

## Exploring Easter

### Ideas to do at home and share



Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April: A wonderful surprise!

1. Has something amazed you so much that you simply had to tell someone? Think of a time when this was the case and talk together about how that made you feel. What emotions did you have? Maybe there was a time when you were given a gift that you always wanted. How did that feel? Were you expecting it?
2. Read together the following text taken from Matthew 28. Explain that this is the part of the Easter story when Jesus was raised to life. This is called the 'resurrection'. For Christians this was the greatest miracle that happened. It was a real surprise to the two Marys who met the risen Jesus. It was also a great shock and surprise to his friends the disciples. It reminds Christians that being friends with him means that they also have a new life. They not only have a fresh start because they are forgiven, but they also have great joy knowing that he will always be with them, even in tough and difficult times.

#### **The Resurrection**

*28 After the Sabbath, as Sunday morning was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to look at the tomb. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly there was a violent earthquake; an angel of the Lord came down from heaven, rolled the stone away, and sat on it. <sup>3</sup> His appearance was like lightning, and his clothes were white as snow. <sup>4</sup> The guards were so afraid that they trembled and became like dead men.*



*<sup>5</sup> The angel spoke to the women. "You must not be afraid," he said. "I know you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. <sup>6</sup> He is not here; he has been raised, just as he said. Come here and see the place where he was lying.*

*<sup>7</sup> Go quickly now, and tell his disciples, 'He has been raised from death, and now he is going to Galilee ahead of you; there you will see him!' Remember what I have told you."*

*<sup>8</sup> So they left the tomb in a hurry, afraid and yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.*

*<sup>9</sup> Suddenly Jesus met them and said, "Peace be with you." They came up to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. <sup>10</sup> "Do not be afraid," Jesus said to them. "Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see me."*

#### **The Report of the Guard**

*<sup>11</sup> While the women went on their way, some of the soldiers guarding the tomb went back to the city and told the chief priests everything that had happened. <sup>12</sup> The chief priests met with the elders and made their plan; they gave a large sum of money to the soldiers <sup>13</sup> and said, "You are to say that his disciples came during the night and stole his body while you were asleep. <sup>14</sup> And if the Governor should hear of this, we will convince him that you are innocent, and you will have nothing to worry about."*

*<sup>15</sup> The guards took the money and did what they were told to do. And so that is the report spread around by the Jews to this very day.*

#### **Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

*<sup>16</sup> The eleven disciples went to the hill in Galilee where Jesus had told them to go. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him, even though some of them doubted. <sup>18</sup> Jesus drew near and said to them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup> Go, then, to all peoples everywhere and make them my disciples: baptize them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And I will be with you always, to the end of the age."*



3. Today, can you make an Easter garden? You could use things that you find in the garden or things you have collected as you go for your daily walk. In one part of the garden, create an empty tomb to show the part of the passage that described how Jesus was no longer dead, but out of the tomb.
4. Share your Easter gardens with each other on your class Instagram.

#### **Pause for thought:**

As we finish exploring Easter together, think about the things you have read and learnt about. What does the Easter story mean to you? What things were you surprised at in the story and what are the things that give you courage, hope and good news? Happy Easter!

