



# Let's Celebrate!



I hope that the children have enjoyed their half term break, are well rested and ready for a fun packed term ahead!

I have outlined below, activities based around our theme '**LET'S CELEBRATE!**' that support learning in Communication and language, Literacy, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design.

## **FIREWORKS**

- Lighting a fire in the fire pit in our forest school site and exploring sounds, smells and sights - eliciting vocabulary and writing our own flame poems using descriptive language
- Rockets - playing with air rockets, making 3D rockets and creating rockets with bicarbonate of soda & vinegar
- Exploring the works of the artists Jackson Pollack & Yayoi Kusama; exploring colour mixing, paint spinners and marbling to create fireworks paintings in a similar style
- Creating a dark den with a range of reflective materials, light sources and dark boxes for exploration and shadow play

## **OWL BABIES / LIGHT & DARK**

- Sequencing, storytelling, innovating and writing activities based on the story *Owl Babies* by Martin Waddell
- Learning about owls - asking and answering questions
- Learning about the life cycle of a barn owl and other facts
- Learning about nocturnal animals and their homes
- Creating owl collages

## **DIWALI**

- Learning about the story of Rama and Sita, storytelling and exploring the 'Festival of Light' - *Diwali*
- Learning about how people celebrate Diwali
- Using coloured plasticine or clay and exploring mark making to create our own patterned Diya lamps
- Creating Rangoli and Mandala patterns using coloured sand, rice and nature
- Learning and performing songs and exploring rhythm & movement through music with Diwali as our theme

## **HANNUKAH**

- Learning about the Jewish Festival of Light - Hannukah

## **CHRISTMAS**

- During our weekly **RE** lessons, we will be exploring the theme: **Incarnation: Why do Christians perform nativity plays at Christmas?**
- Learning about the Christmas story
- Preparing for our Christmas Nativity extravaganza!
- Engaging in a range of Christmas craft activities

## LITERACY

- **Phonics** - we will be re-capping sounds taught last term and learning to read and write words with the following new sounds: j v w x y zz qu ch sh th ng nk ai ee igh oa
- Re-capping previously taught 'Harder to Read & Spell Words' and learning the following new words: *he she buses we me be push was her my you.*
- Developing correct letter formation
- Engaging in a range of fun Literacy activities, including, oral re-telling using puppets, props & picture maps, innovating stories, drawing and labelling in response to stories, all linked to our key texts: *Owl Babies, Rama & Sita, What do you Celebrate? Holidays and Festivals Around the World, The Jolly Christmas Postman, The First Christmas and The Christmas Pine.*

## MATHEMATICS

- Joining in with number rhymes
- Subitising - recognise quantities to 5 and then beyond, without counting
- Counting to 10 and beyond - sounds, objects, actions
- Exploring the composition of numbers to 10
- Counting objects reliably
- Recognising numerals and beginning to develop correct number formation
- Cementing our understanding of 5, 6 & 7 and exploring 8, 9 & 10 in depth

## PERSONAL, SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Alongside learning about and living out our school vision and values, we will be exploring the theme '**Valuing Difference**' in our PSED lessons with Mrs Hibell. We will be thinking about similarities and differences in families and homes and exploring being a caring friend

Our **PE** days will continue be to on a **Friday** with Mr Hughes. On these days, please could your child come to school dressed in their PE kit.



**OUTDOOR LEARNING** - We love to take our learning outdoors as often as we can! Whilst our Forest School session is timetabled in for a Thursday morning, we will certainly be 'out & about' during the week and so please ensure that Forest School Kit Bags are in school on your child's peg at all times. As we head into the colder weather, please ensure that all coats, hats, gloves and scarves are **named**.

### Dates for your Diary:

**Parents Evenings:** Monday 20<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November

**Nativity:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2pm & 6pm

**Panto:** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to come and speak to me.

Here's to a fun-filled, hard-working festive term!

Mrs Lewis