

## Introducing festivals and celebrations at nursery

**There are many festivals celebrated across the world that you could share with your children.**

It is important to introduce children to different festivals so they can learn about and develop a respect for different communities and religious celebrations.

Here are some top tips for introducing the basic traditions of different festivals at your setting:

- Ensure you collate information about families' religious beliefs before they start at the setting. That way you can be aware of any festivals or celebrations that are of particular importance to children in your care
- Encourage children to talk about the celebrations they have experienced
- Discuss the importance and value of celebrations
- Compile a list of multi-national festivals and holidays which are celebrated around the world and add these to your calendar. NDNA Nursery Members have access to an annual wall planner which includes some celebrations
- In preparation for introducing any festival or celebration, carry out some research to ensure you have the essential information you need
- Provide a range of books and images showing key elements of the festival. There may also be some video clips online or video footage from families you could show the children
- Provide props and resources linked to festivals and celebrations to allow children to engage in imaginative play
- Provide creative materials linked to the festival. For example, specific colours or materials, to allow children to represent their learning
- Talk about festivals and celebrations in small or key groups, where children have an opportunity to share experiences and listen to each other
- Invite family members or members of the community to share experiences of festivals and celebrations with children (this should be done virtually during the coronavirus pandemic).

