

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Topic This Term is 'How do we celebrate?' where the children will be learning about various celebrations such as birthdays, weddings, christenings, Diwali, Bonfire night, Hanukkah and Christmas.

Our online learning journal 'Tapestry' will continue to be used to share your child's learning journey through photographs and videos. We value parents' contributions towards the children's learning journey. Please do use it to share your child's experiences outside of school and completed homework. Some of these will be shared with the rest of the class.

This term the children will be working on the following key skills:

### How Do We Celebrate?

Nursery Key Topic Skills	Reception Key Topic Skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I continue to develop confidence in speaking about myself, my family and my home</li> <li>● I can answer simple questions about celebrations that are important to me.</li> <li>● I begin to combine lines and circles to represent people and objects</li> <li>● I can use a variety of mark-making tools to give meanings to my marks</li> <li>● I can show interest in numbers and counting through joining in with counting nursery rhymes.</li> <li>● I can count at least 3 objects accurately and begin to represent some numbers with fingers and objects</li> <li>● I continue to practise tracing the letters of my name on my name card using correct letter formation</li> <li>● I continue to explore the textures of various things</li> <li>● I join in with singing simple nursery rhymes and songs and songs from the Nativity play</li> <li>● I can play alongside other children, beginning to engage in conversations and sharing space and resources</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I begin to use props to retell familiar stories.</li> <li>● I can use a variety of art tools to express my creative ideas.</li> <li>● I develop my catching and throwing skills. I begin to follow an increasing number of instructions during our PE lessons.</li> <li>● I can describe the celebrations that are important to me.</li> <li>● I begin to find similarities and differences between different celebrations.</li> <li>● I can recognise 2D shapes and I begin to talk about the properties of shapes.</li> <li>● I can count at least 5 objects accurately and begin to match the numerals to their quantities.</li> <li>● I begin to explore the composition of numbers.</li> <li>● I can use positional language to describe routes and positions.</li> <li>● I learn the lyrics for our Nativity play and can sing Nativity songs in unison with other children</li> <li>● I can read and write CVC words (Phase 2 Phonics)</li> <li>● I can use the knowledge of learnt phonemes to write labels and captions for my drawings</li> </ul>
<p><b>Activities/Resources/Experiences</b></p>	<p><b>Vocabulary:</b></p>
<p>Making a diya, decorating a lantern, making rangoli patterns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Painting fireworks, making firework dances, learning about fire and fireworks safety</li> <li>● Baking and decorating cupcakes, creating a cake collage, making decorations, making cards for loved ones, counting candles</li> <li>● Making a handprint menorah, play a simplified spin the dreidel (counting game)</li> </ul>	<p><b>PSE:</b> kind, gentle, share, friend, taking turns, responsible, Going for Gold</p> <p><b>Literacy/Phonics:</b> letter, sound, special friend, word, blend, sound out, story, retell, acting out, characters</p> <p><b>Maths:</b> count, number, subitise, represent, how many, altogether, one more, one less</p>

- Learning about traditions during celebrations from around the world through creative activities: decorating invitations
- Making Christmas wreaths, angels, salt dough decorations, making Christmas cards, learning Christmas and Nativity songs

**Experiences:**

- Light a diya. Diwali lights ‘switch on’.
- Glitter and Glow day
- Nativity Play
- Birthday party for Mike the Monkey
- Lighting menorah (Hanukkah)
- handwriting practice
- exploring shape using construction
- shape hunt

shape, circle, triangle, straight, curved, square, rectangle, combine,  
time, order, day, night, afternoon, morning, before, after, today, tomorrow, now, next, later, measure position, on, over, under, above, in, below, in front of, behind

**UW:**

celebrate, religion, holiday, festival, lights, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Day, birthday, party  
Hinduism, Diwali, Diva, Rama, Sita  
Islam, muslim, Eid,  
Hanukkah, candle, menorah

