

PENTECOST – THE AIR AROUND US

ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit introduces the Holy Spirit as the third part of the Sign of the Cross and that red is the colour associated with this Season.

WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

Builds on God the Father and Jesus the Son.

PRIOR LEARNING

That Sunday is an important day.
The Sign of the Cross.

SKILLS

Naming days of the week, praying, observing, reverence.

VOCABULARY

Spirit, air, Sign of the Cross.

ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

Most children will know that air makes things happen. They will know red is the colour for this time of the year.

Less able children will experience activities using the power of air. They will join in making the Sign of the Cross.

More able children will know that some things are invisible and that the Spirit is a special helper.

A.T.1 A.T.2

N/a N/a

PROGRAMME OF STUDY

TEACHING STRATEGIES

C2 Sunday is a special day to pray and talk to God.

R4 Recognise and become familiar with the Sign of the Cross.

- Revise with the children the Sign of the Cross.
- In the name of the Father – link with creation.
- In the name of the Son – link with Christmas.
- In the name of the Holy Spirit which is our focus at this time.
- Name the days of week. On which days do we come to nursery? On which days do we stay at home?
- Explain that Sunday is a special day when people go to church and that it is the day when God came to be with his friends in a special way to help them to be good and help them to be better people.
- Have a selection of candles – different sizes and shapes – all to be lit. Children to count the candles.
- Children invited to blow out the candles one by one – How many are left?
- Consider what made each candle go out.
- Explain to the children that we can't see air, but we can feel it.
- Children to blow onto their own hand both gently and strongly.
- Reinforce the idea that we can feel air but not see it.
- Have a "Red Day". Children to come into school dressed in red for one day.
- In the school hall have red balloon races. Children to use a sheet of paper to move the balloon to the finishing line without touching the balloon.
- Explain to the children that air is invisible, but that it can be powerful. The air helped the balloons move.
- God sent his Holy Spirit. The Spirit is our special helper too. Just like the air we can't see the Spirit but he is there in us, helping us.

C3 To hear simple prayers and hymns.

- Hold a Prayer Service using red candles and tea lights.
- Invite the children to breath gently and in rhythm in order to settle down.
- Help the children to think that God the Holy Spirit is with us.
- Sing Holy Spirit be with us (x3)
O Spirit be with us (to Kumbaya).

- Think of how we get on well together in the nursery, by being patient, helpful and peacemakers. The Holy Spirit helps us to get on together through his gifts.
- In prayer ask for help from the Holy Spirit, the God who is within us to be good children
(e.g. "Holy Spirit helps us to be patient – light candle after each intercession).
- Finish with 'Holy Spirit Song' again or alternative appropriate to the age group.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

C2 To know that Sunday is a special day.

R4 The Sign of the Cross names the Father Son and Holy Spirit, and is a sign of love and blessing.

- The Sign of the Cross is a special sign used by God's Family.
- It is a prayer to Father, Son and Spirit.

- Know that Pentecost is a special celebration.

C3 To listen to and participate in simple prayers and hymns.

- That some things are invisible but have an effect on people and objects around them.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

Reinforce the children's knowledge of colours. The class room colour should change to red where possible.

Numeracy opportunities.

Themed "Red Day".

Significant opportunities in this unit to develop scientific experiences.

To be able to recall Nursery rules.

RELATED SCRIPTURE

Acts 2: 1-12 – The Story of Pentecost

OTHER LINKS

- Strong science links in this unit.

COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Red.
- Awareness of breathing to settle.
- Link to rules of Nursery and asking for help.

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?