



Year 3 - Why are some times special?



In this unit of work, pupils will explore special times and their significance in different religions



As a religious educator I will explore:

- names of various celebrations in different religions
- who contributes to the celebrations
- What do people eat during the celebration
- When does the celebration happen/occur
- Some interesting facts about the celebration
- Does the celebration show some similarities from any other celebrations from across the world
- How do celebrations around the world differ

What should I already know?

As a religious educator I know that:

- festivals may be religious festivals.
- they may also be events which feature music, dancing, poetry
- among many religions, a feast is a set of celebrations in honour of Gods or God.
- celebrations around the world include Chinese New Year, Hannukkah, Ramadan and Christmas
- celebrating a special day with other people makes the party more fun and livelier.
- The traditional festivals have been celebrated for ages and the rituals are being followed generation after generation.

Key vocabulary

Anniversary	the date on which an event took place
birthday	a date on which a person was born
celebration	a joyful event like a birthday
commemorate	Recall and show respect
Celebrate	acknowledge an event with social gathering
Festive	relating to a festival
Festival	is a gathering of people to celebrate something
procession	A number of people moving forward as part of a ceremony

Skills

- Appreciation and wonder
- P4C
- British values

Diversity

Understanding different cultures and beliefs

Christianity

As a religious educator I will know that:

- **Advent** reminds Christians of the sacred meaning of Christmas. The four themes of Advent are :
 - God's people- The candle of Hope
 - The old testament prophets- The Candle of Peace
 - John the Baptist- The Candle of Love
 - Mary the mother of Jesus- The Candle of Joy
- The **Easter** cycle
 - **Lent** begins on **Ash Wednesday**, six and a half weeks before Easter and provides for a 40 day fast
 - **Holy week**- the events, the ways in which they are celebrated by the Christian Church
 - **Maundy Thursday** links with celebrating Jesus' last meal
 - **Ascension -Pentecost**

Key Vocabulary

- Advent- reminds Christians to remember and prepare for the birth of Jesus
- Easter- is celebrating the belief in the resurrection of Jesus Christ
- Lent is the preparation of the believer for **Easter** through prayer, repentance of sins, alms giving, simple living and self-denial
- Ascension- the act of rising

Hinduism

As a religious educator I will know that:

- India is a land of festivals.
- Every celebration centres around the rituals of prayers, seeking blessings, decorating homes, wearing new clothes, music, dance and feasting.
- Some of the key Hindu festivals are:
 - Holi: also known as 'festival of colours'
 - Divali: also known as 'festival of light'
 - Raksha bandhan: also known as 'rakhi'. On this day, sisters tie 'rakhi' on the wrists of their brothers to protect them against evil influences and pray for their long life and happiness.

Key Vocabulary

- Holi celebrates the arrival of Spring, end of Winter and beginning of a good Spring Harvest season
- Raksha Bandhan celebrates the pure bond between brothers and sisters
- Divali is a time to celebrate the triumph of light over darkness, knowledge over ignorance and good over evil

Judaism

As a religious educator I will know that:

- There are many Jewish festivals that are very important as they not only allow communities to gather together but they also link Jews to their past
- Some important Jewish festivals are:
 - Yom Kippur*
 - Rosh Hashanah*
 - Purim*
 - Sukkot*

Key Vocabulary

Purim- commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, a Persian official who was planning to kill all the Jews in the empire

Sukkot- commemorates the years that the Jews spent in the desert and celebrates how God protected them under difficult

Yom Kippur – day of atonement. It is the holiest day of the year. It is a day to reflect on the past and ask God's forgiveness for any sins. Jews do not work or go to school on this day.

Islam

As a religious educator I will know that:

- According to the fourth pillar of Islam, **Ramadan** is an important time for Muslims.
- Muslims show their obedience to Allah by observing the fast of **Ramadan**
- **Ramadan** affects all areas of the Muslim's daily life, for example, sleep patterns, physical activity

Key Vocabulary

Five pillars of Islam- are some basic acts in Islam and are the foundation of Muslim life.

Ramadan- is a month of fasting, prayers and reflection observed by Muslims