



Welcome to Reception



This half term, our topic is: **Fantastic Festivals**

'Fast fact': In Reception we learn how to use a comfortable grip with good control when holding pens and pencils (tripod grip).



If you need to speak to the class teacher please email us at reception@westfield.staffs.sch.uk

Here is some information on how we will support the children through the 7 areas of learning:

Communication and Language.



We will be exploring questioning to find out more and extend our learning. We will listen carefully to a variety of stories and use story language or our own words to describe and retell in detail.

Physical Development

PE sessions will be every Thursday afternoon. Please send your child into school wearing appropriate clothing and footwear.

We will listen to different types of music and express our feelings through movements, including putting sequences of movement together. Explore lots of festive music in the lead up to Christmas.

In the classroom, we will continue to explore activities to strengthen and refine our fine motor muscles to support our writing.

Maths

Through play, using equipment and adult led/child initiated learning, we will:

- Explore stories to help understand composition of numbers 1,2,3, 4 and 5.
- Practise writing and recognising numbers to 10.
- Recap 1 more and 1 less of numbers up to 10.
- Identify and describe the properties of 4 sided shapes.



Expressive Arts and Design

We will explore a range of art techniques as we create firework pictures, Rangoli patterns for Diwali and a range of Christmas crafts.

In preparation for our Nativity, we will be practising singing, dancing and performing.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

We will take part in Children in Need Day so children can understand the concept and introduce the children to the loveable Pudsey Bear!

We will explore kindness and continue to use kindness vouchers.



Literacy



Each day we will promote a love of reading as we share stories and books as a whole class during story time. Our focus texts will be: 'Sparks in the Sky', 'Jolly Christmas Postman', 'Rama and Sita' and 'Stick Man'. We will be developing our 'Talk4Writing' skills through lots of story telling, retelling and role-play. We will be creating story maps to help us remember the sequence of a story and use our phonics skills to help us to write.

In readiness for super writing, we will develop and strengthen our fine motor skills at our 'Funky Fingers' station and playdough area.

In Phonics lessons we will continue to learn grapheme, phoneme correspondences, focusing on: ff, ll, ss, j, w, v, z, y, z, zz, qu, sh, th, ng and nk. We will also practise teacher led blending and oral blending to read words.

Understanding The World

Through story-telling, drama, discussions and working together, we will:

- Learn about the traditions of Diwali and Christmas.
- Talk about our own celebrations at home and family traditions.
- Solve problems and make predictions in experiments.
- Talk about the past and learn about Remembrance Sunday and why it is important.





HOME LEARNING

We would be so excited to see any writing, maths and creative activities you have been doing at home. When brought into school we will encourage the children to take part in 'show and tell' to the class. If you would like to explore our 'Fantastic Festival' topic here are some ideas (but please feel free to use your own ideas too):



Design and make a Stick Man.



Write a letter to Santa—use your sound cards or mats to help you sound out and write the words.



Draw a shape picture of a Snowman—can you use a circle, triangle, rectangle and a square?



Use different technology to take photographs of a celebration.



Design some Christmas wrapping paper—can you use a repeating pattern?



Write a shopping list for things you need for a party.