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Cleves Cross Primary and  
Nursery School  
Ferryhill  
County Durham  
DL17 8QY



Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a wonderful half term and are ready for the busy half term that leads us to Christmas.

Our topic this half term is 'Celebrations'. Within this topic we will explore and experience celebrations and festivals from a range of religions and cultures, such as Bonfire Night, birthdays, Diwali and Christmas. In order to enhance the children's experiences beyond the classroom, and as part of our exploration of Bonfire Night, we would normally be visited by the fire brigade. We hope to arrange this virtually. The story of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, will also lead us on to finding out about the police and how they help us. Again, as we cannot visit the station like we normally would, we hope to arrange a virtual visit.

As part of the topic we will also focus on the following:

#### Personal and Social Education:

- SEAL topic- Getting On and Falling Out- friendly and unfriendly behaviour
- Keeping safe- fire safety, people who help us and internet safety
- Anti-bullying Day

#### Literacy:

We will continue our phonics, reading and writing programmes, but some opportunities link to our topic:

- Asking questions
- Reading and writing about the following books and celebrations: One Cold, Dark Night, The Birthday Invitation, The Jolly Postman and the Nativity story. We will also enjoy: the story of the Gunpowder Plot, Cops and Robbers, Mog, Kipper's Birthday, the story of Rama and Sita, the Grinch and many more stories.
- Police station, Fire station, Post Office and Santa's workshop role play areas.
- Name writing (please support your child at home if they cannot already do this and, if they can, challenge them to form each letter correctly - according to the formation rhymes we have been learning).

#### Maths

Our maths this term covers:

- Patterns
- 2D Shapes
- Numbers to 5
- One more and one less
- Position and Direction
- My day

#### Understanding the World

- Virtual visit from the fire brigade and to the police station
- People who help us
- Celebrations and festivals from a range of religions and cultures
- Light and dark
- Colour mixing fireworks
- Continuing to explore Autumn and the change to Winter





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### Expressive Arts and Design

- Firework art- copying shapes, colour mixing and printing
- Making poppies
- Diva Lamps and Rangoli patterns
- Children in Need - crafts
- Christmas arts and crafts- cards and calendars
- Exploring instruments and learning rhymes- A teacher from Durham Music Services will teach music to us on a Tuesday morning.



### Physical Development

As well as following our P.E. programme and taking part in a daily movement programme, we will:

- Develop fine motor skills and pencil grip
- Develop gross motor skills
- Practising fastening zips on coats and dressing independently (in PE) - please help at home too!
- Health and hygiene

In the Foundation Stage we follow children's interests, so it may be that some of these activities do not get completed and we follow the lead of the children into a different aspect of the topic.

As part of our curriculum, we will have P.E. on a Wednesday. This can change due to availability of the hall and timetabling so P.E. kits must be in school on a Monday and they will be sent home for washing as needed or at the end of the half term. For safety purposes, please ensure earrings are removed on P.E. days. It is also important that you label your child's P.E. kit, as changing for P.E. is a 'busy' time and kits can get muddled up easily.

Reading books have been coming home for a few weeks now and the children seem to be responding very well to them- thank you for your fantastic support. Please continue to read with your child at home. Just five to ten minutes a night will make a huge difference to their learning across the whole curriculum. We aim for children to read at least three times throughout the week and have their diaries signed on these occasions. Please also ensure that reading books are brought to school every day so we can listen to readers in school. Homework is sent out on a Friday and should be returned by Tuesday so that it can be marked and new homework put in ready for Friday.

As the winter weather approaches, the children will need to be prepared for accessing the outdoors. Please ensure your child comes to school in a warm coat and a hat (please label with their name). **We would be grateful if you could send a pair of wellies in for your child to access before going onto the grassed area of our outdoor provision.**

If you're not already an active user, our Cleves Cross app is vital for staying up-to-date with class and school announcements. After downloading the app, you must remember to subscribe to Reception's notifications.

We are also using Tapestry - an online learning journal- to record your child's experiences and learning in school. Please let me know if you are not accessing this as it is also a useful means of communication and a way that you can share experiences and learning from home.

If you have any questions or concerns, or want to discuss any aspects of the curriculum further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Thank you for your continuing support,

Mrs Richardson, Miss Hodges, Miss Whales and Mrs Slater

