

Autumn 1B



At Castle, our curriculum is designed to help every child grow as a Castle Citizen, developing values such as kindness, respect and responsibility. We celebrate our rich local heritage through themes like “We are Conisbrough!” which connect learning to real experiences in our community. To support this, we offer optional Castle Citizen Homework Projects each term — fun, creative activities that families can choose to enjoy together at home.

Themes		How Can You Help at Home?
Week 1- Bonfire Night	Special Events: Campfire experience & sparklers What we're learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Talking about our own experiences of Bonfire Night Fire safety (Stop, Drop, Roll) Who Guy Fawkes was – asking “Was he a goodie or a baddie?” Name writing and creating rocket-themed artwork Addition and subtraction within 6 Firework artwork using printing and chalk 	Talk to your child about fireworks and staying safe.
<i>Week 2- Remembrance</i>	Special Events: Remembrance Assembly What we're learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why we wear poppies Talking about bravery and real-life heroes Exploring conflict at a child-friendly level – how we solve problems at school Drawing and labelling memories Observational poppy artwork Learning about key historical events in simple terms 	Share family traditions or stories of remembrance in an age appropriate way.
Week 3- Diwali	Special Events: Diwali Party What we're learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The story of Rama and Sita Talking about good and bad Making Diya lamps from clay Indian dance and music Comparing Diwali to Bonfire Night Creating rangoli patterns and firework pictures Making simple Diwali sweets 	Look at pictures or videos of Diwali celebrations together.
Week 4- Changing Seasons: Animals	Special Events: Making bird and animal feeders What we're learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring for animals as the seasons change Why some animals hibernate Naming different animals Writing simple CVC animal names Threading and using tools to make feeders Hedgehog crafts using leaves 	Spot signs of animals in your garden or on walks.
Week 5- Changing Seasons: Winter	Special Events: Hot chocolate & s'mores at the fire circle What we're learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Signs of winter What makes ice melt (simple experiments) Comparing Autumn and Winter Writing simple winter facts Dancing to Vivaldi's <i>Winter</i> Exploring winter animals 	Freeze small toys in ice and explore melting together

Week 6- Nativity	Special Events: Introducing Elf on the Shelf What we're learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feelings of characters in the Nativity Kindness – especially the Innkeeper's role Retelling and acting out the Nativity story Exploring early measurements (capacity, weight, length) 	Share the Nativity story or watch a short child-friendly version together.
Week 7: Christmas Traditions	Special Events: Christmas Party & continued Nativity focus What we're learning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas crafts (using tools like scissors, hole punches, tape) Writing cards, lists and gift tags Letters to Father Christmas Learning about how Christmas is celebrated in different countries Sorting and describing 3D shapes Exploring position words (e.g., under, next to, behind) 	Involve your child in wrapping simple gifts or decorating the tree. See optional Homework Project.
Ongoing Learning Across the Half term:		
Literacy and Phonics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recapping taught sounds Blending simple words independently Using "Fred Fingers" to spell simple words 	
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Addition and subtraction within 6 Number zero Partitioning small sets Early measuring, sorting and describing shapes 	
Communication & Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retelling stories Talking about experiences and traditions Asking and answering questions 	
Physical Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ball skills and dance Fine motor: scissors, clay, threading, painting tools 	
Understanding the World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Celebrations from different cultures Seasonal changes Historical figures such as Guy Fawkes and Jesus 	
Expressive Arts & Design	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Firework art Clay modelling Rangoli patterns Christmas craft skills Dance linked to different cultures 	



Optional Homework Project: Families are invited to create a poster showing how Christmas is celebrated in France. Children may draw, label or write a few facts about traditions such as Père Noël, Christmas markets, festive foods or shoes by the fireplace. This is a fun, optional activity to help children explore French culture as part of our MFL curriculum and Christmas Traditions Week.