Year 2 Autumn 2	Theme/Unit: Why does Christmas matter to Christians? (To be used alongside the Understanding Christianity booklet with particular reference to the essential information).	KS1
Learning Objectives/Intended Learning Outcomes. By the end of this unit children are expected to: Give a clear, simple account of the story of Jesus' birth and why Jesus is important for Christians. Recognise that stories of Jesus' life come from the Gospels. Assessment Opportunities. Pupils will know that Christians believe that Jesus is God and that he was born as a baby in Bethlehem.	Sequence of activities over several lessons: Step 1 What do you do and see at Christmas time? (Enquire) Look at signs of Christmas either around the school if possible or by looking at adverts on YouTube-the Learning Shed has lots of great ones or by looking in magazines. Why do you think Christmas matters? What is important about Christmas to you? Why do you think it matters to Christians? Make lists of what the children have said or write them on post it notes or make a poster so that you can refer back to it at the end of the unit and see if any ideas have changed. Step 2 What do Christians believe about the birth of Jesus? (Contextualize-MAKING SENSE OF THE TEXT) Look at a picture of baby Jesus. What can we tell about him just by looking at his picture? Although Jesus might not have looked particularly special, Christians believe he was actually very special indeed — they believe he was God on Earth! Explain that Christians believe that God came to Earth to be with people and show them how to live. When God first came, he was not a big man, just a baby with a mummy called Mary. Discuss who in the class has younger siblings, cousins, and so on, how we feel when new babies are on the way and born, and what we do to prepare. Invite a mum in with a new baby on the way if possible or a mum with a new baby. *Think about getting a bedroom ready for a new baby, and discuss what you would put into it. Although all babies are special, imagine the new baby is even more special than most, because this one is also God. How could we make the bedroom extra special? Hundreds of toys, the most beautiful crib, special pictures	Key Concepts Relating to human experience Symbolic Used in investigating religions Specific to particular religions Freflection empathy comprehension investigation interpretation & analysis evaluation Attitudes curiosity open-mindedness self understanding respect wonder and appreciation Programme of Study-linking Understanding Christianity and Living Difference 111 Enquiry & skills. Pupils should be taught how to:

 The Bible points out that his birth showed that he was extraordinary (for example, he is worshipped as a king, in Matthew) and that he came to bring good news (for example, to the poor, in Luke). Christians celebrate Jesus' birth: Advent for Christians is a time getting ready for Jesus' coming.

on the walls? Ask pupils to recreate the room through paint, collage, construction blocks or junk modelling.

Ask pupils to imagine who would come to visit such a baby.

Step 3 What does the story tell us about the importance of Christmas? (Evaluate-MAKING CONNECTIONS)

• Tell the story from the Gospel of Luke through simply reading it, watching a version of it on You tube, acting it out or a Christmas trail around the inside and outside areas. At each stop of the trail have a picture or sentences that can be taken back to class and used to retell the story.

Short books could be made or a dice with the pictures on it so that when they are rolled the child has to tell another child that part of the story.

Look back at the ideas for Jesus' bedroom. Compare with the living conditions that Jesus actually got. Who was it that came to visit Jesus? Not rich people but shepherds etc. This shows that God came to earth to bring good news to everyone even the poorest among us.

<u>Step 4 What is your own or others experience of what happens at Christmas time? (Communicate-UNDERSTANDNG THE IMPACT)</u>

Introduce the word ADVENT which children will probably have heard many times in school or at home. The 4 weeks leading up to Christmas are Advent where Christians wait and prepare for baby Jesus. Talk about the candles and the Advent wreath that will have been started in Collective Worship.

Look at the Big Story Frieze recapping their knowledge of it. God coming to earth as a baby is also part of this story and look at where this part is. Talk about the word INCARNATION which means in the flesh and ask them if they know what this means in relation to Jesus.

<u>Step 5 Why do you think that Christmas matters to Christians? (Apply-MAKING CONNECTIONS)</u>

Explain that Christmas is a time when many Christians thank God that Jesus came down to earth to show and tell people how to live. Invite Alice in to talk about her views on Christmas and what she does to get the Church ready for this important event. Think about thankfulness in relation to the story. What thank-you prayers and sentences might some of the characters have said?

<u>Enquire</u> into concepts that are significant in religious & non-religious experiences.

<u>Contextualise</u> the concept within religious practice and explore the diversity of practice and belief.

<u>Evaluate</u> the concept within one or more religions.

<u>Communicate</u> their own understanding of the concept.

Apply their own understanding of the concept to situations in their own and others' lives.