

Early Years Foundation Stage

Unit title: Celebrating Special Times

What happens at Easter?

Context	Key underlying ideas/concepts
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter is the most important Christian festival At Easter Christians remember the Bible stories about Jesus' death on the cross on Good Friday and Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day Christians attend church services, sing Easter hymns, give cards and light candles as symbols of new life Christians and non-Christians traditionally give chocolate Easter eggs: the egg is a symbol of new life 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sadness of Jesus' crucifixion and death on Good Friday Happiness/joy of Jesus' resurrection on Easter Day. For Christians, Jesus' resurrection meant that he had overcome death Symbols of sadness: crucifix, hot cross buns Symbols of joy/new life: Easter eggs, flowers, Easter cards
Links to Early Learning Goals	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Personal, social and emotional development: spiritual development Knowledge and understanding of the world: exploring and investigating growth and change 	
Main elements of the unit	Suggestions for practical activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sadness and happiness 	<p>Use masks to show happy and sad faces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss expressions and feelings associated with facial expressions Discuss what makes the children happy Make happy bubbles and draw pictures to illustrate being happy Circle Time focus: What makes me sad? What makes me happy? Circle Time focus: When you are feeling sad, what can make you happy? eg a cuddle
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The stories of Good Friday and Easter Day (Use Story Sack) 	<p>Tell the Good Friday and Easter Day stories using a Children's Bible/ in your own words</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sort pictures of the story into sad and happy Draw sad and happy parts from the story: share pictures Retell the stories using happy/sad masks, held up at relevant points
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How Christians celebrate Easter 	<p>Focus on objects and activities of the Easter festival</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collect objects/artefacts which remind Christians of Easter eg hot cross buns, Easter eggs, Easter cards Make a display of Easter objects/artefacts Make Easter cards Learn an Easter greeting eg 'Happy Easter'

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Key questions to ask

- What makes me happy or sad?
- Why is the Easter story sad?
- Why is the Easter story happy?
- Can we talk about some special Easter objects/artefacts?
- Can we learn an Easter greeting?

Story sack

- Children's Bible or book about Good Friday and Easter Day stories
- Easter Card
- Cross
- Easter egg
- Candle