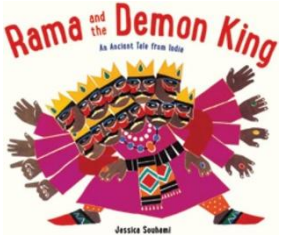
Juniper Hill School

Information for Reception Parents

Term: Autumn 2
Topic: Diwali & Bonfire Night



One-week topic starting 2/11/26
Diwali is on **Sunday 8th November** 2026

Literacy

We will be learning about the celebration of Diwali and how it is celebrated. We will also be hearing the Diwali story of Rama and Sita. Once familiar with the story, the children will retell the story by acting it out and using puppets. We will also make and write our own Diwali cards.
For Bonfire Night we will be thinking about different words to describe the bonfires and fireworks we have seen and heard. The children will be copying and continuing different pre-handwriting patterns to develop pencil control. As part of our writing development, the children will also be tracing over simple words, using a 'starting dot' to remind children of proper letter formation and direction.
End point: Recognises & discusses simple similarities & differences between their own family traditions & peers

Maths

We will be looking at and making repeating patterns. We will be using different shapes and colours to make ABAB patterns and then challenging ourselves to make ABCABC and AABB patterns. We will then use our pattern making skills to make a Diwali necklace. We will also be revising comparison and discussing more/fewer.

Topic work

We will be using clay to make divas and once they are dry we will paint them and decorate with glitter. We will also be using our creative skills to create Rangoli and Mendi patterns. During Diwali week, we will be tasting some Indian food and talking about textures/ tastes. You could ask your child which foods they liked from the poppadoms, naan bread, curry sauce, and mango chutney that they will be trying.
For bonfire night, we will be exploring different ways to join paper and using these to make different moving firework pictures and models.

Ways you can help

- **Phonics:** We hope the children had a wonderful break. The next phonic book with new sounds learnt will **be sent home next Friday, 13.11.26**, so please use this week and next week to reinforce previously learnt sounds!
- Talk to children about which festivals they enjoy celebrating the most.

Reminders

Library: The children will now be bringing home books from our school library each week. Robins library day is **Wednesday** and Wrens is **Thursday** The children will be able to choose a new library book if they return their book on their library day. **Please note that the children can only change their library books on the day of the designated slot. Any late returns will be exchanged on Thursdays only.**