



HIAS RE Primary e-newsletter

September 2026

Dear Primary RE leaders,

Welcome back to the beginning of the autumn term! I hope all of you are well, had a great summer break in the sunshine and that your new academic year has begun positively with your new classes. Welcome especially to this first HIAS primary RE e-newsletter of 2026 - 2027, which we will circulate at the beginning of each term. We want this to be a helpful way to keep in contact, share ideas and update you on national and local news.

Looking ahead we have a lot to consider for RE this academic year. The RE Council of England and Wales have published a very helpful guide for the proposal to place RE in the National Curriculum which can be found here: [National Curriculum and Religious Education – Teacher Briefing – REC](#). This states that there will be a public consultation on the draft National Curriculum at some point this month so of course we will keep you informed about this in our e news and in our training events.

The RE Syllabus Living Difference IV (readopted 2026) is available for you all on the Moodle and continues to be the same framework for your RE as it has been these past 5 years, so you can be rest assured that the same help and guidance is there for your teaching with the Syllabus.

To help you keep up to speed with all that is happening in RE there is a special event; RE Exchange, happening at Park Community School during the **afternoon of Wednesday 18 November**. The [flyer](#) will tell you all about this – the focus will be on inclusion in RE, teaching with the Syllabus, SEND, the national proposals for RE and planning ahead for the year. Do book on and be part of the conversation. It is for the afternoon only so we hope many of you will be able to attend.

HIAS RE Curriculum Website has moved

We would like to advise all schools that the HIAS RE website resources have moved from the Services Portal to the RE Moodle. All additional Medium Term Plans for use with Living Difference IV are now accessed via the RE Moodle [All courses | RE Moodle](#).

Hampshire Schools are able to log in using their existing school Moodle credentials. If you are unsure of your login details, please contact Laura Blair, RE Centre Manager, at re.centre@hants.gov.uk. Non-Hampshire schools can subscribe to the plans via [Subscription to additional Medium Term Plans for use with Living Difference IV – Fill in form](#)

RE Centre resources:

The RE Centre now have bookings open for the academic year, early booking is recommended. More information about the loan boxes can be found further on in the e-newsletter. The link for the order form is [Curriculum Centre order form](#).

Further RE resources:

The following resources will be of interest to you and are very helpful for your RE teaching:

- https://understandinghumanism.org.uk/res_films/where-do-we-come-from/
This is a short film looking at the scientific basis for considering how the world was made. It is an excellent film which shows the humanist view and can be used as well as resources to support the religion/s that are your focus in this unit.
- [Film Resources - Pennine Learning](#)
Pennine Learning have a large range of free film clips on many different aspects of Muslim, Jewish, Hindu and Sikhi faith which are very useful for teaching different concepts in these religions. They are short but contain a wealth of information on each religion.
- [Page 3 – TrueTube](#)
True Tube have a range of short film clips on many different religions and worldviews for both primary and secondary teachers of RE and PHSE. Key films include Holy Cribbs which feature a range of places of worship to help your teaching of key concepts, such as sacred, special, belonging or community. There are also many films specific to each religion or worldview so take a look and make use of them to help with background knowledge for your children.
- <https://www.reonline.org.uk/knowledge/christian-worldview-traditions/>
These are a series of comprehensive subject essays available through RE online. They focus on a variety of religions and traditions – do share with your teachers too.
- **The Jewish Living Experience Exhibition** is coming to Bournemouth from 2 November until 12 November 2026. For more information follow the link [Jewish Living Experience – Jewish Small Communities Network](#) or contact Lynda Ford-Horne, Jewish representative on BCP SACRE on living.judaism@hotmail.com or Marilyn Keen, Deputy for Bournemouth Community Hebrew Congregation for the Board of Deputies of British Jews on marilyn.keen@bhcsul.co.uk.
There is a suggested donation of £1.00 per pupil. More details can be found on the RE Moodle. In addition to the Jewish Living Experience the RE centre have teaching packs on Jewish Festivals: Sukkot and Hannukah, Life in Jewish Traditions, Passover and Shabbat.

