge of the Story of Pentecost
- some knowledge of the Sacrament of Confirmation being a celebration of the giving of the Holy Spirit.

SKILLS

Research skills, discussion, ICT skills, group work, writing for different purposes, interpreting symbolism.

VOCABULARY

Pentecost, Acts of the Apostles, Gifts of the Holy Spirit and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and their associated vocabulary, wind, fire, breath.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know the two stories from the New Testament about the coming of the Holy Spirit and be able to compare and contrast them. They will understand why wind, fire and breath are important symbols of the Holy Spirit. They will know the names of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and explain why they are important in the lives of Christians.

Less able children will know some elements of the stories concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit, They will be able to recall some of the names of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy Spirit and give a few reasons for their importance.

More able children will have a great appreciation of the importance of the Gifts and Fruits of the Holy spirit and will be able to demonstrate in many ways their presence and importance in the lives of Christians.

	A.T.1	A.T.2
	4a	4a
	4b	4b
	4c	4c
		4d
	3a	3a
	3b	3b
	3c	3c
		3d
	5a	5a
	5b	5c
	5c	5d

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

R6 Hear read and explore Gospel and other New Testament accounts of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the transformation of the disciples.

- Read the account of the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples from St. John's Gospel.
- Compare this account with that of the one in the Acts of the Apostles. What differences do you notice? How might this be explained?
- Explore some of the images of the Holy Spirit contained in these two readings: Breath, wind and fire.
- Make some links with science work about the importance of breathing and what it does to our bodies.
- What are the significant properties of fire?
- What are the significant properties of wind?
- What might we learn about the Holy Spirit from these descriptions?
- Design some posters advertising the presence of the Holy Spirit using the images contained in breath, wind and fire.
- Write a diary account as one of the apostles about the coming of the Holy Spirit. Write a line at a time from the version of the story in the Acts of the Apostles and then write about your thoughts and feelings at this time.

C6 The Rites of Baptism and Confirmation and the response they invite.

- Explore with the children their experience of giving and receiving gifts.
- Why is it good to receive a gift from somebody? What does it say about the way that person thinks of you?
- Why is it good to give to other people? What does it say about the way in which we respect and care for them?
- In the celebration of the sacrament of Confirmation the Bishop or priest who is administering the Sacrament lays hands over the candidates for Confirmation and calls down the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit upon them.
- Teach the children the names of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit: Wisdom, knowledge, reverence, understanding, and courage, right-judgement, wonder and awe in God's presence.
- Children to work in small groups and to come up with different reasons why these gifts of the Holy Spirit are important and what they mean.
- Ask the children to think of people that they know today who demonstrate in their lives the presence of these gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Use newspaper reports and magazines to find stories of people who have shown that the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are to be used in the service of others.
- Provide the children with some moments of reflection when they can think about these different gifts and how they might use them in their own lives.
- What difference would it make if you could not receive these gifts?
- Create some real life scenarios where people might need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to live and work through situations that arise.
- Write a description of these events and identify which gifts of the Holy Spirit will be necessary.
- Research the lives of a variety of saints and the ways in which they responded to the call of Christ to follow him. How did they use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in their service of Christ?
- Children to write a short biography about the life of the saint they have chosen and indicate in the account the presence of the different Gifts of the Holy Spirit in the life of this saint.

C12 A variety of prayers and prayer forms, formal and informal used for community and personal prayer.

- St Paul teaches in the Letter to the Galatians that the Spirit yields a harvest in the life of the person who has received it.
- Explore with the children the way in which things growing in creation can produce fruits. What is needed to facilitate their growth?
- Read with the children *Galatians 5: 22-23*. Identify the names of the Nine Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, gentleness, faithfulness, self-control and joy.
- Children to think of reasons why these Fruits of the Holy Spirit are so important? What would life be like if these Fruits of the Holy Spirit were not evident in the lives of people?
- Explore different ways in which the Fruits of the Holy Spirit are manifested in the lives and actions of Christians today.
- Conclude this unit of work by writing prayers asking for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and creating a Litany to the Holy Spirit using the names of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit. (e.g. "Spirit of Peace help us to make peace", etc.)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

R6 That the Holy Spirit, the Helper, is the gift which Jesus promised, that the coming of the Holy Spirit transformed Jesus' disciples and was the beginning of the Church.

- Know the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit from the Gospel of John and the Acts of the Apostles.
- Recognise similarities and differences in the accounts.
- Be able to explain why breath, wind and fire are important symbols of the Holy Spirit.

C6 That sacraments express and deepen our communion with Jesus.

- Know the names of the Seven Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Understand that these gifts are to be used in the service of God and others.
- Identify situations in life and in the lives of others where the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are manifested.

- Know the names of the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- Understand reasons why these qualities are important in the lives of Christians.

L12 Of the variety of forms of prayer in the Church.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Write some poems about breath, wind and fire as symbols of the Holy Spirit.

Lead the children in an imaginative contemplation of the Risen Christ coming into the locked room and breathing upon them. What was this moment really like?

Use the prayer of Confirmation regularly in preparation for receiving this Sacrament.

Have a class display celebrating the presence and the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Use reference books and the internet to research some lives of the saints.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Galatians 5: 22-23 – The Fruits of the Holy Spirit

OTHER LINKS

Moral and Social Development:
Some significant links here with the Gifts and the Fruits of the Holy Spirit.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- This unit of work should have an important influence on Collective Worship that takes place in the class if the children are preparing for Confirmation.
- Use the prayer written by the children about praying for the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in prayer time.
- Prayers of thanks when we recognise the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of others.
- Prayers of sorrow for neglecting the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Learn a version of the hymn “Veni Sancte Spiritus” (Come Holy Spirit) and use this as a round in preparation for Confirmation.
- Ask the prayers of the saints the children have chosen for their Confirmation names.
- Use the Prayer of Confirmation to help the children familiarise themselves with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit they are to receive in Confirmation.

EVALUATION

What went well?

Which areas of planning need to be developed/adapted next time?

What needs to be revisited/developed in a later unit?