

St Thomas More R.C. Primary - Reception Class  
What I am Learning - Autumn 2: Celebrations & Festivals  
 Texts: Binny's Diwali/Little Glow/The Lumberjacks Beard

Area of Learning	Activities	Area of Learning	Activities
<b>Communication and Language</b>	This half term we will be continuing to develop our listening skills through circle time activities. We will be discussing different festivals and celebrations e.g. Diwali, Bonfire Night, birthdays, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas looking at how we and others celebrate these. Towards Christmas, our 'small world' area will reflect the story of the First Christmas and the children will develop their understanding of this special time through play.	<b>Mathematics</b>	In our Maths work, we will be focussing on recognising and ordering numbers, counting to 10 and beyond, number formation and counting out a number of objects accurately. We will also be counting in 5's and 10's. We will begin work on 1 more/less than a given number and some practical addition activities.
<b>Physical Development</b>	We will be continuing to focus upon develop the children's fine and gross motor skills through different activities – creating Rangoli patters using a variety of smaller objects, drizzling and sprinkling glue/glitter for Bonfire Night and many other craft activities in preparation for Christmas! We are encouraging the children to take responsibility for their belongings and dress and undress with independence. We will also be talking about how to keep safe during the Bonfire Night events.	<b>Understanding the World</b>	We will continue to look at changes in our environment and discuss them. We will be discussing/learning lots more about different Festivals and Celebrations – Diwali, Bonfire Night, Remembrance Sunday and Christmas. We will be discussing the different celebrations that we and other communities have and how these are celebrated. We will also be continuing to develop our Technology skills and using different equipment e.g. IPad's, Interactive Whiteboard.
<b>Personal, Social and Emotional Development</b>	We will continue to reinforce our positive class rules and boundaries. We will continue with circle time activities, modelling positive behaviours/friendships and discussing different aspects of our feelings. Through our Religion work, we will be learning more about how we welcome people into our own and God's family (including Baptisms) and we will learn about Advent and how people celebrate Jesus' birthday each year.	<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	We will be creating our own Diwali dances, Rangoli patterns and Firework Pictures by drizzling glue and blowing paint. We will also be exploring a variety of media and materials and using these in our independent work. In Music, we will be continuing to learn new songs and dances, and of course a few festive songs towards Christmas!
<b>Literacy</b>	We will be working on a variety of texts over this half term, including a whole school project. We will be writing for a variety of purposes e.g. lists, cards, descriptions. Our phonics groups will continue and we will be send 'High Frequency' words home for you to start to look through with your child. We will also be writing about the First Christmas, letters to Santa etc. towards the end of the half term.	<b>Outdoor Provision</b>	We will be working outdoors each day in our provision which includes; role play, sand and water, small world, construction, writing and number activities. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing every day and that you have sent a pair of labelled wellington boots into school. We will also be, accessing the outdoor apparatus in our main playground.

\*When working on our text, we always try to select a story that the children may not have seen before we do not read the whole story initially. We work on the text over the course of the half term, and unpick each section, our focussed activities and challenges are based upon the part of the story we are working on to keep an element of surprise and suspense. If you do wish to read the story at home with your child, please could you do so once we have completed our topic and text work, thank you.