Coley Primary School – Knowledge Organiser

SUBJECT FOCUS:	RE	YEAR 3	TERM 1

WHAT? – Key Knowledge

Diwali - Hinduism

Would celebrating Diwali at home in the community bring a feeling of belonging to a Hindu child?

Diwali is an important religious festival originating in **India**. People often think of Diwali as a **Hindu** festival, but it is also celebrated by **Sikhs** and **Jains**.

Diwali takes place annually and lasts for five days, marking the start of the **Hindu New Year**. The exact dates change each year and are determined by the position of the **moon** – but it usually falls between **October** and **November**.

Diwali is an extremely popular Hindu festival which happens at the start of winter. It celebrates the story of the Ramayana which describes the events leading up to the return of Rama to his kingdom after fourteen years in exile. It is a classic story of good defeating evil.

Rama and Sita had defeated an evil demon called Ravana and were returning home. On the night of the return, however, there was no moonlight, so the people of the kingdom lit lots of small lamps to welcome him back. This is why Diwali is called the 'Festival of Lights'.

A ceremony dedicated to the Goddess of Wealth, Lakshmi, may be carried out too. Money is given to charity, and gifts are exchanged, followed by a family feast. This is also a time when business people carry out a ritual as a way of paying respect to their business. This is the time of year to dedicate yourself to success for the year ahead as this success will bring prosperity to the family and to the community.

It's also a celebration of **good triumphing over evil**, and different legends based on this theme are associated with Diwali. In northern India, Hindus celebrate the return of the deities (gods) **Rama** and **Sita** to the city of **Ayodhya**, after defeating the evil king **Ravana**!

WHAT? – Key vocabulary

Festival- a time or event of **celebration**

Community - the people living in a certain place

Diyas - Light, Glow. The name **Diya means** Light, Glow and is of Arabic origin

Exile - a person who is forced to leave his or her own country.

Prosperity- having or showing success or financial good fortune.

Rangoli - **Rangoli** art from India, is a folk art used during Hindu festivals to bring good luck and welcome the Hindu Gods. The details in **rangoli** decorations can include lotus flowers, mango leaves, geometric shapes, or other elaborate designs made of rice flour, coloured sand, or even flower petals.

Lakshmi - Hindu Goddess of Wealth

Ravana - **Ravana** is the mythical multi-headed demon-king. With ten heads and twenty arms, **Ravana** could change into any form he wished. Ravana represents evil.

Rama - a king of ancient India.

Sita – The wife of Rama.

Deities – Gods

Triumphing – prevailing or winning over something or someone

Legend - an old story that is widely believed but cannot be proved to be true.

Diwali is not just about lights and legends — Diwali is a time to have fun with friends and family! People exchange gifts and sweets, enjoy delicious feasts, watch firework displays and wear new clothes. It's a time to clean and decorate your home, too.

Other ways that Hindus celebrate the festival include:

- Spring cleaning
- Wearing new clothes
- Decorating buildings with fancy lights
- Huge firework displays

Rangoli patterns

Rangoli patterns are created on the floor or the ground during festival times using materials such as coloured rice, dry flour, coloured sand or flower petals. The purpose of rangoli is mainly to be decorative but is also thought to bring good luck.

Possible experiences:

- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zh86n39/articles/zjpp92p
- https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zmwmpv4
- Make Rangoli patterns outside on playground.
- Children to make clay Divas
- Children to walk a path of light (battery operated nightlight)
- Invite a parent from the community to share about the festival of Diwali

Learning Outcomes:

I can tell you three important actions I could take to support a group I belong to. I can discuss my understanding of my group's symbol.

I can describe some of the ways Hindus celebrate Divali and start to explain how I think Hindu children might feel at Divali.

I can start to say why Divali might bring a sense of belonging to Hindus.

Diagrams and symbols


Rama


Sita


Ravana


Lakshmi


Celebration Food




Diya (lamp)




Rangoli Patterns

