

Caroline Haslett Primary School – RE

**Topic: Unit 2 - Light;
Belief; Advent; Diwali;
Chanukah/Hanukkah**

Year 3

**Is light a good symbol for
celebration?**

Knowledge

Diwali is a 'festival of lights'. The Diwali story is about Rama rescuing Sita from a demon King Ravana. Their way home was guided by lights. Light is a triumph of good over evil.

At Hanukkah light demonstrates the power of God. The temple in Jerusalem had been destroyed. When the temple lamp was relit, there was not enough oil to keep it alight. Miraculously what was there lasted for 8 days.

The New Testament refers to Jesus as the Light of the World. The approach of Christmas is marked by the lighting of Advent Candles.

In baptism, a candle shows passing from darkness to light and Christians are said to live in the light of Jesus.



Vocabulary

- **Advent** – the four weeks leading up to Christmas
- **Baptism** – a Christian ceremony of belonging
- **Chanukah/Hanukkah** – Jewish festival of light
- **Christmas** – Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus
- **Diwali** – Hindu festival of light
- **Hanukiah** – candlestick only used during Hanukkah
- **New Testament** – The second part of the Christian Bible with stories of Jesus



Activities

- Explore the phrase from the baptism service: *“This is to show that you have passed from darkness into light. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father”.*
- Explore the concept of Jesus as “Light of the World” using the Holman Hunt picture.
- Explore the festivals of Advent, Chanukah and Diwali and the way that they all use light.
- Look at advent wreaths and the meaning of the candles and the way that a candle is lit through advent.

Skills

- Retell the story of Christmas, Diwali or Chanukah
- Suggest two reasons why light is a good symbol for Christmas
- Talk about the things that are similar between the festivals
- Suggest meanings for the symbols of light in Diwali or Chanukah
- Ask and respond to questions about why people choose to celebrate with light