



## Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Children will be encouraged to gain independence in managing their own needs, with guidance from their teachers. This includes tasks like putting on their coats, washing and drying their hands, and putting on their shoes/wellies.
- We will continue fostering self-confidence, helping children feel comfortable expressing a range of emotions through stories, songs, and small group discussions. During the festive season, they will also be encouraged to share their own stories of celebrations, listening to and learning from each other.
- We'll support children as they build meaningful friendships and develop self-assurance. For Diwali, class discussions and guided activities will provide opportunities to celebrate both the similarities and differences among families and cultures from around the world.
- Throughout the day, children will be encouraged to work and play both independently and collaboratively, fostering a variety of relationships. This may include rotating small, mixed-ability groups to support diverse interactions.

## Communication and Language

- Children will have numerous opportunities to develop their English understanding, listening, and speaking skills through topic-related questions, vocabulary, and instructions, such as "Where is the red leaf?", "Where does Santa live?", "Please give me the pine cone," and "Repeat after me: kind, king, red, yellow." We will focus on the speech sounds *p*, *b*, *m*, and *w*.
- During circle time, children will be introduced to songs and rhymes for Diwali, autumn, and Christmas. They will be encouraged to participate by joining in, repeating key vocabulary, and practicing simple sentences.
- Children will also enjoy festive stories, helping them begin to understand and respond to simple questions such as "Who?", "What?", and "Where?"

## Physical Development

- We will encourage children to build confidence and independence in self-care by practicing the "Montessori coat flip" method and learning to manage their coats, bags, shoes, and wellies throughout the day.
- To develop fine motor skills, we will provide 'finger gym' activities and crafts that strengthen coordination and control of smaller muscles.
- For gross motor development, children will have opportunities to use the climbing frame on the school patio, enjoy small scooters, and engage in forest school and den making in the Enchanted Forest.
- We'll use play-dough and clay to create Autumn, and Christmas-themed models, enhancing their manipulative skills.

## PE

- Continue building confidence in the new environment and fostering relationships through various games and physical activities.
- Engaging in circuits using soft equipment, allowing children to explore, develop, and enhance a range of skills that support their motor development.

## Literacy

- Books** - It's Diwali, Love from all the crayons, Love Monster, Autumn, Leaf Man, We're Going on a leaf hunt, Goldilocks and the three Bears, The Nativity, Dear Santa, The Snowman & Christmas Train.
- During our whole class story time and small group sessions, we'll be sharing wonderful stories about Autumn, Diwali, Kindness, Christmas and Reyes.
  - We'll also continue to enjoy action songs and rhymes, encouraging the children to imitate rhythms, tunes, and tempos.
  - During story times, we'll support the children in responding to the pictures and words in the books, helping to deepen their understanding and engagement.
  - Additionally, the children will have opportunities to draw freely and create with a variety of resources related to our topics encouraging their creativity and imagination.
  - Children will also be encouraged to make marks representing their names as they create their own festive cards.

## Topic - Let's Celebrate



## What do we celebrate at this time of year?

## Maths

- The children will begin to notice patterns in the world around them and incorporate this understanding into their activities such as Rangoli patterns, gem patterns on Christmas baubles and lines on leaves.
- They will continue to enjoy finger rhymes and number songs related to our topics, helping to reinforce their early math skills.
- The children will also compare the sizes and weights of objects, using gestures and language to describe what they observe e.g. Big leaf, small leaf.
- We will encourage the children to count in everyday situations, and continue to compare amounts, using terms like "lots" and "more" to develop their understanding of quantities.

## Spanish

### *El otoño*

- Exploración sensorial en el jardín, aprendiendo a ponerse la ropa adecuada para salir.
- Introducción a las festividades de esta estación según distintas tradiciones.
- Diwali: danzar la llegada de la luz.
- Janucá: "Las ocho kandelikas" de la tradición sefardí.
- Navidad: la estrella y los 3 Reyes Magos.

## Understanding the World

- We are excited to welcome parents for a special visit to talk to the children about Diwali, exploring the connections and differences between families.
- The children will also take part in Kindness Week, which includes celebrating Odd Socks Day and share stories discussing how to be kind.
- Children to explore the natural world around them and experience the seasonal change by going on an Autumn walk and collecting Autumnal objects
- We will have a special visit from Santa and a magician during our end of term Christmas party and discover festive traditions held in our families.

## Expressive Arts and Design

- Children to explore different materials, using all their senses to investigate them by creating Festive artwork such as Trees/leaves, Diya lamps, fireworks, Christmas baubles, and marbled hearts.
- They will also begin to notice patterns in their environment and use a variety of resources to incorporate patterns into their artwork.
- As part of our celebrations, the children will enjoy Diwali, singing festive songs, and participating in action songs as well as using musical instruments to enhance the experience.
- In December, we invite you to join us in your child's classroom for a festive celebration filled with a story, songs, and fun crafts.

## Music

- Using our updated song board to explore and learn new Autumn and Winter seasonal and celebration songs
- Continue to play along to music and songs with instruments and props such as bells and scarves.
- Moving with a prompt to music (dance like the leaves in the wind, curl up like hibernating hedgehogs).