Diwali: The Festival of Lights with Nova the Owl

Learning objective: To write a descriptive account of the traditions and significance of Diwali.

Use this writing frame to help you structure your explanation of Diwali. Think about the sensory details and the importance of light over darkness. Use your word bank to add detail and link your ideas together.

As the autumn moon rises, Nova the Owl watches the world below transform into a sea of flickering, golden light for the celebration of Diwali.

Word bank: celebration · traditions · symbolise · triumph · vibrant · furthermore · consequently · in addition · meanwhile · illuminated · significance

1. Introduction: What is Diwali and why do people celebrate it? You could start by saying: Diwali, often known as the Festival of Lights, is a significant celebration because... (2 marks)

2. The Legend: Explain the story behind the festival. Start with: Many people celebrate Diwali to remember the story of... (3 marks)

3. The Traditions: Describe the ways families prepare for the festival. Start with: To prepare for the festivities, families often... (3 marks)

4. The Symbolism of Light: Explain why light is so important during Diwali. Start with: Lighting divas is a crucial part of the celebration because it represents... (3 marks)

5. Personal Reflection: Compare Diwali to other celebrations you know. Start with: Diwali is similar to other festivals because..., but it is unique because... (3 marks)

6. Conclusion: Justify why this festival is important for communities. Start with: Ultimately, Diwali is a time for..., which is why it remains so important today. (2 marks)

Extension challenge: Greater Depth Challenge: 1. Explain why the theme of 'light over darkness' is a powerful message for people today. 2. Compare and contrast how different families might celebrate Diwali depending on where they live in the world. 3. What might happen if the traditions of Diwali were lost over time? 4. Justify why it is important to learn about the festivals of others. 5. If you were designing a new tradition for a festival, what would it be and what would it symbolise? 6. Write a short poem about the flickering light of a diva lamp.