

Reception

Early Years

PENTECOST – SERVING

Come and See for yourself

EXPLORE

Each of us, by the way we live our lives, the way we treat others, and by our words and actions, show if we have an attitude of service.

Often, we are especially influenced by those whose actions speak powerfully of a life of service.

- Q Think of someone who impresses you deeply because of the way she/he lives.
- Q What is it that impresses you?
- Q What do you think inspires them?

REVEAL

Christians believe that the Spirit of God is active in each person and, in a special way, in the community of believers, which is the Church. It is the work of the Spirit to enable people to hear God's message and to live Jesus' way of service.

Word of God

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”

Luke 4: 18-19

Catechism of the Catholic Church

“Those, who with God’s help, have welcomed Christ’s call and freely responded to it, are urged on by love of Christ to proclaim the Good News everywhere in the world. This treasure, received from the apostles, has been faithfully guarded by their successors. All Christ’s faithful are called to hand it on from generation to generation, by professing the faith, by living it in fraternal sharing, and by celebrating it in liturgy and prayer.”

(CCC Prologue 3)

Q How is this lived out in your life today?

RESPOND

- Q In what ways is serving emphasised in the classroom and throughout the school?
- Q How can you help children to appreciate their energy and use it for the good of others?
- Q In what ways may a school community draw on the power of the Holy Spirit?

Prayer and Reflection

*Father, pour out your Spirit
upon your people,
and grant us
a new vision of your glory,
a new faithfulness to your Word
and a new consecration to your service,
that your love may grow among us,
and your kingdom come:
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

(Prayer of preparation for Vatican II)

**Background notes for
parents**

RECEPTION FOCUS: That everyone has good news to tell.

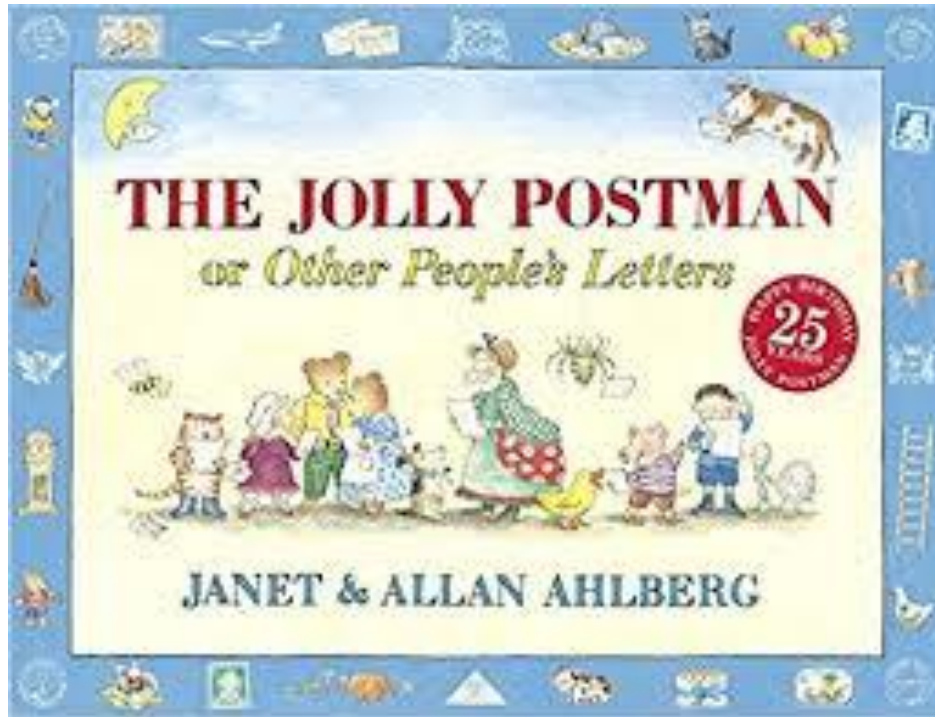
I can begin to **talk about** how I feel when I have good news to share.

I can begin to say what I **wonder** about the joy good news brings.

Can you remember a time
when you had some good news?



Read the story ‘The Jolly Postman’
or click on the link below.



SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q Who received the good news?
- Q How did they receive the good news?
- Q How did they feel?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gpeo_0yoD0k

Background notes for parents

REVEAL

Pentecost: the celebration of the Good News of Jesus

CONTENT: – scripture – tradition – prayers

AREAS OF LEARNING

Early Learning Goals (England/Wales)
Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

KEY WORDS

alleluia, promise, Easter, Holy Spirit, Good News

STANDARD INDICATOR

Some children will begin to **recognise** the Pentecost story as a religious story.

