

Our learning this half term will focus a great deal around **Celebrations & Special Times**.

## Characteristics of Effective Learning

### Playing & Exploring



We will be encouraging all the children to show curiosity about objects, events & people and use their senses to explore the world around them. We will encourage them to engage in more open-ended activities.

### Active Learning



We will be encouraging all the children to maintain focus on their activity for increasingly longer periods of time.

### Creating and thinking critically



We will be encouraging all the children to think of new and different ideas, find ways to solve problems and find new ways to do things.

## Prime Areas of Learning

### Personal, Social & Emotional Development



We will be encouraging all the children to begin to take steps to resolve conflicts with other children – solving problems and beginning to negotiate.

### Physical Development



We will be encouraging all the children to hold one handed tools like pencils and scissors correctly. We will teach the children the need for safety when trying new challenges.

### Communication & Language



We will be encouraging all the children to extend their vocabulary based on a range of stories we will read & areas of interest that arise. We will also encourage the use of language to imagine & recreate roles & experiences.

## Specific Areas of Learning

### Literacy



We will be reading stories linked to celebrations and also the traditional tale of The Gingerbread Man which we will role-play & retell in different ways. We will be consolidating our learning of Phase 2 letters & sounds, learning the Phase 3 Tricky words & learning to blend and segment/write vc & cvc words. We will also begin learning Phase 3 letters & sounds.

### Maths



**Numbers**  
We will continue learning a new number each week with related counting, addition & subtraction activities.

**Shape, Space & Measures**  
We will continue learning 2D shapes and also work on various measures including capacity & length, particularly focusing on the correct use of language.

### Understanding the World



We will be encouraging all children to make observations and comparisons so that they notice similarities & differences, in relation to the weather/seasons & light/dark. We will teach them about the Hindu festival of Diwali, learn about Remembrance & learn about the Bible & the Christian story of The First Christmas.

### Expressive Arts & Design



We will be encouraging the use of a variety of different media to create new effects. We will also work on beginning to introduce a storyline into play experiences. As part of preparations for Christmas, we will learn to sing a range of songs & learn how to play simple rhythms & follow a conductor.