

Merry Hill Infant School and Nursery - Knowledge organiser

Religious Education

Topic: Spring Festivals

Year Group : 2

Term: Spring

Key Knowledge

Easter — The Christian Spring festival

- On **Palm Sunday**, Jesus arrived in Jerusalem riding on a donkey. The people of Jerusalem were very excited to see him; they lay down palm leaves and shouted, “Hosanna!” which means, “Save us!”. They knew Jesus was a special person.
- On **Holy Thursday** (or **Maundy Thursday**, as it is also known), Jesus and his followers had their very last supper and Jesus shared bread and wine with his friends. At the table, Jesus explained that one of his friends would soon betray him to his enemies. Jesus also said that, very soon, he was going to die. The disciples were very sad but Jesus smiled and said that he would still be with them and they would see him with their very own eyes.
- On **Good Friday**, Jesus was made to carry his heavy cross to the place where he would be crucified. When they arrived, Jesus was put on the cross and crucified. After he had died, Jesus was laid in a special tomb – a cave with a big stone door to keep him safe.
- On **Easter Sunday**, Jesus’ friend Mary went to the tomb to say goodbye to Jesus. When she arrived, she noticed that the big stone door had been moved. Mary walked inside and, to her surprise, she found that Jesus’ body had disappeared. Mary was very upset, but, all of a sudden, an angel appeared and told her, ‘Don’t be alarmed. You are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here.’ Christians believe that God had brought Jesus back from the dead and the Spirit of Jesus is still with us, just as he promised.
- Christians believe Jesus’s stayed on Earth for 40 days and, during this time, he did lots of teaching and even performed another miracle.
- Christians experience Easter as a very sad but also a very happy time, because, although Jesus died, he also came back to life again!
- Christian people all over the world celebrate Easter for this reason and pray to Jesus because he is believed to be such a special person and the son of God.



Key Vocabulary

Christian	A person who follows the religion of Christianity
Christianity	The religion followed by Christian people, who believe that Jesus is the son of
Cross	The main symbol of Christianity, reminding Christians of the love of Jesus
The Bible	The holy book for Christian people made up of the Old Testament and the New
Jesus	Christian people believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to earth to
Good Friday	Christians believe this to be the day that Jesus Christ was killed/crucified
Easter Sunday	Christians believe this to be the day that Jesus Christ was resurrected/rose again
Palm Sunday	Christians believe this to be the day that Jesus Christ arrived in Jerusalem
Easter Monday	This is the Monday after Easter Sunday and is celebrated by Christians as part of Holy week and Easter celebrations
Last Supper	The last (Passover) meal that Jesus had with his friends and followers, before he was arrested and killed/crucified
Jewish	A person who follows the religion of Judaism
Judaism	The religion of Jewish people who follow the teachings in the Old Testament
Passover	The Jewish Spring festival that celebrates the people of Israel’s exodus from Egypt, where they were slaves, to the dessert, where they were free
Hindu	A person who follows the religion of Hinduism
Hinduism	The religion of Hindu people who believe the supreme God of Brahman is the creator of everything
Holi	The Hindu Spring festival that celebrates the Hindu God, Krishna as well as the victory of the good Prince, Prahlad, over his evil aunt, Holika



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Passover — The Jewish Spring festival



- Passover celebrates the exodus of the people of Israel who were slaves in Egypt and tells the story of how they left Egypt and travelled through the Red Sea to get to the desert and freedom.
- Pharaoh was worried that the Jewish people were growing in numbers and that they may attack him and his army and take over Egypt so he ordered all the Jewish boys to be killed
- The Jewish people were sad about this and the mother of a boy called Moses didn't want her boy to be killed. She asked Miriam, her daughter, to place Moses on the River Nile in a basket near to where Pharaoh's daughter went bathing. The Princess found the floating basket and took the baby Moses back to the Palace to be her own son. Moses grew up as an Egyptian Prince, watching the people of Israel as slaves.
- But, one day, Moses killed an Egyptian. He ran away from the Palace and lived his life as a shepherd after that. Then God spoke to him and told him he should go back to Egypt, with his brother, Aaron, to ask Pharaoh to free the people of Israel from slavery.
- Pharaoh refused to let the people of Israel go and, so, God sent 10 plagues as signs that he should listen to Moses and let the people of Israel go. The 10th plague was the death of Egyptian firstborn sons but the people of Israel were told to mark their doorposts so the angel could "Pass over" their houses. Pharaoh lost his firstborn son and said the people of Israel could go. They got ready and left Egypt in a hurry.
- When the people of Israel arrived at the Red Sea, they heard the Egyptian army coming up behind them; Pharaoh had changed his mind and wanted them back.
- Moses held his staff up over the Red Sea and the sea separated, leaving a path in the middle for the people of Israel to walk along. As the Egyptian army arrived at the Red Sea, they also took the path. Then, when Moses took his staff down, the water covered the Egyptian army and they drowned.
- The people of Israel were free and, every year, Jewish people celebrate this with a special Passover meal, where they tell the story of the exodus from Egypt.

Holi — The Hindu Spring festival



- Holi celebrates the Hindu God, Lord Krishna, who's known as a God of love and protection. It also marks the end of winter, the beginning of spring, the blossoming of love, friends and family and the chance to make amends and repair broken relationships.
- Holi also celebrates the triumph of good over evil with the story of Prince Prahlad and his evil aunt, Holika.
- Prince Prahlad was the son of a Demon King, Hiranyakashipu. He wanted Prahlad to worship him but, instead, Prahlad worshipped the Hindu God, Vishnu.
- Prahlad would not listen to his father so the King tried to kill Prahlad several times but he failed each time because Vishnu stepped in and protected him.
- Then the King asked his sister, Holika, to help him kill Prahlad — Holika had a magic shawl that protected her from being burnt by fire and the brother and sister hatched a plan to convince Prahlad to sit on Holika's lap in the middle of a fire, saying that he wouldn't be burnt but, secretly, Holika and Hiranyakashipu hoped he would die.
- As the flames went up, Vishnu made the magic shawl fly up and wrap around Prahlad to protect him and, instead, Holika died in the fire and Prahlad was saved.
- Hindu people celebrate Holi by lighting bonfires with effigies of Holika and singing and dancing around them.
- They also take coloured powder paints and throw these at each other to create clouds of colour—It is a very colourful festival!
- People eat many delicious foods and, in particular, lots of sweet foods such as malpuas, gujya and mathri, which they exchange with friends and family.
- Finally, they create Rangoli patterns using coloured rice in front of their homes to welcome the Hindu God, Lakshmi, into their homes and to bless its residents with wealth and good fortune.