Some children will begin to use and **recognise** some religious words such as Pentecost, Good News, alleluia, Easter, Holy Spirit.

Some children will begin to **recognise** that Christians are happy at Pentecost and go to church to celebrate the Good News.

Some children will begin to **talk about** how they feel when they hear the Good News.

Some children will begin to say what they **wonder** about Pentecost Day and the Holy Spirit.

RECEPTION FOCUS WEEK 1: The coming of the Holy Spirit

I can **recognise** the Pentecost story as a religious story.

I can begin to use and **recognise** some religious words such as Pentecost, Good News, alleluia, Easter, Holy Spirit.

Can you make an Easter Garden?



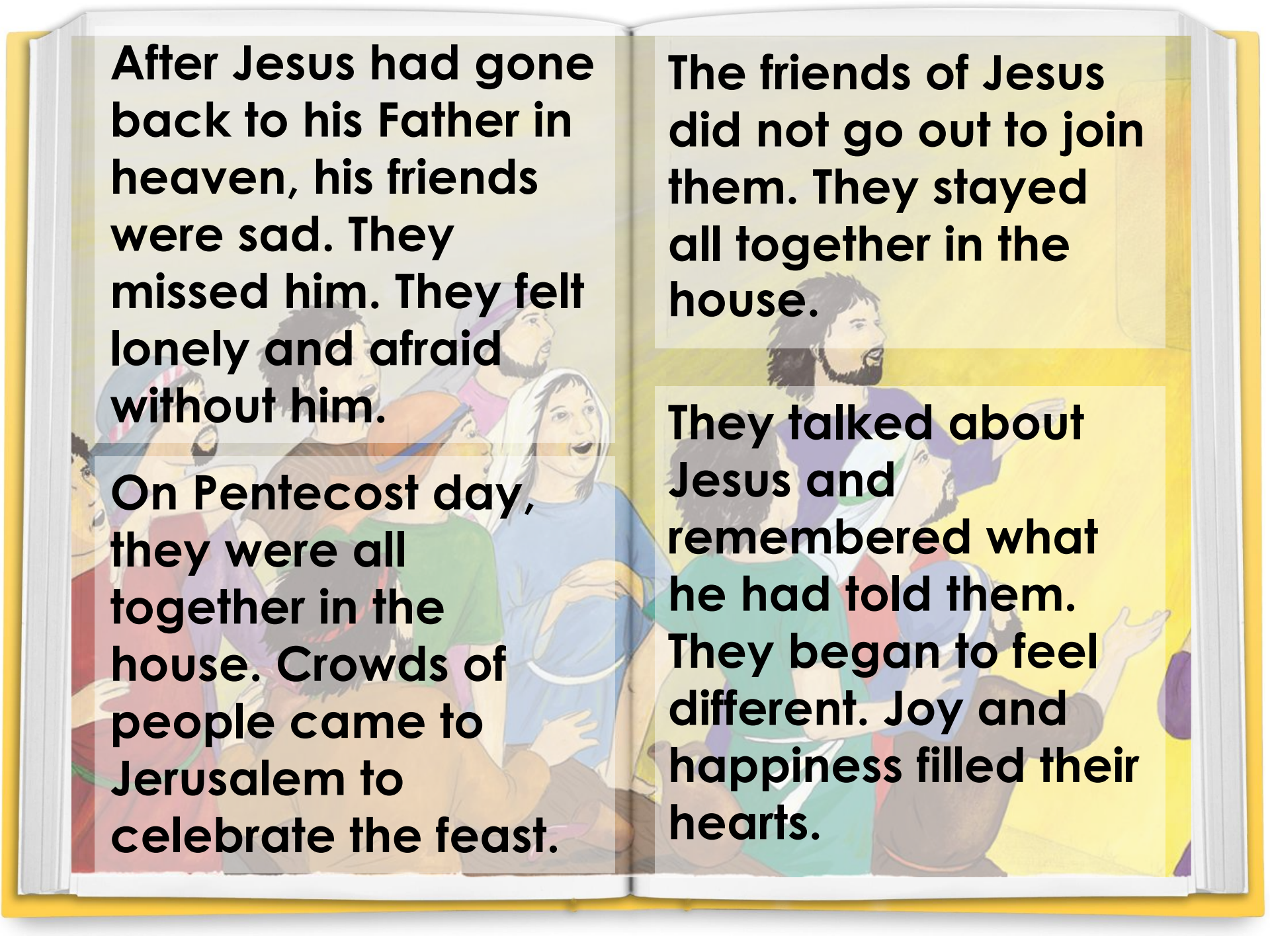
Gather around the Easter Garden – make sure there is a white a drape. With the children, recall the Good News of Easter for the friends of Jesus. God his Father gave Jesus new life on Easter Sunday. ‘Alleluia’ is the Church’s special Easter word meaning ‘Praise God’.

