

Prime Area: Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED)

- They will have the opportunity to try new activities (such as dances, musical genres and games) that are part of celebrations in other families and/or cultures.
- The children will rate the celebration activities that we try/do, saying why they like one more than another. Resources will be made available so that the children can make independent choices and access what they need in order to prepare their contributions to our end of theme celebration. There will be opportunities for the children to work in pairs, taking on a particular job so that they learn to take account of one another's ideas about how to organise/approach their activity, resolve conflicts and find a compromise where needed. Early in the unit, they will explain their own knowledge and understanding of celebrations and ask questions of others.

Religion

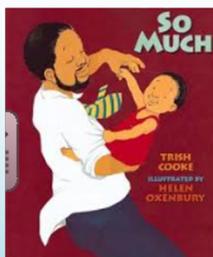
- Focus: Christmas then Revelation
- For the first 2 weeks our topic is still 'Christmas' in RE as it allows us to focus on the Epiphany and to understand the meaning of Christmas and why we are given presents at this time.
- We then move on to Revelation, which is a topic that helps us understand that God reveals himself in us by what we do and who we are and to us by others.
- We will also learn that other people belong to the Sikh faith and have signs to show that they belong to that faith.

Specific Area: Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

- We will be encouraging the children to join in with dancing and ring games during our 'Celebrations' topic. They will learn new dances and games together over the course of the topic and sing familiar celebration songs (e.g. 'Happy Birthday'). During their weekly Music and Dance lessons the children will learn to move rhythmically to music.
- As part of our enhanced provision the children will have the opportunity to create party hats/place mats/paper chains and party decorations in preparation for the class bear's birthday.
- The children will also make their own cakes to eat at our party for our fabulous finish.

Prime Area: Communication and Language (CL)

- We will encourage the children to ask and answer 'how' and 'why' questions regarding their own experiences of celebrations (e.g. How do you celebrate birthdays in your family? Why does your Mum put candles on the cake?)
- We will continue to focus on confidence when speaking in larger groups and will practise speaking aloud for assemblies and at other times in the class.



Reception Year Spring 1: Celebrations



2 weeks

Specific Area: Understanding the World (UW)

- We will begin this topic by inviting the children to share with the class photos of themselves as a baby, toddler and recent picture of themselves. We hope this will inspire discussions of how we change over time. During this topic, the children will be encouraged to think and talk about significant events in their own experiences (e.g. celebrations). They will recognise these as special times and describe their family customs to others. Over the course of the theme, hopefully children will come to enjoy joining in with their school 'family' celebrations.

Prime Area: Physical Development (PD)

- The children will have opportunities to look at dances used to enhance celebrations. They will learn to dance with streamers – drawing lines and circles in the air and applying gross motor movements.
- They will consider the role of decoration in celebrations, using one-handed tools and equipment to make bunting, paper lanterns etc (making snips in paper). In decorating the bunting and/or writing invitations for our special party, the children will practise forming recognisable letters.
- We will also remind the children about healthy food choices and that parties are 'treat' times. We will focus on thinking about some healthy options that could be included.

Specific Area: Literacy

- This topic allows lots of reading of non-fiction texts where we will look at the difference between fiction and non-fiction.
- We will use every opportunity for writing: Invitations, shopping lists for parties, lists of friends for parties etc.
- Our main text is called 'So Much' By Trish Cooke. It is a beautiful repeating text which will give opportunity for children to continue the rhythmic pattern of the story.
- In Phonics we will be finishing off our Phase 3 sounds with our final trigraphs (3 letters making one sound) These are: **ear as in dear, air as in pair and ure as in sure.** After we have introduced these sounds we will revisit and consolidate all of the sounds learnt so far (there are many, and they have done so well at a quick pace). The aim is for the children to be able to recognise them in words and use them with increasing accuracy in their writing.

Specific Area: Mathematics (M)

- We will firstly be introducing weighing to the children and understanding the vocabulary used to compare different weights and capacities. This will link in to our 'maternity ward' baby role-play area where they will have opportunities to weigh the babies and compare different weights. In writing invitations, the children will begin to use language related to time (It will start at 2 o'clock and end at 4 o'clock etc..). We will focus on shape, namely the names and properties of both 2D and 3D shapes.
- Towards the end of the topic the children will be making cakes and 'paying' for their ingredients. We will use 1p, 2p and 5p coins to make totals to 10. They will be learning to problem solve too.

Our Topic's 'Sparkly Starter'

After Christmas, the children returned to find a maternity ward in the class role play area. The babies were fast asleep in their cots, happily waiting for care and love from the new children nurses.

We also read the story, 'So Much' By Trish Cooke, which talks about everyone coming to see the baby and the love they have for him. At the end of the story, daddy arrives, to our surprise as readers, it is for Daddy's Surprise Party.

This introduces our celebration theme.

Our Topic's 'Fabulous Finish'

The Children will be preparing for our Class bear/Giraffe's 5th Birthday party on Friday 25th January. The children will have designed the whole party and are invited to wear their party clothes for this very special day. They can come to school wearing the clothes and can stay in them all day. Please make sure they will be warm enough in them and that they are suitable for outdoor play.

REMINDER: Linking to our baby theme please could your child bring into school a photo of them as a baby, a toddler (1 or 2 years old) and a recent picture of themselves this week. Your child will use the pictures to share with the class how they have changed over time where we will be drawing on similarities and differences.