

Celebrations

These are activity ideas for the Autumn term 2.



Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Communication and Language	Physical Development	
Literacy	Mathematics	Understanding the World	Expressive Arts and Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk about how different festivals are celebrated and encourage children to share their own experiences with the group. • Work together to build a pretend bonfire in the outdoor area using a range of materials, such as wood, sticks, boxes, tissue paper and fabric. • Play a game of 'Pass the Present'. Support the children when waiting for their turn and passing the present to their friend. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide celebration pictures. Encourage the children to talk about what they can see. Can they use language to describe the pictures and relate it to their own experience? • Encourage the children to listen to stories about why we celebrate different events. • Use festive items to play a memory game in a group. • In a small group, encourage the children to help the Christmas elves by following instructions to organise the presents ready for Christmas Day. For example, can the children put the green present into Santa's sack but put the red presents in a pile on the table? • Set up Christmas Small World Characters in a large activity tray. Encourage the children to introduce a narrative when playing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use bright colours to create playdough. Ask the children to roll the playdough to create a firework/rangoli patterns. • Talk to the children about keeping safe when at a firework display or using sparklers. • Using white pipe cleaners and beads, encourage children to create their own candy cane patterns. • Encourage the children to develop teamwork skills as they work together to build a grotto or a new sleigh for Father Christmas, using large pieces of fabric, pegs and one-handed tools. • Create a Christmas-themed obstacle course in your outdoor area and encourage children to get presents to Santa's sleigh at the end. Children can use shovels to clear the path, balance on candy canes (logs or steps) and move around Santa hats (cones). 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Line a tray with a shiny, colourful piece of wrapping paper and cover with black rice. Provide children with paintbrushes to encourage them to explore mark making in the rice to reveal the colourful paper, which looks like fireworks in the night sky. • Use rice to mark make rangoli patterns. • Provide the children with lots of Christmas labels and some presents. Can the children help Santa's elves by writing names on the labels and attaching them to the presents? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the children to practice counting candles on cakes and matching numerals to their quantities. Introduce simple + & - sums. • Pretend to build a bonfire in the outdoor area. Encourage the children to collect different-sized twigs and sticks for the fire. Encourage them to compare the lengths of the sticks so they are only using the longest ones. • Create 2D shape snowman. • Use some role-play sweets or cakes to practise counting and sharing equally. How many would each person get? • Look at size/weight of different cakes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invite children to dress up in different party clothes. • Use software on a computer or tablet to create a celebration card. • Explore light and dark by creating a dark den. Allow the children to explore lighting up the den and looking at the pictures. • Talk with the children about celebrations/festivals they know. • Each day, hide a cheeky elf around our learning environment. Children can use a camera to take a photo. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create glitter pictures. Add watered-down paints in different colours to spray bottles. Allow the children to spray on a large piece of paper. • Encourage children to use instruments and sing Christmas songs. • Explore colour mixing using different paints to make rangoli/firework pictures. • Provide some salt dough/clay for to use to make diya lamps.

Themes are loose and we will adjust them and also carry out spontaneous activities in order to follow the children's individual interests at the time.

An activity can link and flow into several areas of learning.

Learning is a mixture of adult led and child led and is incorporated into the children's play and continuous provision.

Activities are adjusted to meet the needs of each individual child and their abilities and targets.