#### Beech Hill Primary School Knowledge Organiser



Topic:	Year group	Term
Christmas and Hannukkah	Year 2	7 Sessions
Birth of Jesus - symbolism of light		

#### Background knowledge

The focus of this unit is the theme of celebration through the exploration and experience of the festivals of Christmas and Hannukkah. The starting point is the familiar practice of giving gifts at Christmas, which is shared by most Christians and people from a secular background, then the unit explores the Christian belief that Jesus is God's gift to and the light of the world. The unit also explores the origins and significance of some of the practices associated with the Jewish festival of Hannukkah, including the symbol of light.

## What should I already know?

- I know the story of the birth of Jesus.
- I know Christians think of Jesus as a gift from God.
- I know some gifts can be gifts of feelings e.g. love, happiness and hope.

R.E. Agreed Syllabus / Key Skills	The Journey
Know the basic story of the birth of	<ol> <li>Know about the key features of the</li> </ol>
Jesus - emphasis on Christmas as a	Hannukkah story and festival.
'festival of light'	<ol><li>Explain the importance of light and understand light represents the</li></ol>
To explore the symbolism of light/the	presence of God.
star and customs associated with light.	<ol><li>Know what is meant by the idea of something being special or precious.</li></ol>
Introduction of the Christian belief of	4. Know why giving is an important idea
Jesus as 'the light of the world'	for Christians and is central to how
Advent candle; Christingle	they celebrate Christmas
	5. Know what is of value to Christians and
I can talk about the festival of	how this might be expressed in action
Hannukkah.	6. Retell the story of the birth of Jesus.
I can describe the importance of light.	7. To prepare for Christmas service in
I understand the idea of something being special.	church / to make Christmas crafts e.g. cards.
I can describe some of the things	
Christians do to celebrate Christmas.	
I can retell the story of the birth of	
Jesus.	

#### **Outcomes**

An overview of what children will know / can do

Working towards: Children will retell elements of the story of Christmas with support. They will describe their own feelings and experiences of giving and receiving gifts. They will start to understand the importance of light. They will be able to describe some parts of the festival of Hannukkah.

**Expected:** Children will retell the main events associated with Christmas. They will understand the concept of a precious, special gift, and relate the idea of giving and receiving gifts to their own experience. They will understand the importance of light. Children will know the origins of the festival of Hannukkah and some practices associated with it.

**Exceeding:** Children will explain that Christians believe that Jesus is God's gift to the world, which is why they give gifts at Christmas. They will make connections between the stories of the birth of Jesus and Christian attitudes to gifts, giving and forgiveness. They will understand that light represents God's presence. Children will make connections between some of the rituals of Hannukkah with key features of the Hannukkah story.

### Key Vocabulary

Angels - are powerful, smart spirits that obey God's commands and praise him with singing. They sometimes appear to humans in human form. They can deliver messages to people in person or in dreams.

Jesus - Jesus of Nazareth, is the central figure of Christianity.

Christmas - is when we celebrate the birth of the Christ child Jesus.

Frankincense- burned in Jerusalem's sacred temples during ancient times.

Myrrh - is used as a medicine and a perfume. Gold - Gold is very valuable and represents God's love because His love is more precious and more valuable than all the gold.

The three gifts (gold, frankincense and myrrh) had a spiritual meaning

Hope - To desire especially with expectation that the wish will be granted

Love - Strong and warm affection

Joy - Joy is the expression of inner happiness and contentment.

Peace - Agreement and harmony among people.

Hannukkah - is a Jewish holiday that lasts for eight nights and usually occurs in December. It is also known as the Festival of Lights. Hanukkah celebrates a military victory of the Jews over foreign rulers. ... The Jews then cleaned, rebuilt, and rededicated the Temple in 164 bc

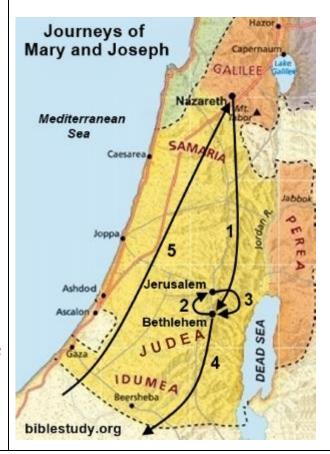
Latkes - is a small pancake usually made with grated potatoes. Latkes are traditionally eaten during Hanukkah.

Menorah - is a candelabrum with eight candles that is displayed in Jewish synagogues.

### Timeline / Diagrams

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday which celebrates the victory of the Maccabees over the larger Syrian army. It also celebrates a miracle that happened during this time, where just a day's supply of oil allowed the menorah in the rededicated Temple in Jerusalem to remain lit for eight days.

Hanukkah commemorates a historical event that took place in Jerusalem in the 2nd century BCE, when the Greek empire was the ruling power. In 168 BCE, the king Antiochus IV Epiphanes outlawed Jewish practice and defiled the Jewish Temple in the city by installing an altar to Zeus Olympios and sacrificing pigs.



## Key people / places

# Important people or places

Mary

Joseph

Baby Jesus

Angel Gabriel

Shepherds

Inn Keeper

Three wise men

King Herod

Jerusalem

Nazareth

Judah Maccabee

King Antiochus

Great Temple of Jerusalem

# Assessment questions / outcomes

What is meant by the idea of something being precious or special?

Why do people give gifts at Christmas?

Why do Christians think of Jesus as God's gift to the world?

How and why is Hannukkah celebrated?

What is the origin and meaning of some of the activities associated with Hannukkah?