Let's read the scripture
together.....

Good News

Good News



An illustration of Jesus with a beard and long hair, wearing a purple robe, standing in the center. He is surrounded by several people, including a woman in a blue dress and a man in a green shirt, who appear to be listening or talking to him. The background is a soft, light yellow.

After Jesus had gone back to his Father in heaven, his friends were sad. They missed him. They felt lonely and afraid without him.

On Pentecost day, they were all together in the house. Crowds of people came to Jerusalem to celebrate the feast.

The friends of Jesus did not go out to join them. They stayed all together in the house.

They talked about Jesus and remembered what he had told them. They began to feel different. Joy and happiness filled their hearts.

**It was wonderful.
They knew that Jesus
had kept his promise
to send a new friend,
the Holy Spirit. “Let’s
go out and join the
crowds.” Peter said.
“Let’s tell them the
Good News that
Jesus is alive.”**



Based on Acts 2: 1-4



Good News

Teaching Point

It is difficult at this age for children to understand the abstract concept of the Holy Spirit. We use images such as air and wind to help us explain the power of the Holy Spirit. The effects of these elements are what we want the children to explore and thereby deepen their understanding.

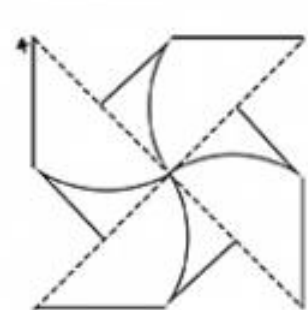
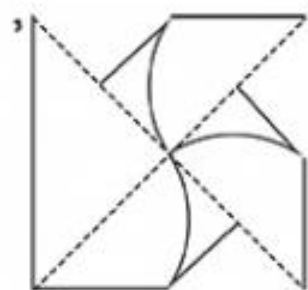
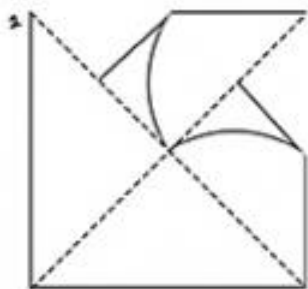
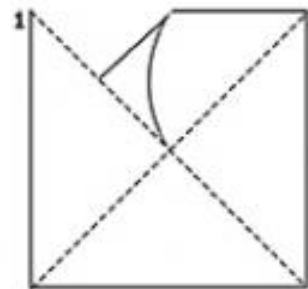
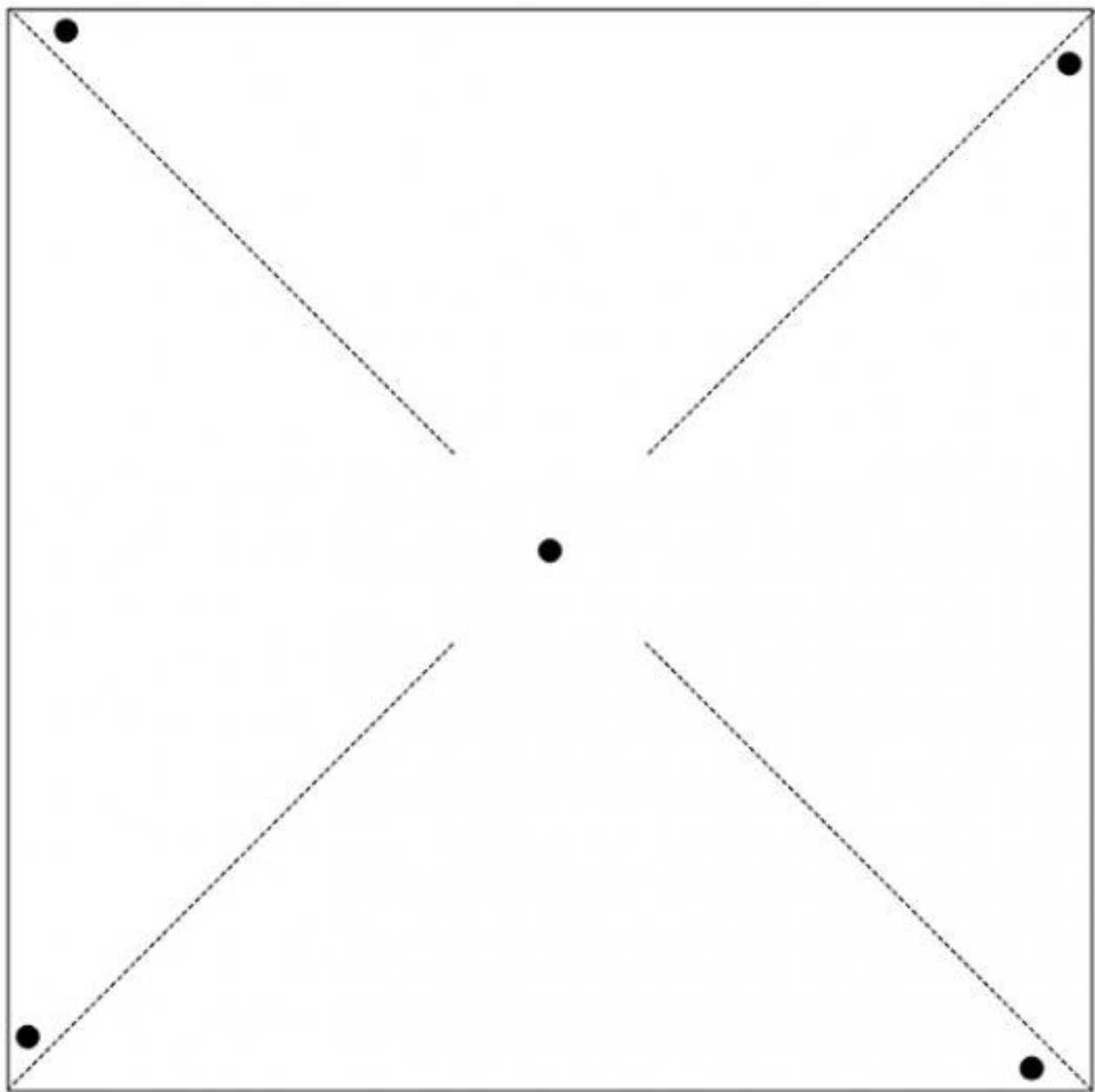
SOME KEY QUESTIONS

