



R.E. Ideas

Autumn Term 2015

Price £1.00

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Festivals through the year

Sometimes I struggle to do justice to festivals with time constraints and planning requirements of the Literacy and Numeracy Framework, RE curriculum and Skills Curriculum. Then one day my teaching assistant Chris had a light bulb moment, " In December all our plans revolve around Christmas and we fit everything in and we have lots of fun, pity we can't do everything around the other festivals." I accepted the challenge! So this is my attempt to do all my RE through Festivals in one year, covering all the main areas of Leaders, Sacred Places, Sacred Texts, Jesus and Belonging. I have had to cut it down to fit on here, but feel free to use this as a start.

Overview - Grouped by season rather than month as some festivals change each year
 J=Jewish Festival, M=Muslim, C=Christian H=Hindu

Autumn	Harvest – Thanksgiving for God's bounty Sukkot (J) – Remembering the 40 years spent in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land Remembrance Day – Finding ways to remember those who are not with us Diwali (H) – Festival of Lights – Story of Rama and Sita Hanukah (J) – Festival of Lights – Story of the Maccabees Eid-UI-Adha (M) – Sacrifice – Story of Abraham and Isaac St Andrew (C) – Patron saint of Scotland, fishermen, fishmongers and rope-makers Advent (C) – Time of preparation Christmas (C) – Celebration of Jesus' birth in Bethlehem
Spring	Epiphany (C) – Visit of the three kings – Realisation that Jesus is son of God St Dwynwen's Day(C) – Welsh saint of lovers – Friendship St David's Day (C) – Patron saint of Wales – Monasteries St Patrick's Day (C) – Patron saint of Ireland – spread the word of God Pesach (J) – Passover – commemorates the Exodus Purim (J) – Esther saves the Jewish people Holi (H) – Festival of colours – A time to repair relationships Easter (C) – Sacrifice
Summer	St George's Day (C) – Patron saint of England – Prominent military saint – bravery Ascension Day (C) – Saying goodbye Pentecost (C) – descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles Ramadan (M) – holiest month – Fasting is one of the pillars of Islam Eid-UI-Fitr (M) – A time for giving aid to the poor – a time to contact friends Shavuot (J) – Moses receives the ten commandments

Autumn

Harvest

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 verse 2 'There is a time for everything... under the heavens.'
RE links: Thanksgiving, Creation
Curriculum links: food and farming; growing; life cycles; food miles; Farm to Fork



Sukkot

Remembering the 40 years spent in the wilderness on the way to the Promised Land
RE links: Impact religion has on the lives of believers
Curriculum links: Building shelters, refugees and the homeless

Remembrance Day

Finding ways to remember those who are no longer with us. Set up a remembering table. This can be for people we don't see very often. Invite children to record their thoughts and feelings (Expressing personal responses)



Diwali

Story of Rama and Sita
RE links: – good against evil; making decisions; working together
Curriculum links: Art - make diya lamps from clay. Decorate with dots. Which other cultures use dots for decoration?



Hanukkah

Festival of Lights – Menorah candle
RE links: Story of the Maccabees – oil lasted longer than expected.
Curriculum links: recycling, conserve energy, resources



Eid-UI-Adha

Story of Abraham and Isaac
RE links: Sacrifice; Belonging; Leaders – Abraham's story is mentioned in Torah, Bible and Qu'ran
Curriculum Links: Family; Animals; People Who Help Us

St Andrew

Patron saint of Scotland, fishermen, fishmongers and rope-makers
RE Links: Matthew Ch 4 v 19 – 'fishers of men'
Curriculum links: food and farming; sealife; Jobs



Don't forget
Advent and
Christmas!



Spring



Epiphany



Matthew Chapter 2 verses 1-12'
 RE links: Visit of the Magi; Belonging; celebrations
 Curriculum links: Giving thanks; journeys; mapping; religious texts

The Saints



RE links: Spirituality; religious leaders; places of worship; places of pilgrimage in Wales → Britain → Europe → Religious art and icons
 Curriculum links: Journeys; personal qualities; mapping; Mother Teresa; modern day saints/heroes and heroines; Create own stained glass window

Pesach

Exodus Chapter 12

RE links: Leaders – Moses; religious texts; seder plate and meal; religious symbolism
 Curriculum links: Giving thanks; rules;

Purim

Book of Esther

RE links: Leaders – Esther; religious texts;
 Curriculum links: Equality; challenging stereotypes; heroes and heroines; role models;

Holi



RE links: Celebration; friendship
 Curriculum links: experimenting with colour; fire and light; using dyes in art;



Don't forget Easter!

Summer

St George's Day

RE links: Military saint
 Curriculum links: bravery; Help for Heroes; right and wrong



Pentecost

RE links: descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles; faith; Paul
 Curriculum links: fire; people who have changed their lives.





Ramadan

RE links: 5 pillars of Islam; fasting; pilgrimage; faith in action; food laws;
Curriculum links: Food; famine; harvest; celebration foods; food distribution.

Eid-UI-Fitr

RE links: A time for giving aid to the poor; charity
Curriculum links: Fairtrade; new clothes; recycling old things; Letter writing; community halls

Shavuot

RE links: Also known as Feast of Weeks; Moses receives the ten commandments; sacred texts;
Curriculum links: Harvest; decoration; dairy products.



Am I Covered?

KS2	Festival	Foundation Phase
• the origin and purpose of life	Harvest, Sukkot	Knowledge and Understanding of the World
• the natural world and living things	Harvest, Sukkot	Knowledge and Understanding of the World
• human identity	Pentecost, Pesach, Divali	Well-being Personal development
• meaning and purpose of life	Ramadan	Moral and spiritual development
• belonging	Purim, Epiphany, Eid-UI-Adha, Remembrance Day	Personal development
• authority and influence	Shavuot	Social development
• relationships and responsibility	Eid-UI-Fitr Eid-UI-Adha	Social development
• the journey of life	Saints, Sukkot, Pentecost	Moral and spiritual development
• knowledge and experience regarding the non-material/spiritual	Saints,	Moral and spiritual development

RESOURCES from REMW (Religious Education Movement Wales)

Resources Catalogue, Publications and past copies of 'R.E. Ideas' available
Primary Publications – Pobl Arbennig ; Adegau Arbennig; Iesu;
Y Nadolig – o flwyddyn i flwyddyn; Mannau Arbennig
Cyfres Ymchwilio i Thema: i Codau Byw; i Ddathliadau; i Gredoau ac
i Gwestiynau Dyrys.

ENGLISH TITLE Amazing Lives (100 stories of faith- useful for Cwricwlwm Cymreig)

Secondary Publications – What the Welsh Churches say on moral and social issues;
Barn yr Eglwysi ar faterion moesol a chyndeithasol.

General: More than Just RE (CEMW Annual Lectures)

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