Keep in touch!

Remember I am available to work 1:1 with you to support your curriculum development – talk to your head teacher if you would like half a day or perhaps two half days working with me or to provide support to a local cluster of RE leaders.

Meanwhile, please keep in touch with us in the Hampshire RE team and we are here as always to support you in your RE and to help with any queries you may have.

Have a wonderful summer term and keep in touch.

With best wishes

Justine

Justine Ball

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RE festival dates for Autumn 2

Useful festival dates (excerpts from the [SHAP calendar](#))

1 November	All Saints Day Christian
5 November	Anapansati Day Buddhist
8 November	Divali Hindu/Jain
8 November	Bandhi Chhor Divas Sikh
9-12 November	Divali Sikh
11 November	Remembrance Sunday
24 November	Guru Nanak Birthday Sikh
29 November	Advent Sunday Christian
5-12 December	Hannukah Jewish
8 December	Bodhi Day Buddhist
10 December	Human Rights Day
21 December	Yule/Winter Solstice Pagan
25 December	Christmas Day Christian

For more information and support, contact:

County RE Centre

email: re.centre@hants.gov.uk

Justine Ball, HIAS Inspector/Adviser for RE and History

email: justine.ball@hants.gov.uk

Online support:

[HIAS RE Moodle site](#)

Open resources are open access which don't require login details, Additional Medium Term Plans for use with LDIV will require Moodle login details.

Teaching about Autumn religious festivals and topics

Planning

Visit the HIAS RE Moodle Additional Medium Term Plans for use with Living Difference IV <https://re.hias.hants.gov.uk/> (free access for Hampshire schools; subscribable for non-Hampshire schools via [Subscription to additional Medium Term Plans for use with Living Difference IV](#)) or specified teaching packs or the RE Moodle site under open resources <https://re.hias.hants.gov.uk> for the following medium term plans:

Angels	KS1 Angels	Additional MTPs and RE pack RE001 Angels
Celebrating birthdays	FS/KS1 Christmas – celebrating Jesus’ birthday	RE Moodle , RE packs RE046 <i>Christmas at KS1</i> and RE021b <i>RE in FS</i>
Faith	KS2 The Annunciation story	Additional MTPs
Good and evil	KS2 Divali	Additional MTPs and RE pack RE010 <i>Hindu festivals</i>
Identity	KS2 Hannukah	Additional MTPs
Interpretation	KS2 Christmas: the two birth narratives	RE Moodle and RE pack RE004 <i>Christmas KS2</i>
Remembering	FS Guru Nanak	Additional MTPs
Symbol (light)	KS1 Candlelight at Advent and Sikh Divali / Hindu Divali	Additional MTPs
Warning	KS2 Christmas: the Magi and their gifts	Additional MTPs and RE pack RE004 <i>Christmas at KS2</i>

Looking for a medium–term plan by concept?

Search no further!

There is a handy list entitled *Where can we find Primary RE planning by concept?* indicating where planning is held. This could be on the RE Moodle under Open Resources or Medium Term Plans (Moodle login required) or in a teaching pack. This list is available from:

[Where can I find primary planning?](#)

For the latest catalogues of primary RE teaching packs and guidance to purchase and artefact boxes to loan, visit: [RE Moodle centre resources](#)

RE teaching packs to purchase

To purchase, order online: <https://educationforms.apps.hants.gov.uk/p/curriculum-centre-order>

