



Diwali

Developing Children's Vocabulary

Our topic for this week is Diwali, the Hindu festival of lights.

The children will be thinking about how they celebrate special occasions with their own family and friends and share their experiences at circle times. The children will have the opportunity to explore a range of cultural resources and dressing up.

We will be looking at a range of picture books that will introduce the children to different cultures and faiths.

In creative activities the children will have the opportunity to make Diva lamps from clay to take home and to work together to create a giant Rangoli pattern in our playground to welcome visitors. They will draw their own mendhi patterns (on paper!) and make jewellery and garlands from coloured pasta, flower shapes and leaves.

Key vocabulary:

Diwali, Hindu, New Year, party, celebration, festival, food, decorations, toran, Rangoli pattern, Diva lamp, light, lantern, fireworks, gifts, necklace, garland, mendhi.

Stories:

Some of the books and stories we will be sharing are

Lighting a Lamp. Jonny Zucker and Jan Barger.
Happy Diwali, The Festival of Lights. - Wayland Publications
Celebration! Children Just Like Me. – DK Publications
Festivals and Celebrations. Pam Robson
A Balloon for Grandad. Nigel Gray and Jane Ray
Handa's Hen. Eileen Brown

Song:

During our circle time singing we will also include our Diwali song.

Diwali Song (Tune of Here We Go Round the Mulberry Bush)

This is the way we clean the house, (pretend to sweep)

Clean the house,

Clean the house,

This is the way we clean the house

On a bright Diwali day

This the way we make the food etc. (pretend to mix in a bowl)...

This is the way we light the lamps etc. (pretend to light a candle)...

This is the way we great our friends etc. (pretend to shake hands)...