



YEAR

2

UNIT J

# PENTECOST

## ABOUT THE UNIT

This unit is designed to develop the children’s knowledge and understanding of the story of Pentecost and of the activity and presence of the Holy Spirit. The unit also focuses on the way Pentecost is celebrated in the Church and Confirmation being the Sacrament of the Holy Spirit.

## WHERE THE UNIT FITS IN

This unit builds on previous learning in Year 1 about the story of Pentecost.

## PRIOR LEARNING

It would be helpful if children have:

- some knowledge of the story of Pentecost
- experience of prayer to the Holy Spirit.

## SKILLS

Group discussion, thinking, brainstorming, empathetic writing, interpreting symbols.

## VOCABULARY

Pentecost, Apostles, Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, Confirmation, Sacrament, Oil of Baptism, Oil of Chrism.

## ASSESSMENT

At the end of this unit:

**Most children will** know the story of Pentecost and understand that the Holy Spirit was the promised gift of Jesus. Recognise the role of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians today. Recognise that Confirmation is a celebration of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Less able children will** know the story of Pentecost and reflect upon how the Holy Spirit can help Christians today.

**More able children will** have a greater understanding of how and why the disciples changed through the gift of the Holy Spirit. Have a greater understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in people’s lives today. Identify the Oil of Chrism as a sign of the presence and activity of the Holy Spirit.

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

## PROGRAMME OF STUDY

## TEACHING STRATEGIES

**R2** Hear, read and become familiar with the story of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

**C3** Become familiar with some ways the Church celebrates major seasons of the liturgical year.

**L7** Hear about the Holy Spirit as the helper Jesus promised the Church.

**C4** Hear about and explore and become familiar with the main rites of Confirmation.

**C5** Become familiar with signs and symbols used by the Church.

- Talk to the children about the word “Promise” and what it might mean?
  - Recap work on the story of Noah and the promise God made to him.
  - What promises have the children made? Are they always easy to keep?
  - Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit to his disciples before he went back to his Father. Explain to the children that on the day of Pentecost Jesus fulfilled his promise.
  - Read with the children the story of Pentecost from the Acts of the Apostles.
  - What were the disciples like before the Holy Spirit came? Brainstorm lots of different words for this.
  - What were the disciples like when the wind and tongues of fire came into the upper room? Brainstorm lots of different words for this.
  - What were the disciples like after the Holy Spirit came? How had they changed? Brainstorm lots of different words for this.
  - Children to write a short account of the Coming of the Holy Spirit as one of the disciples.
  - Create word banks to support children’s writing.
  - Talk to the children about red being the liturgical colour for Pentecost. Why do you think this colour is chosen?
  - Think about some of the special qualities of the colour red (e.g. it stands out, it is a bright colour, you can’t miss it, etc.)
  - Talk to the children about the Holy Spirit being the power and strength of God at work in the lives of the first Christians on Pentecost day.
  - Revise previous learning in Reception on the sign of the cross.
  - Remind the children that God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
  - Introduce children to the term “Holy Trinity” as a way Christians speak about God.
  - Remind the children that the Holy Spirit helped Peter and the other disciples to be brave and tell the world that Jesus had risen from the dead.
  - Today the Holy Spirit is the helper of Christians when they do important work. Brainstorm with the children some important thing that Christians have to do in the world to show that they are followers of Jesus. Start with children’s own experience, move on to consider other people such as a teacher, headteacher, priest, sister, parishioner, family, etc.
  - How do you think the Holy Spirit helps and guides all these different people?
  - Children to write prayers to the Holy Spirit thinking of different people who need help and guidance.
  - Talk with the children about birthday celebrations. What do we remember on a birthday? How do we celebrate?
  - On Pentecost day we celebrate the beginning of God’s family the Church.
  - Find out how this feast is celebrated in your church?
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- Explain to the children that when the Church celebrates the Sacraments we celebrate the presence of the Holy Spirit.
  - Invite older children who are preparing for Confirmation to talk to the class about this Sacrament of the Holy Spirit.
  - Revise work on Baptism, recall the anointing with the Oil of Baptism as protecting the person being welcomed into God’s family. Explain that the anointing with the Oil of Chrism in Confirmation shows the giving of the Holy Spirit to the person being Confirmed.
  - Children to hear and learn the words of anointing at Confirmation, “Be sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
  - What does the word sealed mean?
  - What does it tell us about the presence of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians today?

## LEARNING OUTCOMES

**R2** That Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit is fulfilled at Pentecost and this marks the beginning of the Church.

**C3** Know the stories and events that surround the major Feasts of the Church year.

**L7** That the Holy Spirit guides the Church to follow Jesus.

- Know the story of Pentecost from the Acts of the Apostles.
- Understand that Jesus' promise to send the Holy Spirit was fulfilled.
- Empathise with the thoughts of the disciples through discussion and writing.

- Know that Pentecost Sunday is known as the birthday of the Church.
- Understand some reasons why the feast is known as this.
- Find out how the feast is celebrated in Church.
- Know that the liturgical colour for Pentecost is red.
- Understand that the Holy Spirit helps and guides Christians today.
- Think of ways that the Holy Spirit is the helper to the followers of Jesus.

**C4** That Confirmation celebrates the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**C5** Of the significance and variety of signs and symbols in their own lives and in the life of the Church.

- Know that Confirmation is the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Understand that this is the gift of God.

## FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

For the feast of the Holy Trinity reinforce that God is revealed in three persons, but is one God.

Look at pictures of the Sacrament of Confirmation, especially the anointing with the Oil of Chrism.

## RELATED SCRIPTURE

*Genesis 9* – The Promise God made to Noah

*Acts 2: 1-13* – The Story of the Coming of the Holy Spirit

### OTHER LINKS

Some school-parish links.

Art Links: to explore the colours and symbols of Pentecost. You could do colour mixing to explore red as the colour of Pentecost.

Dance Links: To explore the Story of Pentecost.

### COLLECTIVE WORSHIP

- Prayers and hymns to the Holy Spirit.
- Pray for people who are to be confirmed.

## 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?**