

St Joseph's Pre School
Autumn 2: Celebrations, Food and Festivals!

Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Physical Development	Communication and Language	Understanding the World	Literacy	Maths	Expressive Arts and Design	Key Texts
Children will: - Develop confidence sharing personal experiences. - Learn to take turns during cooking and celebration activities. - Explore feelings linked to celebrations (excitement, anticipation). - Show respect for different cultural traditions. - Build friendships	Children will: - Strengthen fine motor skills through chopping, mixing, pouring and decorating. - Develop gross motor skills through festival dances and movement games. - Practise self-care skills during shared	Children will: - Learn and use vocabulary linked to food, celebrations and festivals. - Talk about their own family traditions and favourite foods. - Listen to stories about celebrations from different cultures. - Follow instructions during cooking	Children will: - Learn about different festivals (Diwali, Bonfire Night, Christmas, Hanukkah). - Explore foods from different cultures. - Talk about family traditions and celebrations. - Learn about seasonal changes linked to	Children will: - Enjoy stories linked to food and celebrations. - Create marks, labels and cards linked to festivals. - Sequence events from celebration stories. - Recognise and write their names on cards or artwork. Key experiences: - Making Diwali	Children will: - Count ingredients during cooking. - Compare sizes, shapes and quantities of foods. - Explore patterns linked to festivals (rangoli, wrapping paper). - Use positional language during celebration role play. Key experiences:	Children will: - Create festival-themed artwork (rangoli, firework art, Christmas crafts). - Explore music and dance linked to celebrations. - Engage in imaginative role play (birthday party, Christmas kitchen). - Use a range of materials to decorate food and celebration items. Key experiences:	celebration, festival, food, taste, smell, sweet, spicy, crunchy, soft, Diwali, Christmas, birthday, party, family, tradition, lights, fireworks, share, special, cook, mix, stir, healthy <i>The Gingerbread man - various</i>



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through shared festive experiences. Key experiences: • Preparing food together. • Celebration role play (birthday party, Christmas dinner). • Talking about how families celebrate differently. • Group cooking activities.	meals and snack times. • Explore healthy eating and making good choices. Key experiences: • Making fruit kebabs or simple festive snacks. • Dance and movement linked to Diwali or Christmas. • Using tools safely (child-safe).	and craft activities. • Engage in discussions about how people celebrate differently. Key experiences: • Sharing photos of family celebrations. • Talking about birthday traditions. • Story sessions (<i>Pumpkin Soup, Lighting a Lamp, The Christmas Story</i>). • Describing foods using senses.	autumn and winter. • Use simple technology (lights, torches, music players) during celebrations. Key experiences: • Exploring Diwali lamps and Christmas lights. • Tasting foods from different cultures (where appropriate). • Watching videos of celebrations around the world.	cards or Christmas cards. • Writing name labels for food displays. • Sequencing the Christmas story. • Drawing favourite foods.	• Counting fruit pieces for kebabs. • Sorting foods by colour, size or type. • Creating rangoli patterns with coloured rice. • Setting up a "party table" using positional language.	• Firework splatter paintings. • Making diya lamps. • Decorating biscuits. • Christmas crafts and nativity role play.	<i>The Animal's Christmas</i> – Alison Urquhart <i>Jesus' Christmas Party</i> – Nicholas Allen
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	- e knives, peelers). - Setting tables and serving food.		Talking about fireworks safety.				
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Curriculum Intent Our intent is to introduce children to a rich variety of foods, traditions and celebrations from their own lives and from cultures around the world. Through hands-on exploration, shared experiences and creative activities, children will develop curiosity, respect for diversity and an understanding of how people celebrate in different ways. The topic supports early communication, social development, healthy eating awareness and creativity, while fostering a strong sense of belonging within the St Joseph's community.

Why This Learning Matters

- **Celebrations are meaningful and familiar**, helping children connect learning to their own lives and experiences.
- **Food exploration supports sensory development**, descriptive language and curiosity about the world.
- **Learning about different festivals promotes inclusion, respect and cultural awareness**, helping children understand that families celebrate in different ways.
- **Cooking and food preparation build fine motor skills**, independence and early mathematical understanding (counting, measuring, comparing).
- **Shared celebrations strengthen relationships**, encouraging cooperation, turn-taking and social confidence.
- **Exploring healthy eating lays foundations for lifelong wellbeing**, helping children make positive choices.
- **Creative festival activities support expressive arts**, imagination and emotional expression.
- **Seasonal celebrations such as Diwali and Christmas help children understand traditions**, community and the rhythm of the year.

