

Thames View Infants



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Celebrating Our Cultures, Communities and Harvest

October and November are particularly special months at Thames View Infants, as we come together to celebrate the wonderful diversity that makes our school community so unique.

We are incredibly proud of the rich and varied cultures, traditions and experiences represented within our school. Throughout the year, we celebrate this diversity through the many family events we host, as well as through the wide range of cultural experiences and perspectives woven into our curriculum.

It is incredibly important to us that every child and family feels valued, represented and included, and that our school is a place where everyone can celebrate who they are and learn from one another.

Black History Month

October is **Black History Month**. At TVI, Black History is woven into our curriculum across the year. However, this month offers us the chance to celebrate Black culture more widely and to come together as a community that values and honours every identity.

Throughout the month, children will have lots of opportunities to learn about the contributions Black communities have made to shaping our country and our communities, as well as plenty of opportunities to celebrate, enjoy themselves and have fun!

Each teacher will also lead a special assembly, sharing stories of Black and Mixed Heritage people who have inspired them. These may be famous inspirational figures, lesser-known heroes, or even family members and



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friends who have made a difference in their lives. By sharing these stories and narratives, we hope to showcase and celebrate the many ways that diversity has enriched our communities.

Harvest

October is also a time when we celebrate **Harvest**. Harvest is an important celebration in the Christian calendar, traditionally giving thanks for the food we have, the people who grow and provide it, and the abundance of the natural world. It is a wonderful opportunity for us to reflect on gratitude, generosity and the importance of sharing what we have with others. These values of thankfulness, community and giving sit beautifully alongside our celebrations of culture and diversity.



Across many cultures, Harvest is a time to give thanks and share what we have with others. At TVI, we continue this tradition each year by supporting those in our local community who need a helping hand.

This year, all donations will be passed on to the **Barking Food Bank**, which has supported many of our families during difficult times. If you are able, we would be very grateful for any contributions between now and **16th October**.

Suggested donation items include:

- Non-perishable foods such as noodles, pasta, or pasta sauces
- Tinned and dried packet foods
- Tea, coffee, and long-life milk
- Toiletries (soap, shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, feminine hygiene products, nappies)
- Pet food

Every item makes a difference — thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Harvest 'Helping Hands' Coffee Morning – 9am, Friday 16th October



At **9am on Friday 16th October**, we'll be hosting a special Harvest Coffee Morning in school, and we'd love for you to join us!

As well as being a chance to drop off your Harvest donations, it'll be a lovely opportunity to enjoy a cuppa, meet some of our senior leaders and have a chat with other members of our school community.

We'd be delighted to see you, so pop the date in your diary and save the morning! We look forward to welcoming you.

Diwali

We celebrate **Diwali, the Festival of Lights**, in November. During our celebrations, the children learn about the story and traditions behind Diwali, including the story of Rama and Sita and the triumph of good over evil. They learn about how Diwali is celebrated by many Hindu, Sikh, Jain and some Buddhist communities around the world, and explore some of the customs and traditions associated with the festival.



We'll enjoy a special **Diwali lunch** together in school in November, giving the children the opportunity to experience and learn about some of the foods associated with the celebration.

As part of our celebrations, we'll even be inviting our parents and families into school to make and decorate **clay diyas (lamps)** with the children– keep an eye out on Arbor for more information about this event closer to the time, in November. Diyas are traditionally lit during Diwali and are a symbol of light overcoming darkness and good overcoming evil. Making and decorating the lamps gives our children and families a chance to celebrate together while learning more about the meaning and traditions behind Diwali.

Cultural Day @ TVI – Wednesday 14th October

To bring all of these celebrations together, on **Wednesday 14th October** we will be holding our very special **Cultural Day @ TVI!**

It will be a wonderful opportunity for our whole school community to celebrate the different cultures, identities, traditions and experiences that make our school so special.

On Cultural Day, children are invited to come to school wearing **cultural clothing** that represents their family, heritage or culture. We would love to see the incredible variety of colours, patterns and traditions that make up our diverse school community.

We'll be having a special carnival themed assembly on Cultural Day and we'll be listening and dancing to songs from around the world!

Thank you, as always, for your support and for helping us to make Thames View Infants a place where every child and every family feels valued, represented and celebrated.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Jordan
Headteacher