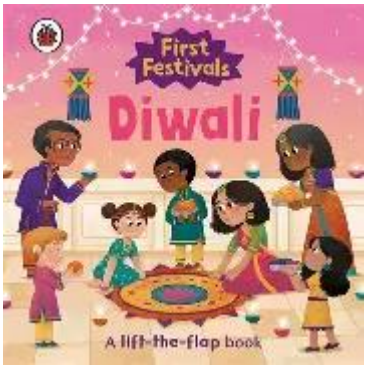


20.11.26

Our topic this week is **Diwali.** The children learnt about the Festival of Light, and why it is celebrated by many Hindu families. They listened to the story of Rama and Sita and explored how people celebrate Diwali. They learned the meanings of new words such as Diwali, Festival of Light, diva (lamp), rangoli, light, dark.

Books we have read this week:

- Lighting a lamp
- First Festivals – Diwali
- Rama and Sita – The story of Diwali
- My Diwali

Activities/provision this week:

- **Diwali dancing** – We learnt a new dance for Diwali and the children copied traditional dance moves.
- **Sensory rangoli patterns** – The children made their own 'rangoli patterns' using coloured salt and small spoons. We watched videos of how people make different rangoli patterns.
- **Dark tent** – We talked about light vs dark and the children experimented with the lightbox inside the tent. They played with different coloured shapes and numbers.
- **Rangoli craft** – The children used sticky shapes to make their own rangoli pattern on circle shaped coloured card.
- **Diya lamp craft** – The children made and decorated a diya lamp using coloured card. They practised their cutting skills by following the lines on the card.

- **Diwali playdough** – The children made a 'diya lamp' out of playdough, cutters and tealights.
- **Mendi patterns** – We looked at real life pictures of Mendi patterns, and the children tried to make their own. They traced over lines to make Mendi patterns on a hand.
- **Diwali home corner** – The children played in our 'Diwali' home corner where they pretended to make traditional foods. We learnt about foods eaten during Diwali celebrations such as, Jaleibi and Barfi.

Phonics: Body percussion

This term our phonics focus is Body Percussion. We talked about sounds we make with our bodies and what the sounds mean. We practised body actions such as, claps, taps, stamps, and clicks to create and copy simple rhythms.

Maths: Counting to ten

The children have been learning to say number names in the correct sequence. Through songs, nursery rhymes and games, they practised counting forwards to 10 and backwards from 10 in the correct order. We also practised counting objects in an irregular order.

They enjoyed joining in with counting activities, using their voices, fingers and actions to support their learning.

The children enjoyed watching these video's about counting to ten:

Counting to 10 Forward and Backward | Jack Hartmann

Nursery rhymes:

This term we will be learning the nursery rhymes:

- Old MacDonald had a farm
- Twinkle Twinkle little star
- Baa, Baa, Black Sheep
- Dingle Dangle Scarecrow
- See the sleeping bunnies
- Hickory Dickory dock
- Wind the bobbin up
- If you're happy and you know it
- The wheels on the bus
- I'm a little tea pot

- Five little monkeys

Next week the topic will continue to be: **Diwali**

Important information

- Please can children bring in any books from home about **fireworks, bonfire night, stars, nighttime, Diwali etc.**
- Send in any WOW moments for the children or photos of experiences to pre-school@bishopstawton-primary.org.
- **Christmas Craft Afternoon – Friday 11th December 1.30pm-2.30pm**

We are having a Christmas Craft Afternoon in Codden and Taw (Pre-School) on Friday 11th December 1:30-2:30pm (Please note this is now slightly earlier than previously advertised to accommodate the PTFA Christmas Fayre.)

During the afternoon there will be a selection of activities for the children to do with their parents/family, we hope you are able to join us!

Pre-School - If your child does not usually attend Pre-School on a Friday they are welcome to attend the Christmas Workshop but they must be accompanied by an adult due to staff ratios. Please respond to this email by Friday 28th November if you plan to attend but your child does not normally attend on a Friday to enable staff to prepare the correct number of resources. If your chid is already booked in on a Friday afternoon there is no need to respond.

We hope you are able to join us.

- **School admissions – closing date for applications is 15th January 2027**

Dear parents/carers,

Applications for children due to start Reception in September 2027 are now open. Apply for a Reception place, and find out more information about the process here: Apply for a reception place

The closing date for applications is 15 January 2027. Applications submitted after this date will be considered late and may not be processed alongside on-time applications. Please see the flyer below for further information about how to apply.

Apply for a primary school place

Was your child born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023?



Apply online at:
devon.cc/admissionsonline or scan the QR code below. Applications open from **15 November 2026** to the **15 January 2027**

If you can't access the school admissions website you can get more information by emailing **transferadmissions@devon.gov.uk** or call our Education Helpline on:
0345 155 1019

You must apply through the Admissions Team, even if you've already given details to a school. Applications made directly to schools or on their lists will not be accepted.

Devon County Council