Bollinbrook Preschool

Weekly Planning: Bonfire Night and Diwali – Festival of Lights 2nd-6th November 2026

Theme	Light, colour, celebrations, sounds and patterns	EYFS	All seven areas of learning

Weekly learning intentions

Explore light, colour, sound and sensory materials. • Develop vocabulary linked to Bonfire Night and Diwali. • Create artwork using different materials and techniques. • Develop fine and gross motor skills. • Notice colours, shapes, patterns, counting and changes. • Learn that people celebrate different festivals and family traditions. • Build confidence, independence, cooperation and imaginative play.

Weekly activity plan

Focus	Adult-led activity	Key vocabulary	Differentiation: younger / emerging	Differentiation: older / extending	Additional support	Continuous provision
Exploring Bonfire Night **Focus: Communication and Language; Understanding the World**	Introduce Bonfire Night using pictures of fireworks, bonfires and sparklers. Talk about what children might see and hear. Create fireworks using paint splatters, rollers, brushes and star-shaped stampers on dark paper.	Fireworks, bright, dark, bang, sparkle, red, orange, yellow.	Explore paint and make marks freely; adults model single words and simple phrases.	Describe pictures, select colours and talk about what fireworks look and sound like.	Offer chunky tools, visual prompts, quiet observation and alternatives to noisy or messy experiences.	Firework books; dark paper and mark-making tools; blocks for a pretend bonfire; coloured scarves for firework movements.
Discovering Diwali **Focus: Understanding the World; Expressive Arts and Design**	Introduce Diwali as a festival celebrated by many Hindus, Sikhs and Jains, with traditions varying between families and communities. Explore images of diyas, rangoli and decorations. Make diya lamps using collage materials. Read the story 'Bindhi's Diwali.'	Diwali, festival, light, diya, decorate, colourful, family.	Explore large collage shapes and choose materials to decorate a lamp outline.	Create a more detailed diya design and talk about colours, patterns and their work.	Provide pre-cut shapes, tactile materials, adult modelling and picture choices.	Rangoli-inspired loose-parts patterns; colourful fabrics; Diwali storybooks and photographs; playdough with large safe tools for decorating pretend lamps.
Rangoli Patterns and Celebration Music	Create a collaborative rangoli-inspired pattern using large paper shapes. Explore repeating colours	Pattern, repeat, circle, shape, petals, dance,	Place and move large shapes freely, explore music and copy	Continue a simple repeating pattern, name shapes and invent movements to	Use tactile shapes, floor-level arrangements, movement props and	Large floor patterns; shape puzzles; ribbons and scarves; mark-making patterns; musical instruments for exploring

Focus: Mathematics; Physical Development; Expressive Arts and Design	and shapes. Play celebratory music and encourage children to move like sparkling fireworks.	fast, slow.	simple actions.	match music.	predictable songs with visual cues.	rhythm and volume.

Continuous provision throughout the week

Area	Resources and opportunities	Adult role
Creative area	Paint, dark paper, collage, chunky brushes, crayons, diya outlines and large shapes.	Model techniques, name colours and encourage choices.
Small world	People, houses, community figures, fabric and pretend celebration props.	Encourage storytelling and conversations about celebrations.
Construction	Blocks, cardboard tubes and large building materials.	Support building, balancing, comparing height and problem-solving.
Sensory area	Large scoops, bowls, textured fabrics, safe large objects and supervised water play.	Introduce sensory vocabulary and support exploration.
Mathematics	Colour sorting, large shapes, counting objects and simple patterns.	Model matching, counting and mathematical language.
Literacy and books	Festival stories, photographs, picture cards and mark-making materials.	Share books, encourage listening and support communication.
Music and movement	Scarves, ribbons, recorded music and age-appropriate instruments.	Encourage rhythm, movement, listening and turn-taking.
Outdoor area	Chalk firework marks, ribbon dancing, large loose parts and water painting.	Support large movements, cooperation and outdoor exploration.

Inclusion and differentiation principles

Younger children and emerging learners	Keep activities short and flexible; allow watching before joining; use simple language, repetition, gestures, songs and photographs; offer large, easy-to-hold tools.
Children developing confidence and skills	Encourage choices, colour names and descriptions; introduce simple sorting, matching, counting and patterns; support turn-taking and sharing ideas.
Older children and children ready for extension	Encourage predictions, comparisons and explanations; explore repeating patterns and small-group counting; invite children to create designs and explain choices.
Children with additional needs or sensory differences	Use visual timetables, now-and-next boards, communication aids and key-word signing where appropriate; provide quieter spaces and alternatives to loud sounds, bright lights or messy textures; adapt tools, seating and task length.

Adult interaction: suggested questions

Learning focus	Questions and prompts
Communication	"What can you see?" "Can you tell me about it?"
Mathematics	"Can you find another red one?" "What comes next?"
Understanding the World	"What do you notice about the light?" "How do families celebrate?"
Expressive Arts	"Which colours would you like?" "How did you make those marks?"
PSED	"Would you like to join in?" "How can we make this together?"