Nursery - Autumn 2 - Festivals and Celebrations!

Communication and Language	Personal, Social, and Emotional Development	Physical Development
Children will develop their communication and language skills through exploring the theme of festivals and celebrations. Through sharing stories, including *The Five Little Fireworks*, and joining in with nursery rhymes, children will develop their listening skills, learn new vocabulary and begin to act out familiar stories. They will be encouraged to use words to express their thoughts and feelings, participate in conversations and build confidence when communicating with adults and their peers.	Children will explore the theme of celebrating differences and learn that everyone is special. They will talk about their families, birthdays and celebrations, recognising that people may celebrate in different ways. Through activities and discussions, children will develop their understanding of similarities and differences between themselves and others, helping them to build positive relationships and respect different backgrounds and cultures. They will also continue to develop their emotional understanding, practise sharing and taking turns, and learn the importance of being kind and considerate towards others.	Children will continue to develop their gross and fine motor skills through indoor and outdoor play, weekly PE sessions and daily Funky Fingers activities. They will have opportunities to strengthen their hand muscles and develop coordination through activities such as threading, mark-making, using scissors and exploring a range of creative materials. Children will begin to develop a tripod grip when making marks and creating simple lines, circles and shapes. Through physical play, they will also develop their balance, coordination and control, while building independence and confidence in their movements.

Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the world	Expressive arts and design
Children will develop a love of books, stories, nursery rhymes and early writing through the theme of festivals and celebrations. They will enjoy sharing stories such as *The Five Little Fireworks* and *The Very First Christmas*, joining in with repeated refrains and discussing familiar stories. Children will have opportunities to talk about characters and events, explore rhymes and sounds, and participate in daily phonics and storytime sessions. They will also begin to use a range of tools and materials to make marks, creating straight and curved lines, and will explore early writing through activities such as making Christmas cards.	Children will develop their early mathematical understanding through daily maths sessions, stories, songs and practical play-based activities. They will be encouraged to explore numbers, quantities, shapes, patterns and spatial awareness through hands-on experiences and the continuous provision. The theme of festivals and celebrations will provide opportunities to explore mathematical ideas through activities linked to birthdays, Christmas and other celebrations, such as counting objects, comparing quantities and recognising patterns. Children will be supported to develop their mathematical vocabulary and confidence in exploring and solving simple problems.	Children will explore a range of festivals and celebrations, including Bonfire Night, Diwali, Hanukkah, Christmas and birthdays. They will begin to understand that people celebrate in different ways and learn about the traditions, customs and experiences of different families and cultures. Children will be encouraged to talk about their own experiences and personal histories, using photographs and discussions to recall events from the past. They will also explore the natural world by investigating autumnal objects, noticing changes in their environment and using their senses to observe and describe what they discover.	Children will explore their creativity through a variety of art, craft, music and imaginative play activities linked to festivals and celebrations. They will experiment with different materials, textures, paints and tools to create their own artwork, including gingerbread people, masks, collages and Christmas cards. Children will be encouraged to make marks intentionally, explore how different materials can be used and begin to develop their own ideas. Through singing nursery rhymes and familiar songs, listening and responding to music, and taking part in imaginative play, children will develop their creativity, confidence and ability to express themselves.