

St. Luke's C.E. Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to the second half of the Autumn Term. Our topic this half term is **Celebrations!** We have really enjoyed getting to know all the children and families and are looking forward to further developing these relationships. We would like to welcome Coral to our team who will be working between Nursery and Reception. Thank you all for adhering to the guidance for dropping off and collecting your children. We know this is difficult, but you are all helping us to keep the children safe. Please can we ask that all parents/ carers place your child's name in their jumpers and cardigans as we are developing a large collection of these and the children are not able to identify their own when asked about it.

Based on the theme of our half term topic, we would love to see more pictures or items that show us your family sharing any special celebrations.

The following is an overview of what your child will be doing this half term:

Prime Areas:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development will continue to be our main focus in both Nursery and Reception this half term. We will be working with your children to make them feel comfortable with staff and feel confident in asking for what they need. We will continue to develop new friendships and extend who they are playing with each day. Learning through child-initiated play is at the heart of what we do at St. Luke's and this half term all the staff will be focusing on how to engage in activities and work alongside other children to create and develop play and creative projects.

Communication and Language will focus on sharing stories of different moments that are special to the children. We will begin to explore language that allows children to interact with others and take turns using resources.

In **Physical Development** we will be developing children's independence in dressing, toileting and feeding themselves. The children will also focus on hygiene and staying healthy and happy. Our large spaces both indoors and outdoors allow for the children to explore many opportunities to use large and small resources to develop their muscle control and work as a team. We will also be focusing on holding and using an assortment of writing utensils.

Specific Areas:

In **Literacy** we will be sharing stories about our favourite traditions and celebrations. The children will be exploring name writing and creating cards for family members. We will explore henna patterns, maps and gift making as a means to develop pencil control. Phonics



will carry on as a daily lesson in reception allowing children to develop reading skills and letter formation. Nursery will begin with their phonics sessions this half term. Children will explore their mark making and listening and responding to stories.

This half term in **Maths** we will focus on pattern and number. The children will count fireworks, reindeer, candles, and much more. We will look at pattern in henna, bunting, paper chains, and pictures of our friends doing kind things for each other.

Understanding the World will entail the children discussing similarities and differences between celebrations and traditions. We will look at all different cultures and the stories that are behind all these exciting celebrations.

Expressive Arts and Design is a part of the curriculum we see everywhere in our classrooms! The children will be creating gifts, fireworks, cards, decorations and characters from the stories. We will have a variety of musical instruments and songs that go along with the celebrations for children to explore and create. In both Nursery and Reception we have role play areas inside and outside to allow the children to act out these celebrations and the stories that go along with them!

Swimming will sadly not be taking place, and we hope that in the near future it will again be able to splash about in the pool. We will let you know as soon as we are ready to swim again.

Activities for you and your child at home:

- Reading books with your child about different cultural celebrations.
- Sharing their favourite celebrations with them and looking to other family members or friends to share memories or traditions with.
- Please encourage your child's independence by practicing putting on and taking off coats, jumpers and cardigans. As well as recognizing their photo or their name when using their peg or lost jumper!
- Encourage your child to try writing their name anywhere they can, paper, chalk on the ground or even in the tub.
- Reception: Do a sound hunt! See how many things they can find that start with s, a, t, p, l, n, m, o, c, k.
- Talk about what we do to appreciate others during a celebration and why it is so important to be around those you love.
- Practice counting and recognizing numbers. How old are you? Can you count the candles in the house, a number search in your neighborhood, counting cards/ gifts that you are sharing with others, counting pieces of dinner on your plate.

We look forward to another amazing half term and if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to email us.

Kind Regards,

EYU team

