



THE BLACKBURN
DIOCESAN BOARD
OF EDUCATION



#OFFTHESHELF

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PENTECOST

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What does this remind you about something Jesus said, a Bible story or your faith?

Post your thoughts below in the comment section

Pentecost is one of the most significant days in the Christian year. Pentecost takes place ten days after the Ascension and celebrates the arrival of the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-21).

The Holy Spirit is the promised helper and comforter who Jesus told his disciples to wait for just before he ascended back into heaven. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity who fills the hearts of believers with the fruits of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness and self control (Galatians 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit is an invisible power who works in Christians to build God's kingdom here on earth.

The aim of these resources is to explore the story, symbolism and impact of the Holy Spirit on the lives of the disciples and Christians today.

Lisa ☺



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The story of Pentecost can be found in the Book of Acts chapter 2, in the New Testament. There are also many retellings in children's Bibles and on line. Use this QR code to watch the film and see how closely it stays true to the Bible story.



If you can, print off a copy of this picture and look carefully at the stained glass. Which part of the story is being shown here? Design two new windows; one to show what was happening just before, and the other to show what was happening just after this part of the story.

Read the story again and add key words to your designs and the original picture copying the style of Hannah Dunnett which you can see by scanning this QR code .



Watch and listen to the children retelling the story of Pentecost in this video .



Take some selfies of your face, expressing the feelings of the disciples and people in the crowd.

The children in the video say that this is not the end of the story, do you agree? Why? Why not?



We cannot see the wind, but we can see the effects of the wind. Discuss with an adult the power of the wind. Look out of the window, is the wind blowing? How do you know? Stand at the door, can you feel the wind?

The wind blows the sails of the windmill, and makes the wind turbines turn. The wind turbines generate electricity. Perhaps they could be a modern symbol of the Holy Spirit. What do you think? Why?

The wind can make a loud sound. Scan the QR code and listen and watch the trees in the YouTube Clip for a few moments

On the day of Pentecost 'there was a noise like a strong wind blowing' (Acts 2:2). How do you think the disciples felt when the wind of the Holy Spirit blew on them? The wind of the Holy Spirit changed them. How? Write your answers to these questions in two sentences and then raid your recycling and make your own wind turbine or windmill.

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This stained glass is in the Lantern Tower in Blackburn Cathedral. Visit the Cathedral web site and you can see the lantern tower in the centre of the cathedral roof. If you Google image search, you will find many photographs of the glass and the colourful patterns that are created when the light shines through it.

Print the picture and place it in the centre of a larger piece of paper. Your challenge is to continue creating the stained glass using paint, crayons or chalk etc. The colours of the glass represent the Holy Spirit. Discuss with an adult which colours you are going to choose to use in your creation, and how they represent the Holy Spirit.

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The dove is a symbol of the Holy Spirit. It is mentioned on other occasions in the Bible such as Jesus' baptism (Mark 1:9-11). The dove is also a symbol of peace. Peace is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Read the letter written by St Paul to the Galatians (Chapter 5:22-23) in the New Testament. Make a list of the fruits of the Spirit. Do you recognise any of them? Are they the Christian values you try to follow? Of course they are! As a school or family group make a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the fruits of the Spirit in action. I wonder if you think any particular fruits of the Spirit are flourishing at the moment? Can you think of any stories in the news that are telling us about the fruits of the Spirit and Christian values in action? Make a note of them to share when you are back at school.

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This piece of Artwork is above the font in Colombo Cathedral, Sri Lanka.

Begin by finding Sri Lanka on a world map. (It is a small island off the coast of India). Then find Jerusalem, in Israel, on the map. This is where the disciples were when the Holy Spirit filled them. I wonder, how did the good news of Jesus travel from Jerusalem to Sri Lanka? In fact, how did the disciples manage to fulfil Jesus command to go and tell the good news to all nations? What modes of transport and communication did they have?

Imagine if Pentecost happened today, in normal circumstances not in lockdown, once the disciples had received the Holy Spirit what would they have done next? Write a new chapter for the book of Acts describing what the actions of the disciples might have been if they were able to use today's technology.

