

Topic Overview for Blackbirds Class

Bright Lights and Dark Nights Term 2 2025

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- Celebrating our achievements both in & out of school on our Juniper app
- Valuing Difference-being sensitive and kind towards others and celebrating what makes everyone unique.
- RE: The Christmas story and why Christians celebrate at Christmastime.
- Celebrate different festivals –Diwali, Hannukah and Christmas.
- Learning Lenny – share what they have taught Lenny and build learning power.

Communication & Language

- Regular circle times for discussions and encouraging children to share ideas and listen to each other. What is a question? Talk partner work devising questions and listening to each other.
- Talk about things we celebrate. Compare Diwali (Festival of Lights) and Bonfire night.
- Discuss nocturnal and diurnal animals.
- Individual & shared reading. Read & retell stories 'Leaf man', 'The Lights that dance in the night' 'It was a cold ,dark night'. Learning and singing different Christmas songs

Physical Development

- Use of Hands on box to develop fine motor skills. Practical cutting out activities to develop scissor skills. Playdough disco
- Mult skills led by specialist sports coach.
- Indoor PE: Jumping and landing and exploring seated balance.
- Fortnightly welly walks/outdoor experiences

Literacy

- Recap of Phase 2 phonics and CEWS and introduction to Phase 3 phonics- y, z, zz, qu, ch, sh, th, ng, ai, ee, igh, oa, oo, ar, or, ur, ow, oi, ear, air
- Write names and CVC words
- Re-tell stories using props
- Start to blend phonics orally
- Sequencing of stories
- Simple recounts using finger puppets.

Mathematics

- Focus on counting skills and subitising to 5
- Comparison 'more than, less than , an equal number.'
- Explore concept of 'part, part, whole'
- Focus on the composition of 3,4 and 5
- Match numerals to quantities within 10
- Verbal counting beyond 20
- Explore circles, triangles and shapes with 4 sides.

Understanding of the world

- FRENCH- Family vocabulary and Christmas in France!
- Diwali- the Hindu Festival of Lights and Hannukah. Learn about the celebrations, the story of Rama and Sita, make our own divas and fireworks.
- The celebrations of Firework night.
- Seasonal changes. Autumn-what do animals do? Which animals hibernate? What are nocturnal and diurnal animals? What is migration?

Expressive Arts & Design

- Firework painting
- Make diva lamps from clay. Paint and decorate them.
- Leaf sewing.
- MUSIC – Celebrations! Explore Diwali, Hannukah, Kwanzaa and Christmas via music, song and movement.