Reception learning overview 2nd November – 18th December 2026
This half term in our **Celebrations** topic we will be…

Communication, Language and Literacy



- Sharing Celebration and Festival stories
- Continuing to practise writing our names with the correct pencil grip (3 friends hold) and accurate letter formation
- Writing for different purposes e.g. poems, invitations and lists
- Continuing daily Bug Club phonics sessions including blending sounds together to read and write CVC words e.g. cat, hen, dog, cot

How you can help at home

- Share the reading books which are sent home and **sign** in the reading diary – remember **at least 4 times** a week
- Share the eBooks allocated on Bug Club and the phonic activities
- Practise the letter sounds which are sent home and use them to build words
- Practise reading and writing the tricky words which will be sent home in the zippy wallets

Personal, Social, Emotional Development



- Sharing our ideas about celebrations that are special to us
- Exploring and celebrating other cultures and beliefs and thinking about the similarities and differences between ourselves and others
- Exploring different types of celebrations and the traditions that are associated with these, for e.g. special food and parties
- Sharing our experiences of fireworks, birthdays and Christmas

Expressive Arts and Design



- Changing our role play areas and linking it with our own interests
- Creating firework pictures using chalk, paints and ICT
- Using a variety of media within the creative curriculum including making a diva lamp and our own decorations for a party
- Completing craft activities for Christmas
- Learning Christmas songs

Mathematics

- Recognising, counting and writing numbers to 5 and investigating how these numbers can be partitioned in different ways
- Counting forwards and backwards from different starting points and ordering numbers
- Exploring 2D shapes – circles, triangles, squares, rectangles
- Comparing quantities, weights, sizes and numbers
- Ordering and sequencing familiar events and parts of the day



How you can help at home

- Look at and count numbers at home and in the environment e.g. car number plates, door numbers, telephone numbers etc.
- Spot shapes in the world around us and describe the shapes
- Practise counting forwards and backwards starting at different numbers each time
- Discuss events and activities using the language of time, for e.g. *'We're going to the park **after** lunch.' '**Tomorrow** it is a shopping day.'*

Understanding the World

- Discussing why we celebrate firework night and making firework pictures
- Celebrations - Focusing on Diwali, Bonfire Night, Birthdays and Christmas and looking at how and why they are celebrated



How you can help at home

- Share family photos of birthdays and past Christmas
- Talk about celebrations that are important to your family

Physical Development

- Continuing to focus on gross motor skill, i.e. riding scooters and bikes
- Continuing to focus on fine motor skills, i.e. threading, using playdough and tweezers and mark making with developing pencil control
- Setting ourselves challenges to complete activities like hopping, skipping or jumping within a given time
- Using resources provided for building dens and forts
- Participating in weekly PE sessions – focusing on balancing on different body parts, traveling in different ways and jumping safely





Ollie owl
The right to an education

Freddie Fox
The right to a family

Sammy Squirrel
The right to play

Rebecca Rabbit
The right to nutritious food

Derek Deer
The right to clean water

Marty Mouse
The right to a shelter

Harry Hedgehog
The right to reliable information

RRE

We will continue to meet the rest of our school RRE animals who help us to remember our key rights.

YR Autumn 2 Celebrations

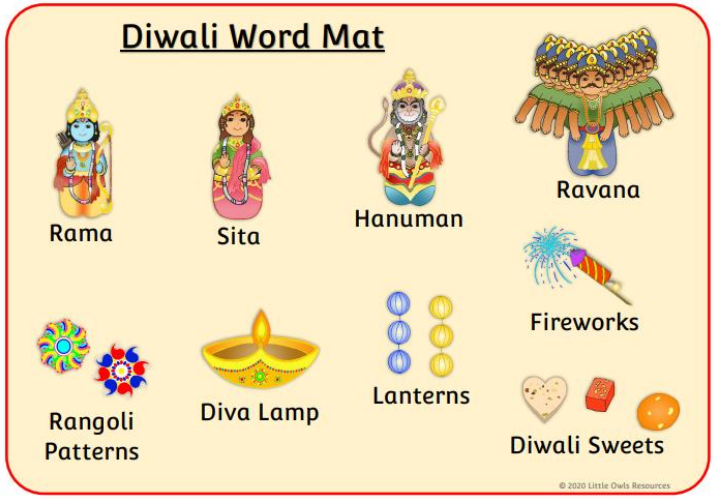
Key knowledge:

- People have different faiths, cultures and beliefs
- We should respect each other's customs, traditions and beliefs
- Diwali is a festival of light
- Bonfire night is when we remember a man called Guy Fawkes and how he tried to blow up the Houses of Parliament
- A birthday is the celebration of the day that someone was born
- Some people celebrate their birthday with presents, cake or a party
- Some people give presents at Christmas time
- Christians believe that Baby Jesus was born on Christmas Day in a stable

Things to talk about at home

- What do you celebrate with your family?
- How many different celebrations can you think of?
- Discuss your family's traditions as part of these celebrations.
- Look at photographs of your celebrations and talk about things you notice in the pictures.

Useful Words





Key Vocabulary	
Celebration or Festival	A special time to remember a day or something that has happened
Diwali	A festival of light celebrated by the Hindu and Sikh faiths
Bonfire Night	The anniversary of a failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament
Parliament	The people who are chosen to govern our country
Gunpowder	A black powder that explodes when touched with fire
Plot	A secret plan
Democracy	Each person has a say (or vote) in how decisions are made
Nativity	The story of Jesus' birth
Stable	A shelter for farm animals
Manger	A feeding box for cows, donkeys and horses
Frankincense	A perfume used in temples long ago
Myrrh	A medicine used long ago