



Diwali 2021
2 - 6 November

HAPPY
Diwali
FESTIVAL OF LIGHTS



What is the Hindu festival of Diwali?

Diwali celebrates Lord Rama's defeat of the evil spirit Ravana and his triumph to return home. This festival takes place with the New Hindu year and has the meaning for celebrating the light over darkness. It is also believed that on this auspicious day, goddess Lakshmi was born during the churning of the cosmic ocean.

The message of this festival is that no matter how hard things seem, good will always overpower evil. There are lots of candles and firework displays to celebrate this festival of light.

The Diwali Story



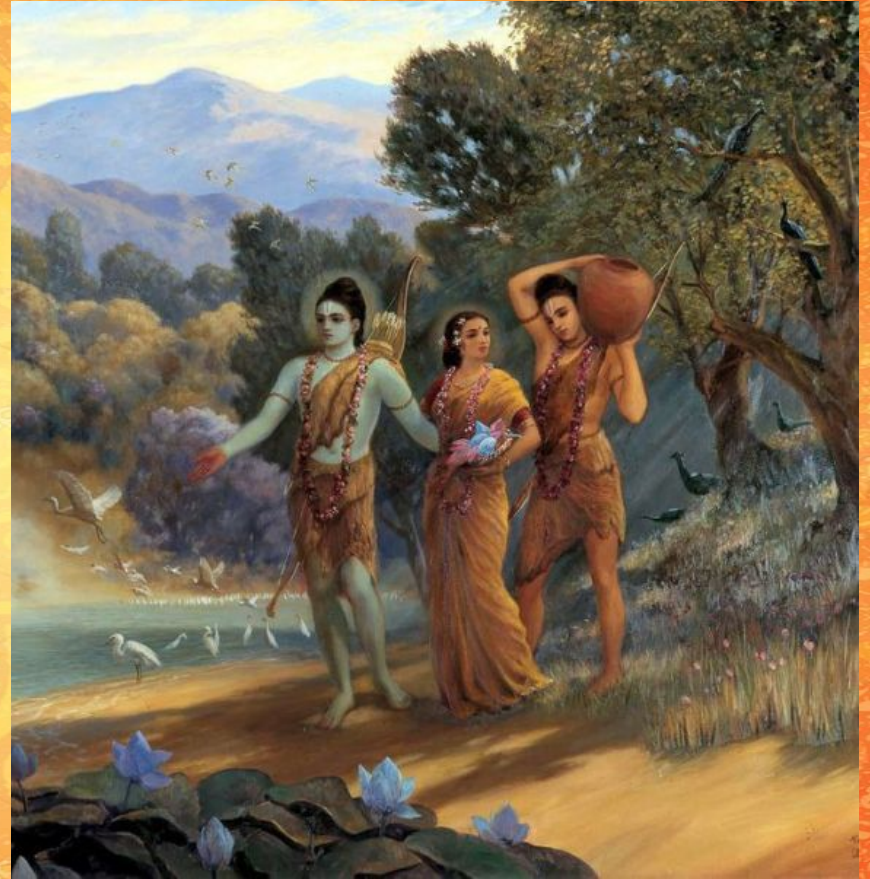
The Diwali Story

- ❖ The Diwali story begins in Ayodhya, a city in India, and follows the life of Shri Ram
- ❖ The events ultimately lead to the beginning of the Diwali celebrations, and shape the way we celebrate



