

Autumn 2 - Let's Celebrate

Introduction

This term's "**Let's Celebrate**" theme will immerse children in understanding different cultural and family celebrations. Through exploring various traditions, songs, stories, and creative activities, children will develop respect and curiosity for diverse customs. They will grow in their social awareness, understanding of community, creativity, and ability to express themselves. Thank you for supporting this journey of discovery and celebration with us!

Communication and Language

Expressing Experiences: Children will share personal experiences of celebrations, using new vocabulary related to festivities and developing explanations. Visual aids and artefacts will help stimulate conversations about different ways people celebrate.

Songs and Rhymes: We will listen to songs, rhymes, and traditional music from various celebrations, helping children appreciate and respond to the rhythms of different cultures. Children will also create simple songs using festive vocabulary.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Respecting Differences: Children will learn about valuing differences through discussions and activities that explore diverse celebrations. They will engage in activities like playing traditional games from other cultures to build understanding and friendships.

HeartSmart: This term's HeartSmart topic, "Don't forget to let Love in!", will help children understand the importance of kindness, empathy, and self-love. Through activities and discussions, they will learn about caring for themselves and others, helping them to build positive relationships and a strong sense of self-worth.

Physical Development

Dance and Movement: Through dances like the Chinese Dragon Dance or Diwali celebrations, children will explore rhythm and movement associated with cultural festivities. They will also create their own dance routines to express joy and celebration.

Fine Motor Skills: Using tools like cotton buds, clay, and other art materials, children will create items such as Rangoli patterns and Diwali lamps, developing precision in fine motor skills.

Zoo-Themed Movement and Spatial Awareness: In our "**imove Off to the Zoo**" unit, children will explore movement by mimicking animals they might see on a zoo visit. This activity emphasizes the importance of movement and spatial awareness, encouraging children to use a variety of movements while respecting their personal space bubble. Skills like locomotion, agility, footwork patterns, and spatial awareness will be developed as children navigate different "animal" movements. For an enhanced experience, the

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		children will be read <i>The Enormous Crocodile</i> by Roald Dahl.
<p><u>Literacy</u></p> <p>Phonics - Learning New Sounds: We will introduce children to a range of phonetic sounds to support early reading and writing skills. The sounds covered will include: j, v, w, x, y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, oo (as in "book"), ar, or, ur, ow, oi, er, ure, ear, air.</p> <p>Exploring Stories: We'll read stories related to celebrations, such as <i>The Nativity</i>, <i>The Story of the Chinese Zodiac</i>, and <i>Rama and Sita</i>. Children will retell these stories using puppets and role-play to sequence and recall events.</p> <p>Creating Invitations and Cards: For class celebrations, children will design invites and cards. They will practice writing familiar words, names, and using their phonics knowledge to form letter shapes.</p> <p>By the end of Autumn 2 most children should be writing their name independently and forming the letter shapes correctly.</p>	<p><u>Mathematics</u></p> <p>Counting and Patterns: Activities will include counting decorations, candles, or other festive items, as well as creating patterns with Rangoli designs or fireworks. Children will explore numbers and simple composition by grouping items.</p> <p>Understanding Time: Through using a calendar and marking days leading up to special occasions, children will learn about time, days of the week, and the concept of months as related to seasonal celebrations.</p>	<p><u>Understanding the World</u></p> <p>Cultural Awareness: Children will learn about different ways people celebrate across the world, exploring Christmas, Diwali, Hanukkah, and other traditions. They'll compare similarities and differences, creating a shared understanding of cultural diversity.</p> <p>Exploring Light: Activities will focus on light in celebrations, such as candles, Diwali lamps, and Christmas lights. Children will explore different light sources and understand light's symbolic meaning in various celebrations.</p>
<p><u>Expressive Arts and Design</u></p> <p>Creative Expression: Children will explore colour and technique through creating fireworks art, Rangoli patterns, and Diwali lamps. They will mix colours and use various tools to express festive themes.</p> <p>Music and Dance: Traditional music from different cultures will inspire children to play instruments and create their own celebratory</p>		

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music. They'll explore sounds, emotions, and expressions linked to festivals.

