A Festival of Light: Diwali

Learning objective: To understand the significance and traditions of Diwali, the Hindu festival of light.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below in full sentences.

Diwali is a beautiful festival of light celebrated by millions of people across the world, including many families in the UK. It is most famously known as the festival that celebrates the victory of light over darkness and good over evil. During this special time, homes are cleaned and decorated to welcome brightness and joy. Families often place small oil lamps, called divas, in rows along windowsills and doorways. The flickering light is a sign of hope and warmth during the autumn evenings.

Another wonderful tradition is creating colourful patterns on the floor called rangoli. These are made using coloured sand or flower petals. Many people wear their brightest new clothes, visit family, and enjoy sharing delicious sweets and treats. In the marketplace, you might see small gifts being bought for £5 or £10 to share with friends. It is a time for people to come together, exchange kind wishes for prosperity, and reflect on the importance of kindness. Just like Ellie the elephant remembers her history, people remember the ancient stories that make Diwali a time of peace and reflection for everyone.

Word bank: festival · tradition · celebration · divas · rangoli · prosperity

1. What are the small oil lamps used during Diwali called? (1 mark)

2. What materials can people use to create a rangoli pattern? (1 mark)

3. Why do you think families clean their homes before the festival begins? (2 marks)

4. How does the author suggest the mood changes during the festival? Use evidence from the text. (2 marks)

5. If you were celebrating Diwali, which tradition would you find the most exciting and why? (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a beautiful rangoli pattern inside a square border, using bright colours and symmetrical shapes.

Extension challenge: Research one other festival that uses light as a symbol and write three sentences comparing it to Diwali.