

# Half Term Curriculum Overview

## Starry Night Elephants and Unicorns

### Literacy

**Word Reading:**

In our phonics we will continue to learn new letters and sounds through our Sounds Write Phonics Lessons. We will focus on orally hearing all the sounds in simple words. We will then practise blending the sounds together in order to read the whole word. We will learn Unit 4, 5 and 6 sounds as well as some new sight words – these are words that we can't sound out e.g., he, she, my, no.

**Writing:**

This half term we will develop confidence and control in our mark making. We will continue to practice writing our name as well as sounds relating to our phonics learning. We will continue to develop our fine motor skills through activities such as threading and peg boards. We will use our phonics knowledge to begin to write words, hearing and writing up to three sounds in each word.

**Comprehension:**

As we get to know each of our focus texts we will begin to act them out and retell them using a variety of activities such as images, role play and small world play.

### Maths

**Number**

In number this half term, we will continue to develop our skills with counting to 10. We will look closely at the numbers 1-5, finding representations of these in the environment and using marks to represent them. We will be focusing on the skill of subitising; knowing how many of something there is without counting. This is a fundamental maths skill that we will use for the rest of our lives!

**Numerical Patterns**

During the half term, we will learn about different shapes. We will learn to name different 2D shapes and describe their properties including how many corners and edges they have. We will talk about shapes we see in our environment and what we notice about them, using our comparison skills from Autumn 1 to compare their size, colour and quantity.

### Growth Mindset

Charlie the Curiosity star

### Books

Little Glow by Katie Sahota

Binny's Diwali by Thirty Umrigar

A Christmas Story by Brian Wildsmith

### Homework

- To read at least 4 times a week together.
- To talk, talk, talk! Communication is a foundational skill – the more adults talk and the more children are listened to, the more these skills develop.
- To support your child to meet their next steps given at parents evening by encouraging them to engage in the activities suggested by their class teacher.

### Special Events

Parents evening

Campfire Singing

We will be performing a Christmas play!

# Understanding the World

## People, culture and communities

We will be getting to know lots about different religions through exploring different festivals that happen during the winter months. We will explore Diwali (Hinduism and Sikhism) and Christmas (Christianity) as our main two festivals. We will learn how these festivals are celebrated in different ways.

## The Natural World

We will continue to spend lots of time outside, exploring the natural resources around us and observing the changes in weather and seasons.

## Past and present

We will spend time looking at how the festivals of Diwali and Christmas have been celebrated for a very long time! We will continue developing our understanding of the past by talking about the ways we have celebrated in the past and how others have celebrated.

# Physical Development

## Gross and fine motor skills

In PE we will continue to explore moving in different ways using music from different festivals and celebrations. We will continue to use the jungle gym to develop our climbing skills as well as negotiating space and obstacles. Our gross motor skills will support the development of our fine motor skills and our writing! We will also continue taking part in weekly Commando Joe sessions to develop our resilience, teamwork and communication. We will develop our fine motor skills by taking part in morning finger gym activities to strengthen our muscles ready for writing. To support this, we will be practicing to hold writing equipment with 3 fingers. We will continue to use our finger gym area during our independent learning time to strengthen our fine motor muscles.

# Expressive Arts and Design

## Creating with materials

We will be creating our own representations of Diwali art including making Mehndi hand patterns and Rangoli patterns. We will use different media to achieve different textures on a large scale outdoors and smaller scale indoors. We will also focus on creating Christmas cards and crafts. We will also create decorations for autumn, winter and the Nativity and take part in firework artwork activities.

## Being Imaginative

In our music sessions we will be listening to different types of music that people listen to during festivals. We will use our own instruments and body percussion to recreate music and songs. We will compare music from different festivals and explain why we like some music more than others. In our role play area, we will act out the Diwali and Christmas stories using props and books.

## Class Blogs –

Visit our class blogs to: read the latest news, look at photo slideshows and find out more about what we have been learning.

<https://f2elephant.wordpress.com/>

<https://f2unicorn.wordpress.com/>

Please also see TAPESTRY 😊

