Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the significance of Diwali, the Festival of Lights, and identify how it is celebrated by Hindu, Sikh, and Jain communities.

Ellie the elephant has been learning about the beautiful traditions of Diwali. Read the statements below and decide if they are True or False. For every statement you choose, you must justify your answer using your knowledge of the festival. If the statement is False, rewrite it so that it becomes a true fact about Diwali.

Word bank: Diwali · Lamps · Rangoli · Light · Celebration · Family · Kindness · Victory

1. 1. Diwali is known as the 'Festival of Lights' because people decorate their homes with small clay oil lamps called diyas. Is this True or False? Explain why. (2 marks)

2. 2. True or False: Rangoli patterns are usually drawn on the walls of houses using dark, gloomy colours to hide the light. Justify your answer. (2 marks)

3. 3. True or False: Diwali marks a time when families come together to share sweets, exchange gifts, and celebrate the triumph of good over evil. Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

4. 4. Compare and contrast: How is the celebration of Diwali similar to other festivals where people share meals and decorate their homes? What makes Diwali unique? (3 marks)

5. 5. What might happen if a family chose not to light any diyas or candles during the festival? Explain why light is such an important symbol for this celebration. (3 marks)

6. 6. Justify your answer: Why do you think it is important for different communities to share their traditions, like Diwali, with their neighbours and friends? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful Rangoli pattern inside a square. Use geometric shapes and bright colours to show how families welcome guests into their homes during Diwali.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a Diwali feast for your friends. If you had a budget of £20.00, create a shopping list of traditional items (like sweets, fruit, and small gifts) and calculate the cost of each item. How would you ensure your party budget celebrates the spirit of generosity?