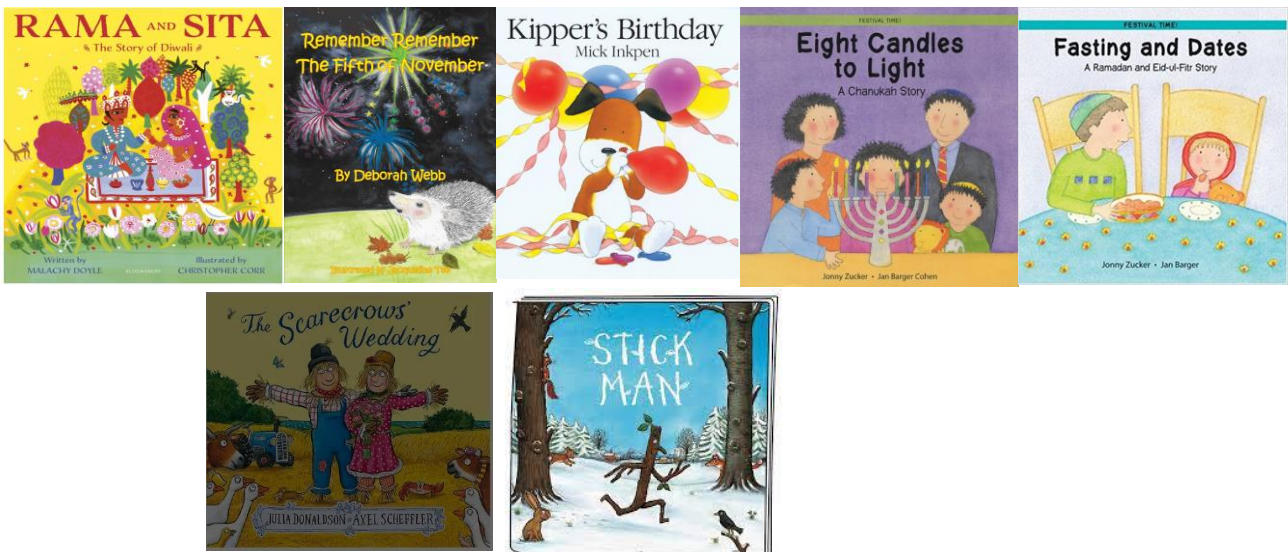
**RE:**

Christian, special, Jesus, Mary, Joseph, Angel Gabriel, innkeeper, shepherds, manger, special baby, Bible, Advent, wreath, candle, altar cloth, Christmas, good news, joy, peace, human

**EA&D:**

decoration, technique, texture, pattern, materials, colour, fill in, cover,

The key texts this term will be:



The general pieces of information/reminders below should also be helpful as your child continues his/her education but please do speak to me if you have questions about any of these points:

- **School Uniform:** All the children must come to school wearing the correct school uniform. (Elasticated school uniform trousers or jogging bottoms are often a better choice for school children than trousers with the zip and a button as they encourage to develop independence) Please ensure that all uniform items are named (especially sweatshirts and cardigans) as this helps to return lost items to the right children. It is important that the children wear appropriate footwear – comfortable black school shoes with Velcro fastenings help with developing independence.
- **Book Bags:** These are an important part of school life as they help to bring home books, letters or art work that the children have made. The book bags need to be brought to school every day. Please make sure your child's name is clearly labelled on their book bag. **Books will be changed on Mondays.**
- **Spare Clothes:** Each child needs to have a set of spare clothes in a **clearly labelled string draw bag**, e.g. St Matthew's PE bag, which will be kept on your child's peg. Please note that our cupboard cannot fit bags of other styles due to a very limited space.

- **Snack Time:** Fruit and milk is available to the children every day. We will encourage children to try all of the fruits that are provided. If you haven't yet told the school office about any medical or allergy information about your child, please do pass this on as soon as possible.
- **PE:** PE sessions will continue to take place on Fridays. On this day, the children have to come to school wearing their PE kit - navy shorts/jogging bottoms, T-shirt, trainers and the school jumper.
- **Homework:** compulsory homework in the Early Years is reading. Both Nursery and Reception children will continue to get a picture book. The children should be encouraged to talk about the illustrations, to join in with repetitive parts and to retell the stories. Reception children will continue to take home word cards and the reading books to consolidate phonics skills that have been learned at school.
- **Safety:** To ensure the safety of all pupils, the use of mobile phones and taking pictures of the children by parents is not permitted in our Early Years setting.
- **Medicines:** Only prescribed medicines in the prescription packaging may be administered at School and all the relevant paperwork must be completed by the parent/carer prior to any medication being administered. General medication (such as Calpol, cough medicine, eye drops) cannot be administered by any member of staff.
- **Pre-loved items:** If you would like to donate a preloved item in good condition to the Early Years, please speak to a member of staff first, as we have very limited space for resources. However, we always need small bits and bobs for creative work such as pottle tops, yoghurt pots, kitchen towel rolls and small boxes, buttons and ribbons. We would also appreciate pre-loved construction, books and puzzles in good condition.
- **Collective Worship:** Our whole school Celebration Collective Worship takes place every Friday at 2:50pm; all parents are welcome to attend. The black playground gates on St Ann's Lane are opened at 2.45pm so that parents can join us for this special collective worship in the school hall.

Finally, if you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to talk to me at school at the end of the day, or make an appointment by emailing the school office.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs Farida Swift**

Early Years Class Teacher