

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our Topic this term is 'How do we celebrate?' where the children will be learning about various celebrations such as Bonfire Night, birthdays, Eid, Hanukkah and Christmas. We will continue to collect your child's work in their individual learning journals where we will include their work samples and photographs of their work.

We cannot stress enough the importance of reading with your child. Please continue to read daily with your child and record comments in their reading record. You can record comments about any other books you have read with your child, not just the books you have received from school.

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

<u>Key Skills</u>	<u>Suggested activities and experiences</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● I begin to use props to retell familiar stories.● I can hear, say and begin to record initial sounds in words.● I can use a variety of art tools to express my creative ideas.● I develop my catching and throwing skills. I begin to follow an increasing number of instructions during our PE lessons.● I can describe the celebrations that are important to me.● I begin to find similarities and differences between different celebrations.● I can recognise 2D shapes and I begin to talk about the properties of shapes.● I can count at least 5 objects accurately and begin to match the numerals to their quantities.● I begin to explore the composition of numbers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Painting fireworks, making firework dances, learning about fire and fireworks safety● Using onomatopoeia to record the sounds of fireworks● Baking and decorating cupcakes, creating a cake collage, making decorations, making cards for loved ones, counting candles● Making a handprint menorah, play a simplified spin the dreidel (counting game)● Learning about traditions during celebrations from around the world through creative activities: decorating invitations● Making Christmas angels, making Christmas tree salt dough decorations, make Christmas cards, learning Christmas and Nativity songs● Birthday party for/Spot the dog - lighting birthday cake● Lighting a menorah (Hanukkah)● handwriting practice● exploring shape using construction● shape hunt

The key texts this term will be:



Suggested vocabulary

Personal, Social & Emotional Development:

kind, gentle, share, friend, taking turns, responsible, Going for Gold

Literacy/Phonics:

letter, sound, special friend, word, blend, sound out, story, retell, acting out, characters

Maths:

count, number, subitise, represent, how many, altogether, one more, one less
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

Understanding the World:

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

Expressive Arts & Design:

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

Curriculum Goals at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage:

- I can show understanding of my own feelings, those of others and I know how to regulate my feelings.
- I can demonstrate engaged attitudes in a variety of activities.
- I can share own ideas and thinking in conversations
- I can retell stories, rhymes, songs and events and I can show awareness of the listener.
- I can demonstrate and share a love of reading.
- I can read and write a meaningful sentence using phonics knowledge
- I can use equipment and tools with control
- I can move my body with safety, balance and control
- I can observe, explore and ask questions about the world around me noticing the changes and differences
- I can become a confident mathematical thinker who can apply my skills and solve problems
- I can express myself creatively using a range of available resources

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 Thursdays. 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
- **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. We would also appreciate pre-loved construction and puzzles in good condition, dressing up clothes, small world and role-play equipment, cars, trucks and trains.
- **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 assembly 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,

Ms Ola Jezewicz

Early Years class teacher