

DIWALI

12th November

What is Diwali and why is it celebrated?

Diwali is a Hindu festival also known as the 'Festival of Lights'. It is celebrated to mark the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. It is a time of joy, togetherness, and gratitude, celebrated with lighting lamps, exchanging gifts and sharing festive meals. Diwali celebrations in the UK often involve various customs and traditions. Families decorate their homes with colourful Rangoli patterns and light oil lamps called diyas. Fireworks displays are common, adding to the festive atmosphere. People wear new clothes and visit temples for prayers and blessings. Families and friends exchange sweets and gifts, and festive meals with special delicacies are prepared. Diwali is also an occasion to connect with loved ones, attend community events, and enjoy cultural performances.

How can I teach my child about Diwali?

As an inclusive and diverse striving school, we have already discussed Diwali celebrations with the children. However, if you would like to build on this, you can do this by:

Storytelling: Share the story of Diwali with your child. You can narrate the tale of Lord Rama, Sita, and the return to Ayodhya, or the story of Lord Krishna defeating the demon Narakasura.

Explore traditions: Show them pictures or videos of decorated homes, Rangoli designs, diyas, fireworks, and people wearing traditional clothes.

Visit a local temple or community event: Take your child to visit a local temple or attend a Diwali celebration. This provides them with an opportunity to, observe traditional rituals, and experience the cultural diversity associated with Diwali.

Read books and watch videos: Look for age-appropriate books or online resources that explain Diwali in a child-friendly manner. Reading books or watching animated videos about Diwali can help your child grasp the concepts and traditions associated with the festival.

Cultural exchange: If you have friends or neighbours who celebrate Diwali, consider organising a cultural exchange where your child can learn more about the festival from firsthand experiences

Can you recommend any Diwali crafts or activities to do with children?

Certainly! Diwali crafts and activities can be a fun way to involve children in the festivities. You can:

- make diyas (clay lamps) together and decorate them with paint, eco glitter, or sequins
- create Rangoli designs using coloured rice, flower petals, or chalk
- make handmade greeting cards or paper lanterns to share with family and friends
- explore traditional Diwali recipes and cook together

