

**Beechwood Primary School
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Monday 7th November 2022

Dear friends at Mayo College,

Hello! We are Class 12 and we are the current year five cohort at Beechwood Primary School. We are writing to you to tell you about our recent Bonfire Night celebrations. We would like to share with you some of our traditions and tell you a little bit about why and how we celebrate this event.

Bonfire Night, which is also known as Guy Fawkes Night, is celebrated annually in the United Kingdom on the 5th of November. Bonfire Night celebrates the foiling of the Gunpowder Plot. Whether through organised community celebrations or in gardens, Bonfire Night sees thousands of people every year setting off fireworks, creating bonfires and using sparklers.

The Gunpowder Plot was a conspiracy, organised by a group of English Catholics in 1605, to blow up the Houses of Parliament in London. The aim of the Gunpowder Plot was to kill James I and his ministers, removing him from power and replacing him with a Catholic head of state. The motive behind the Gunpowder Plot was religious, England was a Protestant country at this time, ruled by a Protestant king - James I. Those involved in the plot were Catholic and supported the belief England should return to Catholicism. They believed that killing the king and removing him from his throne would allow this to happen. Guy (Guido) Fawkes has become the figurehead of the Bonfire Night celebration. Had their plan gone ahead, not only the king, but most members of government and many civilians would have been killed.

When news broke of this narrow escape, people around London began to light bonfires in celebration.

Members of Class 12 did a variety of different things to celebrate. Alicia went to a local community club with her family. There was a large fire and a firework display with lots of huge, colourful fireworks. Alicia used sparklers to create nice patterns in the air. The family enjoyed delicious hot dogs which lots of people like to eat on this night.

Harley went to his uncle's house who also had a small bonfire in the garden. They watched a small display of fireworks with their family in the garden. There was lots of yummy food to eat like sausages, hot dogs and burgers.

Ayo enjoyed watching the huge displays across the city from his bedroom window where he had an amazing view of the colourful fireworks shooting across the night sky. He enjoyed watching the beautiful fireworks while staying warm and cosy inside his house.

Bella visited a local rugby club to watch their display. Sparklers were handed out to light around the fire and she watched the fireworks which were let off. They were quite noisy and made people jump sometimes with their loud bangs!

Frankie stayed at home with her family. They had a great time toasting marshmallow on the fire. They made their own chocolate apples by melting chocolate and dipping them in to it. She also lit sparklers and watched her neighbours lovely display from their garden.

Laceyleigh walked to a big hill near her house to get a good view of the different displays. The air was very smoky from the bonfires and it got quite noisy from the huge bangs and explosions!

Mrs Sturman stayed at home to have a small bonfire and firework display in her garden. Her family enjoyed a very traditional Bonfire Night meal of pork pie and mushy peas with a delicious Yorkshire dish cake called Parking (made out of spicy ginger. Her children loved

making S/mores which are melted marshmallows sandwiched between biscuits and melted chocolate.

We hope you have enjoyed hearing about our traditions and celebrations. What celebrations have you enjoyed recently? We would love to hear about them to learn more about your own traditions and culture.

**Yours sincerely
Class 12**

I thought it might be nice to send this picture. It was drawn by a small group of children from the year 1 class last week. They used chalks to show what the sky looked like on Bonfire Night.

