

# LEARNING @ ORSETT THROUGH SKILLS



Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn term. I hope that you enjoyed yourselves during the holiday! This half term, we will be studying different Festivals of Light including Diwali (Hinduism), Hanukkah (Judaism) and, finally, Christmas (Christianity). We think that it's important for the children to learn about different cultures and ways that people celebrate, and this theme is perfect for that. We will be considering similarities and differences between religions and cultures, as well as looking at how the differing cultures and religions celebrate their festivals. I think the children will really enjoy it.

We are hoping to include lots of Art, Music and DT this half term as it is such an expressive theme and the children will have the opportunity to be as creative as they can! We will also be covering a lot of RE and PSHE, through group work and class discussions. So that you have a better idea of what we'll be doing, here is a brief outline of the areas we will be covering for each of the subjects:

<i>Geography</i>	Using atlases, the children will be researching and locating different countries while finding out how they celebrate Christmas time.
<i>Music</i>	We will be appraising a variety of different styles of music as well as learning and performing a song called Ho, Ho, Ho. We will begin to use different instruments to compose simple songs and accompaniments.
<i>ICT / Computing</i>	We will be creating simple programs using roamers and learning how to de-bug a program. We will also continue with knowing the importance of E-safety and what to do if something makes you uncomfortable.
<i>Science</i>	We will be looking at the science of 'Light' including understanding what light is, how shadows and reflections are formed. We will be investigating how the size of a shadow is affected by the distance of a light from an object.
<i>French</i>	We will continue to look at greetings and classroom instructions. Before moving on to asking and giving names and ages in French. We will also be looking at French culture during the Christmas season.
<i>Art &amp; Design</i>	We will be creating different art work based around festivals of light using different materials and experimenting with shadows and reflections. We will also be using clay and paint to create our own Diva lamps (Hinduism).
<i>Design Technology</i>	We are also planning to cook some traditional potato cakes known as latkes for Hanukkah (Judaism).
<i>PSHE &amp; Citizenship</i>	Our Christian Value this half term is 'service'. We will also thinking about Health and Wellbeing. In this unit, we will be thinking about how to reduce the spread of bacteria and how medicines have specific uses for health. Finally we will be considering acceptable and unacceptable physical contact.

Please note that RE has a strong link with our whole theme, so this will present throughout our lessons.

**Homework:** The extended homework information will be sent out to you on **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November**, so that you are aware of the expectations and deadlines agreed. As you are already aware, we always encourage children to continue their learning outside of school. We do expect every child to read daily and learn their spellings and times tables up to x12.

**Please note** that our PE lessons will be every Monday and Wednesday afternoon, so please ensure that your child has their PE kits on these days including a tracksuit so we can continue to go outside (unless the weather is wet!) **If the children wear trainers for PE they must be non-marking and black, and they can only be worn if the children change into them for PE.**

Yours sincerely,

Mr D Partridge  
Class Teacher