

## Autumn 2 2015 Topics: Festivals and Celebrations.

Here is an outline of the work that your child will be covering in Reception Class this half term. A weekly overview will be displayed on the notice board. Children will learn about the festivals of Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas. We will watch videos, read books and make cultural objects to support their understanding and children can also discuss their families' celebrations. Adults will continue to make observations to show the progression in your child's learning.

### Prime Areas

#### Communication and Language

We will be continuing to develop children's listening and attention skills by sharing stories on a daily basis and modelling good listening skills. Children can develop their speaking skills through talk tables and story props. Here, they can express their ideas by retelling familiar stories or developing narratives around a set of objects. Children's questions will be celebrated on our question board and we will support children to answer these. New vocabulary will be introduced through our 'word of the week' and learning about Diwali.

#### Physical Development

We will continue to support children to independently dress and undress. Children will be learning how to use tools such as scissors safely and the Road Safety advisors will visit school to discuss the Green Cross Code. We will continue to reinforce general classroom safety. Children will learn how to move confidently in different ways through rolling, shuffling, skipping, hopping and jumping. They will also explore balancing movements and how to transport equipment and apparatus safely.

#### Personal, Social & Emotional Development

Children will be taking part in group games and activities which will develop their teamwork and turn-taking skills. Circle time and SEAL assemblies will support children to manage their feelings and make new friendships. Children can express and discuss their feelings through the class feelings board. Children's achievements will be celebrated through WOW moments, stickers, praise certificates and daily learning reviews. We will continue to reinforce expectations and Reception Class rules.

### Specific Areas

#### Literacy

Children will have many opportunities to write for different purposes; Letters to Santa, shopping lists, Christmas wish lists, menus and cards. Children will continue to progress through the Phonics scheme of work and they can access phonics during Child Initiated Play. Children will be exposed to environmental print and stories around Winter, Christmas and Diwali will be shared together.

#### Mathematics

Children will be learning to use positional language and vocabulary relating to time will be reinforced using our daily calendar and visual timetable. An advent calendar will be introduced before Christmas. Children will continue to sing counting rhymes and in taught sessions will be introduced to addition and subtraction. Children will also develop their number skills by counting, ordering and comparing numbers.

#### Understanding of the World

Forest Friday activities will continue and children will explore the natural environment and the mud kitchen. Children will learn about Bonfire Night, Diwali and Christmas celebrations. Children will take part in a Christmas play and be able to cook and try food from different cultures. We will explore the changes that occur during Winter and children will investigate ice and snow.

#### Expressive Arts & Design

Children will continue to explore the sounds of musical instruments and learn new songs and rhymes, exploring volume and speed. Children will learn dances for our Christmas play. Different tools will be used to create different effects on paper e.g. brushes, rules, string and marbles. We will use a variety of resources and techniques to create Rama and Sita puppets, rockets, Chinese Lucky Packets and Christmas Cards.