- ***How to manage RE effectively in KS1 and KS2*** (product RE041)
Price £35 for subscribers to the RE Centre (£45 for non-subscribers)
- ***Angels KS1/KS2*** (product RE001), price £25 for subscribers to the RE Centre (£35 for non-subscribers)
- ***Jewish Festivals: Sukkot and Hannukah KS2*** (product RE015), price £25 for subscribers to the RE centre (£35 for non-subscribers)
- ***Teaching Christmas at KS1*** (product RE046), price £25 for subscribers to the RE centre (£30 for non-subscribers)
- ***Teaching Christmas at KS2*** (product RE004) Price £25 for subscribing schools (£35 for non-subscribing schools)
- ***Hindu Festivals: Divali and Mahashivratri*** (RE010) price £25 for subscribing schools (£35 for non-subscribing schools)
- ***Leadership and Prophethood KS2*** (product RE016a) price £25 for subscribing schools (£35 for non-subscribing schools)
- ***Sikhi Faith at KS2*** (product RE043) price £25 for subscribing schools (£35 for non-subscribing schools)
- ***Special Clothes FS*** (RE023) price £25 each for subscribing schools (£35 each for non-subscribing schools)

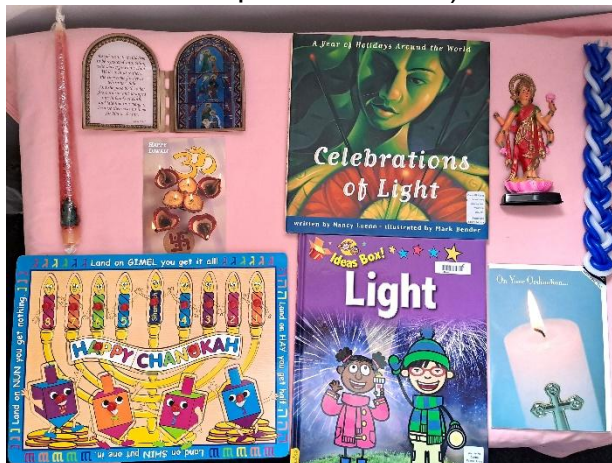
- **Hannukah**



- Judaism
- **Islam** (an example of the contents of the items in the box, please note this is not a complete collection)



- **Light as a symbol** (an example of the contents of the items in the box, please note this is not a complete collection)



- **Sikhi Faith**



- *Symbols of Faith*
- *Stories Jesus Told*

To check availability, please contact the RE Centre by email: re.centre@hants.gov.uk and then book online: [Hampshire County Council - Curriculum centre order start page](#)

2026 CPD: training and networks for primary teachers in the Autumn term

Upcoming courses:

How to Manage RE in Key Stage 1 and 2 - 26-27

This course is specifically designed for teachers new to the role of RE manager. It will provide comprehensive guidance to enable participants to develop RE effectively in a cross-curricular setting using Living Difference IV and the Ofsted requirements for RE, as well as considering the possible implications if RE is placed in the National Curriculum.

Date: 21 October 2026

Price: Sub £250 / SLA £165 / Full £300

Keyword Search: *Manage RE*

Hampshire and Wessex Cross-Phase RE Exchange 2026 RE with Disadvantaged Groups

The conference will support teachers to teach RE well with Living Difference IV and gain confidence in teaching high quality RE for all children and young people, with a focus on disadvantaged groups. The day will include Keynote plenary sessions on different areas of disadvantage, including SEND, inclusive representations of religions and beliefs and social justice. It is invaluable for all teachers in every phase of education and will include phase specific discussion opportunities, including exam board GCSE workshops.

Date: 18 November 2026

Price: Sub £90 / SLA £55 / Full £108

Keyword Search: *RE Exchange*

Autumn 26-27 Primary RE Networks

These networks are designed to enable RE managers to explore, share and develop good practice in RE in their schools. The sessions will focus on helping other staff to understand the cycle of enquiry, know the range of concepts in the Living Difference IV syllabus, create and amend planning for RE and help understand assessment issues across the school.

9 November 2026 – Virtual

10 November 2026 – Hartley Wintney

11 November 2026 – Test Valley / Romsey

19 November 2026 – Gosport

Price: Sub £115 / SLA £95 / Full £138

Keyword Search: *Autumn RE*

Hampshire schools: please book via the Learning Zone. Learning Zone booking guidance is [here](#).

For more information, please contact Justine Ball: justine.ball@hants.gov.uk