

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

In this theme, we will be learning about the different celebrations that we enjoy and working together to plan a birthday party for our class bear. The children will...

- Make independent choices and access what they need in order to prepare their contributions to our class bear's birthday party
- Try new activities (such as dances, musical genres and games) that are part of celebrations in other families and/or cultures
- Rate the celebration activities that we try, saying why they like one more than another
- Work in pairs, taking on a particular job so that they learn to take account of one another's ideas about how to approach their activity, resolve conflicts and find a compromise where needed.

Specific Area: Mathematics (M)

In our maths learning during this theme, we will cover the following units from our White Rose Maths scheme:

Unit: Alive in 5

The children will be looking at:

- Zero
- Comparing numbers to 5
- The composition of numbers 4 and 5
- Comparing mass
- Comparing capacity.

Linked to our topic and beginning mathematical routines, the children will:

- Sing number songs to help us learn 1 less
- Look at equal and unequal groups using party props
- Play hide and seek with children and bears and talk about how many are hiding
- Use the language heavy and light when in the baby clinic weighing the babies
- Follow instructions to bake cupcakes for our party, measuring out our ingredients and using the language full and empty with our containers.

Prime Area: Communication and Language (CL)

Our focus in this area of learning will be to feel confident to talk in front of the class and ask questions. We will be delivered a special message from our class bear, asking us to plan him a birthday party. The children will...

- Be encouraged 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?
- Practise speaking aloud for assemblies and at other times in the class
- Build their confidence when speaking in larger groups.

The role play area will be set up as a baby clinic, where the children will learn to take care of babies. They will have a range of resources to help feed them, bath them, weigh them and measure them. The children can use the baby charts to record all their information and even make the new born babies' name tags.

Celebrations



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, as a toddler and a recent picture of themselves. We hope this will inspire discussions around 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.

Religious Education (RE)

The 'Big Question' driving our learning in our Christmas unit is, 'How do we know Jesus was special?' We will be exploring the story of the first Christmas and focusing on the Epiphany to understand the meaning of Christmas and why we are given presents at this time. The children will...

- Get to know the key people in the life of Jesus as a boy
- Be able to re tell the story through role play thinking about why everyone wanted to come and visit Jesus.

Prime Area: Physical Development (PD)

We will be exploring different dances used to enhance celebrations. The children will learn to dance with streamers – drawing lines and circles in the air and applying gross motor movements.

We will be using one-handed tools and equipment to make bunting, paper lanterns and other decorations as well as in writing invitations to our special birthday celebration.

The children will also discuss healthy food options that could be included in our party platters!

Specific Area: Literacy (L)

This topic allows for lots of reading of non-fiction books where we will look at the difference between fiction and non-fiction. There will be many opportunities for the children to develop their writing skills. They will be encouraged to write:

- Invitations and shopping lists for parties
- Lists of ingredients and instructions for our birthday cake baking!



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. We will use verb cards to help us explore new vocabulary.

- In phonics we will learn the phonemes: ai/ee/igh/oa/oo/oo/ar/or/ur/ow/oi/ear
- Our tricky words this topic are: was, you, they, my, by, all

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.
- We will be singing familiar celebration songs.
- 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 cupcakes to eat at our party for our fabulous finish.