A Bright Celebration: Diwali

Learning objective: To understand the meaning and traditions of Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

Read the text carefully. Use the word bank if you need help. Fill in the boxes with your answers.

Diwali is a special time of year known as the Festival of Lights. It is a happy celebration enjoyed by many people around the world. During Diwali, homes are decorated to look bright and welcoming. People place small clay oil lamps, called diyas, in rows along windows and doors. The warm glow of the lamps represents the victory of light over darkness and goodness over evil.

Families often gather together to share delicious food and sweets. Some people make beautiful patterns on the floor called rangoli. They use coloured sand or flower petals to make these bright designs. It is also a time for kindness. People give gifts to friends and family to show they care. Many wear new clothes and enjoy fireworks in the night sky. The festival is a reminder to be helpful and to share happiness with others. For Nova the owl, Diwali is the perfect time to look at the stars and think about how light makes the world a warmer place for everyone.

Word bank: Diwali · festival · lights · diyas · celebration · family · rangoli · kindness

1. What is another name for the Diwali festival? (2 marks)

2. What do people use to make rangoli patterns on the floor? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think people put diyas near their doors and windows? (2 marks)

4. How do we know that Diwali is a time for sharing? (2 marks)

5. Do you think festivals like Diwali are important? Why or why not? (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a picture of a diya lamp sitting on a windowsill. Add some bright rangoli patterns on the floor next to it.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are planning a celebration. Write down three things you would do to make your friends feel happy and welcome.