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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, the fire brigade will visit us at school. We will also visit the church again before Christmas to find out about Christmas celebrations in the church.

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

#### Personal and Social Education:

- 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: Hibernation, It's My Birthday, 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 and the Grinch.
- Police station, fire station, Post Office and Santa's workshop role-play areas.
- Name writing (please support your child at home with this, if they cannot already do it 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:

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

#### Understanding the World

- People who help us- visit from the fire brigade
- Celebrations and festivals from a range of religions and cultures
- Shabbat
- Christmas in the Church
- Light and dark
- Colour mixing
- 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



### 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
- Practise fastening zips on coats and dressing independently (in PE)- please help at home too!
- Practise using a knife and a fork at lunchtime- 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 started to come home 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- remember the library book is for you to share to them and the scheme book should be well matched to their phonics level and as it is practised 3 times in school before coming home, your child should be able to read this to you and celebrate their success with you. Just five minutes a night will make a huge difference to their learning across the whole curriculum- it is extremely beneficial. Please sign their diaries to let us know that they are practising at home. 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). In Reception the children can choose to play inside or outside throughout the day in all weathers.

If you haven't downloaded it already, our Cleves Cross app is crucial for staying up-to-date with class announcements. After downloading the app, you must subscribe to Reception's notifications.

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