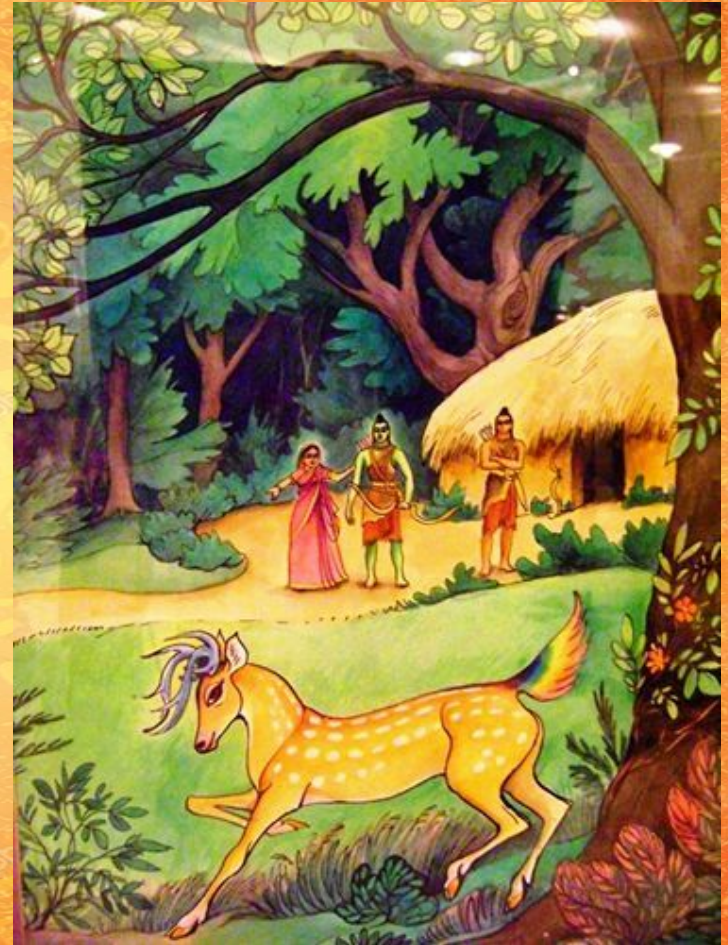
The Diwali Story

- ❖ Shri Rama, an avatar of the God Vishnu, was chosen to ascend the throne of Ayodhya
- ❖ Because of an oath, Rama's stepmother demanded that Rama be sent to exile for 14 years, and that her son Bharat become King
- ❖ Rama obediently and happily accepted the exile for the sake of his parents, and was accompanied by his brother Lakshman and wife Sita



The Diwali Story

- ❖ The ten-headed ruler of Lanka devised a plan to abduct Sita, as he wanted her to be his wife
- ❖ One day, while Rama and Sita and Lakshman were peacefully in the forest, Sita was entranced by a magical golden deer
- ❖ To please her, Rama and Lakshman went to hunt the deer



The Diwali Story

- ❖ Before leaving, Lakshman drew a protective circle around Sita with one of his bows
- ❖ After Lakshman was gone, Ravana came to Sita disguised as a holy man begging for Alms
- ❖ The moment Sita stepped outside the circle to give him food, Ravana appeared in his true demon form and forced her in his chariot, flying her to Lanka



The Diwali Story

- ❖ Rama sought help of the monkey God Hanumanji, who is the son of the wind God and loyal devotee to Rama
- ❖ Hanumanji was honoured to assist Rama, and jumped across the ocean in a single leap, landing in Lanka to search for Sita
- ❖ Hanumanji found Sita in the grove, comforted her and assured her Rama would be here soon
- ❖ However, Ravana's men captured Hanuman and set his tail on fire
- ❖ With his tail burning, Hanuman escaped and burned down the rooftops of Lanka, jumping from house to house, setting Lanka ablaze



The Diwali Story

- ❖ Hanumanji then returned to Rama
- ❖ With the help of his monkey army, they built a bridge across the ocean from the tip of India to Lanka
- ❖ They used heavy rocks, and wrote Rama's name on each of the rocks which miraculously kept the rocks afloat
- ❖ This bridge was named the "Ram Setu", and can still be seen today!



The Diwali Story

- ❖ They soon crossed over to Lanka where a huge battle ensued
- ❖ Rama killed Ravana, rescued Sita, and returned back home to Ayodhya
- ❖ This day is celebrated as Dussehra

- ❖ To welcome Rama home, the people of Ayodhya decorated the entire city with diyas and lights
- ❖ This is the celebration of Diwali, teaching the ultimate victory of light over darkness, good over evil
- ❖ Today, Hindus celebrate Diwali, the 'festival of lights' by lighting their home



Our plans for Diwali - please join in!



Tuesday lunch on 2 Nov - come and draw chalk rangoli patterns in the science quad

Watch our Diwali Dancers at lunchtime on **Wednesday 3 Nov** in the gym.

There will also be a Diwali sweet sale, a Gol Gappa/pani puri station and Diwali fun and games, including a raffle! Bring money and join in on **Wednesday lunch** in the **Gym!** All profits are donated to the [DreamSai](#) Charity!

Special menu on **Thursday** in the canteen

Look out for our diyas and decorations around the school

Wear celebratory mufti on **Wednesday** 3rd Nov if you would like to! You can wear traditional clothes for Diwali if you have them or if not bright colours such as red and yellow. Please pay at least £1 on Parent Pay - donations to the MK based [DreamSai](#)



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