Reception | Autumn Term 2 | Our Topic: Let's Celebrate!



Key Dates

Tuesday 15th December- 9.00am Christmas production
Friday 18th December– End of term

Important Information

PE: Tuesday

Library: Friday

Our Learning This Half Term!

Our topic this half term is 'Let's Celebrate!'. We will discover how people celebrate special occasions, including Diwali, Bonfire Night and Christmas. We will also explore the stories and traditions behind them. The children will share their own experiences of celebrations, learn about different cultures and traditions, and develop an understanding of how families celebrate in different ways.

Our Stories This Half Term

This half term, we will enjoy a variety of stories, including *Look Up!* by Nathan Bryon and *I Am Henry Finch* by Alexis Deacon. We will also explore the traditional story of Rama and Sita to learn about Diwali and share the Nativity story to discover why Christians celebrate Christmas. Through these stories, the children will develop an understanding of different traditions, explore characters and events.

Celebrations and Festivals

We will learn about Diwali and welcome a special visitor to share the story behind this festival of light. We will also explore Bonfire Night, discussing fireworks and how to stay safe around them. The children will discover how different families celebrate special occasions and explore some of the traditions associated with them. As Christmas approaches, we will enjoy festive crafts, songs and rehearsals for our Nativity production.

Communication and Language

The children will continue to develop their speaking and listening skills through stories, circle times, discussions and role play. They will be encouraged to ask and answer questions, share their ideas and experiences and listen carefully to others. We will introduce new vocabulary linked to our stories, celebrations and the world around us. Through conversations and group activities, the children will develop their confidence in expressing themselves, taking turns and speaking in longer sentences.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This half term, we will continue to develop friendships, kindness, sharing and making good choices. Through social stories featuring Zoe, Max and Milly, the children will explore everyday situations, recognise different feelings and discuss how their actions can affect others. We will encourage the children to develop strategies for managing their emotions, resolving disagreements and working together. We will also continue to promote independence, confidence and a positive attitude towards learning.

Reception | Let's Celebrate! – What We Are Learning

Physical Development

Our PE sessions will focus on developing ball skills, including rolling, throwing, catching, aiming and controlling a ball. The children will develop their balance, coordination and spatial awareness through a range of games and activities. Fine motor skills will continue to be strengthened through Dough Disco, cutting, threading, construction and handwriting activities. We will also encourage increasing independence with dressing, personal hygiene and looking after belongings.

Literacy

Our literacy learning will focus on the books *Look Up!* and *I Am Henry Finch*. The children will explore characters and settings, retell events, ask questions and develop their early writing skills. Through *Look Up!*, they will create space-themed labels, lists and messages. *I Am Henry Finch* will inspire children to explore their own thoughts and ideas, creating thought bubbles, simple instructions and a 'How to Think' guidebook. We will also continue Letter-join handwriting sessions, focusing on correct letter and number formation.

Phonics

We will continue following Twinkl Phonics, completing Level 2 before moving onto Level 3, where the children will be introduced to new sounds and tricky words. The children will continue developing their blending and segmenting skills to read and write words, progressing towards captions and simple sentences. Through daily phonics sessions and guided reading activities, the children will build confidence in recognising sounds, reading familiar words and applying their phonics knowledge in their writing.

Maths

In Maths, will explore numbers 1–5 through counting, collecting objects, matching numerals to quantities and subitising. The children will compare quantities, explore one more and one less, and practise counting forwards and backwards. We will also investigate circles, triangles, squares and rectangles, learning to recognise, describe and compare their properties.

Expressive Arts and Design

The children will enjoy creative activities linked to our stories and celebrations, including designing rockets, printing planets, creating Diwali artwork and making Christmas decorations. They will explore different colours, textures and materials through painting, printing and construction. Music, movement and imaginative play will encourage creativity, while festive songs and Nativity rehearsals will help the children develop confidence in performing and expressing themselves.

Understanding the World

The children will explore day and night, the moon, stars and planets. We will discuss daily routines using vocabulary such as morning, afternoon and evening. The children will observe seasonal changes as autumn turns to winter, noticing differences in the weather and environment. We will also explore different cultures and traditions through our celebration's topic

How You Can Help at Home

Please read regularly with your child and practise their phonics sounds and tricky words. Encourage counting, recognising numbers and talking about shapes in everyday activities. Share family traditions and celebrations, and encourage independence with dressing and looking after belongings.