

## YEAR 6 RE

### National Curriculum expectations:

Is Christmas sacred or secular?

### The unit will provide these opportunities:

- To learn the Christmas story
- Consider traditional Christmas compared to the original Christmas
- To consider whether Christmas is a sacred or secular celebration

### Useful website:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/ztkxpv4/articles/zdjf4j>

### Key Vocabulary

Christmas—The annual festival of the Christian church commemorating the birth of Jesus: celebrated on December 25 and now generally observed as a legal holiday and an occasion for exchanging gifts.

Sacred—connected with religion

Secular -of or relating to worldly things or to things that are not regarded as religious, spiritual, or sacred; temporal:

Advent—Advent is the period which leads up to Christmas. It starts on the Sunday nearest to **Saint Andrew's Day** (30 November).



### Important members of the Christmas story:

Angel Gabriel - Messenger of God who told Mary of her conception.

Mary— Mother of Jesus

Wise men— Scholars who studied the sky and travelled to be at the birth of Jesus.

King Herod— King at the time. Feared Jesus would replace him and he ordered all young boys in Bethlehem to be killed by his soldiers in order for this new king to be removed.

The story of Jesus's birth (also known as **the nativity**) is often retold by children taking part in nativity plays.

Christian church services at Christmas include **carol singing**. These are happy songs which tell the Christmas story. Some Christians start Christmas Day with a midnight communion service (also called a midnight mass).

Christmas dinners are also an important part of the celebrations. Families and friends will share food together, eating traditional foods, such as turkey, mince pies and Christmas puddings.