



Christchurch Infant School Early Years Project Overview

Let's Celebrate

Autumn 2



Rationale

This half term, we will be learning all about celebrations - the special times that make us smile, bring people together, and fill our days with joy and sparkle.

We begin with the excitement of Bonfire Night, watching how colours dance across the night sky. Then we discover how people remember and say thank you during Remembrance, learning about kindness and respect.

Next, we'll celebrate birthdays through Kipper's Birthday, planning our very own party for our class pet! The story Whatever Next will take us on a magical adventure to the moon, where we'll imagine a birthday celebration among the stars.

As the term continues, the classroom will begin to twinkle as we prepare for Christmas. We'll decorate, sing, and share stories together before ending our topic with a sparkly Nativity performance, where the children will proudly sing, dance, and tell the Christmas story to their families.

Throughout our project, we will explore friendship, kindness, and what it means to celebrate and care for one another.

Hook

Whatever Next - A rocket made from boxes appears in the classroom! Space music plays while children find moon rocks, a helmet, and boots left behind with a message from Baby Bear.

Birthday Party - A special party for our class pet and an invitation from Kipper: "You're invited to my birthday!"

Christmas Wow Day - Children arrive to find the classroom transformed for Christmas. Festive music, decorations, and sensory activities kick off our Christmas learning.

Outcome

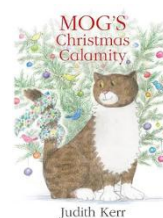
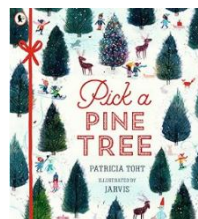
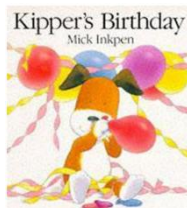
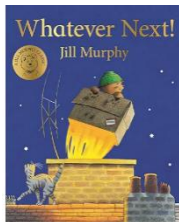
We will be performing our Christmas Nativity to our families and we will celebrate by having a special party day on the last day of term.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and Exploring

- Bring their own interests and fascinations into the Early Years setting.
- Make independent choices.
- Do things independently that they have been previously taught – with confidence.

Key Texts





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Prior learning Expressive Arts and Design The children have learnt how to: • Use glue sticks and PVA glue to join materials. • Sing familiar songs and explore new ones. • Mix colours to make new shades.	Prior learning Literacy (Reading and Writing) The children have learnt how to: • Recognise and say Phase 2 sounds taught so far in Little Wandle. • Hear and say initial sounds in words and begin to write them. • Begin to blend CVC words to read simple words. • Have a go at writing their name.	Prior learning Understanding the World The children have learnt how to: • Understand how we are all unique and have differences. • Understand that each other's families are different. That some people celebrate different events (Bonfire Night and Diwali).
Focus Subject Expressive Arts and Design The children will be learning to: • Sing songs linked to our celebrations and the class nativity. • Explore movement and dance linked to fireworks and Christmas. • Create artwork inspired by celebrations, including firework prints and Christmas decorations. • Construct rockets and moon scenes using junk modelling. • Make cards and decorations for family celebrations.	Focus Subject Literacy (Reading and Writing) I will be learning to: • Continue Phase 2 phonics, blending and segmenting CVC words. • Read and spell tricky words (the, to, go, no, I). • Use Talk for Writing to retell Whatever Next and Kipper's Birthday. • Write simple captions and labels linked to celebrations. • Write invitations, birthday cards, and Christmas lists. • Develop letter formation through daily handwriting practice.	Focus Subject Understanding the World I will be learning to: • Understand how people celebrate Christmas and have different Christmas traditions. • Compare the similarities and differences between how me and my friends celebrate Christmas. • Understand that some places are special to members of their community, such as churches. • Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways. • Learn about how different countries celebrate Christmas. Learn about the season of Winter.
Application Area Physical Development Children will consolidate learning by: • Using scissors to carefully cut paper into desired shape • Using different tools for different purposes and holding them correctly (pencils, crayons, paint brushes). • Move in different ways safely, looking out for obstacles.		



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Application Area

Communication and Language

Children will consolidate learning by:

- Listening carefully at the Christmas Show at the Baptist church.
- Describing Christmas in their home.
- Engaging in Christmas stories, listening carefully and understanding new vocabulary.
- Listening and learning about how each other and our Christmas traditions are celebrated differently.
- **Jigsaw Piece 2: Celebrating Differences**

Trips and Visitors:

Christchurch Baptist Church - The Nativity and Christmas songs – 30th November 2026

Maths

Children will learn numbers 4 and 5 and have a deep understanding of their composition. They will count forwards and backwards and will sequence numbers to 5 also identifying missing numbers in a sequence. They will compare groups saying if they are equal to five/more than five or fewer than five. They will also be introduced to different structures of 5 (blocks arranged in different layouts rather than a straight line). The focus will then be on introducing the concept of 1 more and 1 less. Children will be introduced to the subtraction symbol and this will be linked to number songs such as 5 little ducks and 5 currant buns. We will play games such as musical chairs to develop the understanding of taking 1 away at the Christmas party.

Home learning:

- Share celebration stories at home.
- Practise Phase 2 phonics using Little Wandle resources.
- Learn Christmas songs for the Nativity.

Key Vocabulary:

Celebration	Tradition	Remember
Respect	Invitation	Adventure
Sparkle	Nativity	Perform
Winter	Decorations	Beliefs