

Supporting new vocabulary through festivals

Enhance children's knowledge of other cultures and traditions whilst increasing their vocabulary.

It is important to teach children about traditions and festivals and this doesn't have to be limited to just your own. Discovering how other cultures and religions celebrate festivals can enhance children's knowledge and vocabulary.

Here are some top tips on supporting vocabulary through festivals:

1. Research and compile a list of multi-national festivals and holidays which are celebrated around the world and add these to your calendar so they can be incorporated into planning opportunities to introduce new vocabulary
2. Provide a range of books showing celebrations of different festivals
3. Learn and sing traditional songs linked to festivals
4. Provide props and resources linked to festivals to allow children to engage in imaginative play where they can explore and use new vocabulary
5. Talk about festivals in small or key group times where children have an opportunity to share experiences or ask questions and listen to each other
6. Invite family members or members of the community to share experiences of festivals and celebrations with children (this could be done virtually)
7. Don't be afraid to introduce and use new and tricky words with children in the context of the festival. Hearing new words such as: 'Diwali', 'Hinduism', 'Bethlehem' and 'frankincense', helps to expand their knowledge and vocabulary.

