Festivals and celebrations

Year A – Autumn 2

Science

In this science unit, children will explore how light behaves, including how it reflects from different surfaces and how shadows are formed. They will learn how to stay safe in the sun, investigate how and why shadows change size, and develop their scientific enquiry skills by making careful observations, identifying patterns, gathering and presenting findings, and using evidence to explain and share their conclusions in both written and oral forms.

History/Geogrpahy

In History and Geography, we will explore a range of festivals and celebrations from around the world. Children will learn about the story of Guy Fawkes and Bonfire Night, discovering why it is celebrated today. They will also develop their geographical skills by using atlases and maps to locate different countries and compare how Christmas is celebrated around the world, identifying similarities and differences between traditions and cultures.

Art/Food

In Art and Food Technology, we will explore festivals and celebrations through creative and practical activities. Children will design and make birthday cards, create a range of Christmas crafts, and learn about Thanksgiving by preparing and tasting traditional foods. These activities will help develop creativity, design skills, and an understanding of how food and traditions play an important role in celebrations around the world

English

In English, children will develop their reading and writing skills through a variety of text types. They will spend time exploring information texts, learning how to identify and present key facts, before moving on to writing instructions and recipes, focusing on clear sequencing and precise language. They will then study poetry, experimenting with imaginative vocabulary, rhythm, and expression.

Maths

In KS2 Maths, children will develop their understanding of multiplication, division and fractions. They will explore prime, square and cube numbers, solve problems involving square and cube numbers, and multiply and divide by 10, 100 and 1,000. Children will also build confidence with equivalent fractions, converting between improper fractions and mixed numbers, comparing and ordering fractions, and using their knowledge to add and subtract fractions and mixed numbers in a variety of contexts.

RE

This Christianity unit will teach children about the true meaning of Christmas for Christians. The children will work creatively to enhance their learning experience. They will start by questioning the meaning of Christmas for themselves and then learn about the Christian meaning of Christmas. The children will question if the true meaning of Christmas is still present today and question if the meaning has changed for some.

PSHE

The Celebrating Difference unit helps children understand, respect and value the similarities and differences between people. Pupils explore diversity, stereotypes, bullying and discrimination, while developing empathy, respect and strategies for building positive, inclusive relationships within their school and wider community.

Skills

This skills unit supports the children to develop the knowledge and confidence needed for everyday life. Pupils will learn practical independent living skills, build self-advocacy by understanding and communicating their needs, and develop personal safety awareness in a range of situations. Through discussion, role-play and real-life activities, children will strengthen their independence, resilience and confidence both in school and the wider community.

Home Learning Ideas

- Read information books or articles about festivals and discuss key facts.
- Learn and perform a festive poem, focusing on expression and rhythm.
- Practise times tables regularly using games and online activities.
- Spot fractions in everyday life when cooking or sharing food.
- Discuss ways to stay safe in the sun and why eye protection is important.
- Compare a family celebration with a celebration from another culture.
- Create festive decorations using recycled materials.
- Encourage independence through daily routines, helping around the home and making simple choices.