

An Example of How Children are Seeing and Learning about a Range of Cultures and Diversity

At Kirkgate, we are committed to providing children with meaningful opportunities to learn about diversity and different cultures. Our goal is to help children develop a deeper understanding of others' cultures and the importance of celebrating diversity, while also recognizing and respecting the uniqueness of every individual. Through our strong partnerships with parents, some of our wonderful families share their own traditions with us, enriching the nursery experience. This approach is deeply meaningful for the children, as it brings a piece of their home culture into the nursery. It also offers a wonderful opportunity for peers to learn about and celebrate new cultures, fostering a sense of inclusion and mutual respect.

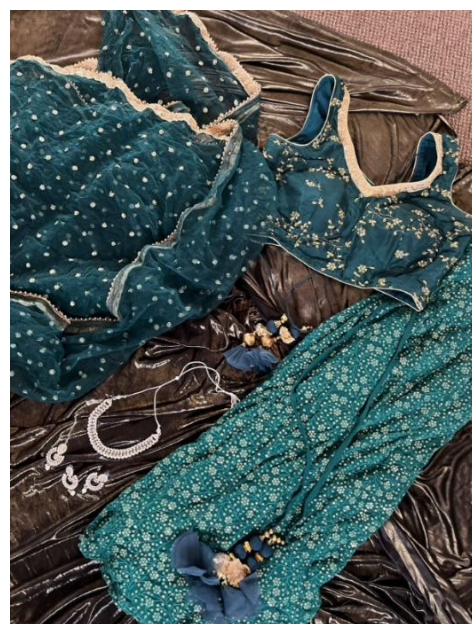


We have several books which provide learning opportunities about different cultures and diversity.



Our Everywhere Bear is our special friend at nursery who takes it in turns to visit each of the children's houses for the weekend. Everywhere Bear has his own 'Learning Journal' just like the children in nursery and the children and their families are encouraged to take pictures and write about Everywhere Bear's visit to their home in the Learning Journal. The children love Everywhere Bear and are very excited when it is their turn to take him home. This is a wonderful way for our children to learn about each other's cultures and ways of life in a meaningful and relatable way.

Last year we celebrated the Hindu Festival Diwali with the children. The children read about Diwali, had a go at making their own lanterns, ate traditional Indian food and one of our wonderful parents brought their Lehenga, traditional Indian clothes in to show and talk to the children about.



Chinese New Year

Sensory and craft activities are carefully planned to help children learn about Chinese New Year. The children enjoy sampling a variety of Chinese foods during snack time, and a child who celebrates Chinese New Year at home brings tangerines to share with their friends, symbolizing good fortune and spreading the joy of the celebration.



We have a private Facebook group which we use to share information about activities and the children's learning at nursery. Here is our post sharing how we celebrated the Mid-Autumn Festival at nursery.



Kirkgate Childcare - Private Group

Admin Kirkgate Childcare · 19 Sep 2024 · 📷

We always like to celebrate different cultures and traditions which are meaningful to the children.

This week we got to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with one of our families, this festival is also known as the Moon Festival or Mooncake Festival and is a harvest festival celebrated in Chinese culture.

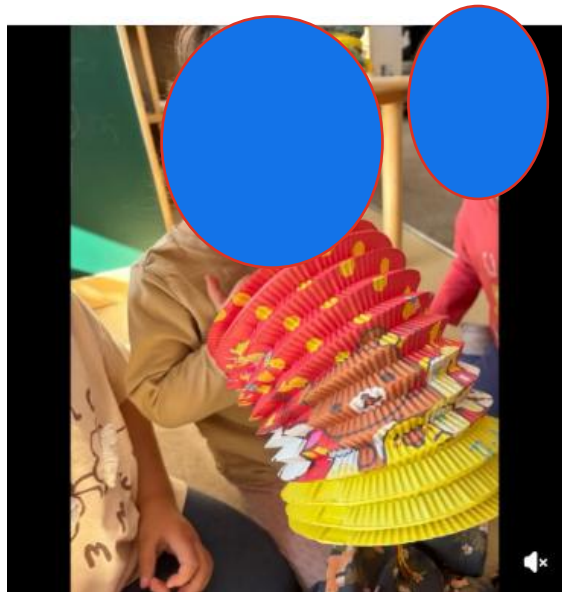
The event, is the second biggest after Lunar New Year. It falls on the fifteenth day of the eighth month in the traditional Chinese lunar calendar and took place on the 17 September this year.

On the night of the festival, people celebrate the full moon and give thanks for the Autumn harvest.

We looked at some special lanterns, lit festival candles and tasted a mooncake this is a traditional baked item lots of people eat and give to others as gifts. They are round pastries with rich, thick fillings like red bean or lotus seed paste and the children thought it was delicious!

We then designed our own mooncakes!

Thank you to C and family for supplying the lanterns, candles and mooncake for us to look at and try together.





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Admin Kirkgate Childcare · 21 Mar · 📷

Nowruz, meaning "New Day" in Persian, marks the first day of spring and the beginning of the New Year in the Persian solar calendar.

Thank you to H and family for helping us to celebrate with a wonderful Haft Sin and cupcakes.

The Haft Sin table, or the table of seven things that start with the letter "s" (س) in Persian, is a central part of Nowruz and a family tradition and the children enjoyed learning all about this tradition and creating their own.

We practiced some Persian words, made cards, learnt lots of interesting facts about Haft Sin and Nowruz and how it's celebrated over the 13 days we also watched a lovely Mickey Mouse blog (Below) all about Nowruz which was sent to us by H's Mummy.

<https://youtu.be/FizCQJ2hYNA>

An example of information shared with parents about our Persian New Year Celebrations in nursery.





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Admin · Kirkgate Childcare · 14 Dec 2024 · 24

Another of our meaningful Christmas activities this week has been our outing to All Saints Church! It's so lovely to have such a wonderful relationship with Rev. Wilton!

The children had so many questions to ask him
Some about his job
How old the church is?
If he is getting a yoyo for Christmas?
Does he like being a vicar?
Where is the Queen?
Why did she die?
Which is his favourite church?
Does he like Easter?

Our favourite had to be when he asked why we get presents at Christmas and A burst into "because girls and boys won't get any toys if they don't pull me out"

Rev. Wilton answered all the important 3 and 4 year old questions very well and the children think he deserves a sticker!!

We spoke about the different coloured candles and Rev. Wilton explained the four advent candles are lit each week leading up to Christmas.

There are three purple candles, one is for hope, one symbolizing preparation and one for love. There is one pink candle for joy and the last candle is white for purity, regeneration, godliness, light and victory!

Rev. Wilton then had to leave to go to a funeral so we had lots of time to explore the church independently in groups of three with a grown up!

We showed curiosity at the stained glass, found a wooden mouse on the candlestick, lit a candle each for our family, sang Christmas songs, read Christmas stories and had lunch in the beautiful church.

An example of information shared with parents about our visit to our local church to learn more about the period of Advent and how Christians celebrate Christmas.