- Q How did the friends of Jesus feel after he went back to his Father?
- Q Have you ever felt like that? When?
- Q What did the friends of Jesus do?
- Q What happened on Pentecost day?
- Q How did the friends of Jesus feel?
- Q What did the friends of Jesus do after the coming of the Holy Spirit?

- Make windmills and take them outside to see the effects of the wind.
- Talk about what you see happening to the windmills.
- Talk about why we describe the Holy Spirit like wind.



WINDMILL
TEMPLATE



RECEPTION FOCUS WEEK 2: Pentecost: The celebration of the Good News of Jesus.

I can begin to **recognise** that Christians are happy at Pentecost and go to church to celebrate the Good News.

I can begin to **talk about** how they feel when they hear the Good News.

I can begin to say what they **wonder** about Pentecost Day and the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost is often named as the 'birthday of the Church'. The feast celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples.

The Holy Spirit is a new friend that Jesus had promised to send them. With a new friend the disciples felt full of joy and happiness.

They were no longer frightened and were able to go out and share the Good News with others.

What is happening?



Talk about people going to church to celebrate the Good News of the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. The people in the picture are coming together to share their happiness and joy because they are celebrating the Good News of Jesus who kept his promise and sent the Holy Spirit to be our friend. We can all share in this happiness.



- Make streamers with the words 'Share the Good News of Jesus with everyone' and create a dance with them.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9cZcJMOQdCU>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eWFBpS-pT6M>

RESPOND

Remembering, celebrating and responding to the understanding
that everyone has Good News
and that Pentecost is the celebration of the Good News of Jesus

Remember

Start the session with a moment of quiet reflection. Light a candle and make the sign of the cross. Provide your child with the opportunity to engage with questions of meaning and purpose related to *Good News*.

Ask the children if there is anything they wonder about

- Ask about how they and others feel when they have good news.
- Talk about the joy and happiness the Good News brings.
- Ask what they wonder about Pentecost Day.
- Ask what they wonder about the Holy Spirit.

Help your child to remember

- That everyone has good news to share.
- The happiness good news brings.
- The stories of Easter and Pentecost – Jesus sending his friend the Holy Spirit.
- Pentecost celebrates the Good News of Jesus.
- How the friends of Jesus felt.

Rejoice

Say a prayer together to celebrate the Good News of Jesus.

Apply their learning – Going Forth

How can I share the Good News?

What action can I take?

Make the sign of the cross and blow out the candle.

