



# FESTIVALS AND ART

## Festivals celebrated at Avanti Court

At Avanti Court our collective worship curriculum includes learning about festivals and traditions from all main faiths of the world. Due to lockdown we have not been able to share with the children the recent festival which we would usually do during assemblies. We have included them below so please share with your children.

Excellence Virtue  
Devotion

Volume 1

Issue 2

Monday 11th May 2020

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## EASTER



## RAMANAVMA

## NARSIMHA CATURDASI



## VAISAKHI

## RAMADAN





## FESTIVALS AND ART

### 5 Festivals

#### Easter

Christians believe that God loved the world so much that he sent Jesus Christ, his only Son, to bring eternal life. In the 40 days leading to Easter, Christians enter a period of prayer and fasting called Lent, which symbolises Jesus spending time in the desert in preparation for his difficult task. During Holy week, Christians journey with Jesus through Church services and activities, where they share in The Last Supper and remember his death on the cross. On Easter Sunday, Christians celebrate that Jesus rose again three days after he was crucified and buried, before he ascended into Heaven to be with God.

Easter is a very special time at Avanti, where children learn about this. Usually at Easter, a class perform the story and sing in special assemblies, with songs such as 'Sing Hosanna' and 'Sing Out an Easter Song.'

This year, Easter felt especially poignant, with its message of hope and love shining like the rainbows in our windows for NHS heroes.



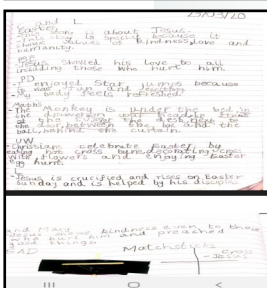
#### Ramanavmi

Hindus celebrate Ramanavami which is the birth of Lord Rama and is one of the most auspicious days in the Vaisnava calendar. Lord Rama is an incarnation of the Supreme Lord who appeared on this earth several millennia ago.

It is a popular festival, as Lord Rama is very dear to many devotees. During His activities while on Earth, Lord Rama demonstrated high moral values and acted as the perfect son, student, brother, husband and King. Krishna comes in his various incarnations for different purposes and in this incarnation, he was a role model to all devotees.

At Avanti we celebrate his birth and through our PRE curriculum the children get the opportunities to learn about the values he came to model.

His extraordinary adventure is marvelously depicted in the famous scripture Ramayana.



#### Vaisakhi

During the Easter break, some of our Avanti Court children and their families including staff members celebrated Vaisakhi. Vaisakhi is a special festival celebrated by the Sikh community. Unfortunately, this year like everyone celebrating their festivals, people were unable to attend the Gurdwara, however like Miss Sahota, Mrs Gahir and Mrs Sangha they took part in prayers and spent time with their families. Usually Miss Sahota leads an assembly so all children can learn about this festival however due to lockdown we didn't have the opportunity.

Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi with a visit to the Gurdwara, which is a place of worship. After religious services are held, people begin a day of celebration. They were colourful, traditional clothes as they take part in parades through the streets. There is lots of Kirtan, music and chanting of hymns.

The Sikh community offer free food for everyone in the community, no matter how rich or poor they are, everyone comes together and share a meal, which is called Langar. 'During this global pandemic the Sikh community have been supporting Keyworkers in hospitals and care homes around the U.K. by providing cooked meals'.



#### Narsimha Caturdasi

Narsimha Caturdasi is the appearance/birthday of Lord Narsimha, the half lion, half man incarnation of Krishna. He appeared to save a little boy Prahalada Maharaj from his demoniac father Hiranyakashipu who tried to kill him in various ways.

Hiranyakashipu did a lot of austerities to get benedictions from Lord Brahma. He received a special benediction from Lord Brahma that he could not be killed by any human being, demigod, or animal or any other entities; he could not be killed by any kind of weapons, neither during day nor night. So, the Lord appeared in half-man half-lion form and killed him with His nails at twilight, thus satisfying all the conditions. We can pray to Narsimha dev for protection and he removes obstacles on our path.

Narasimhadeva appeared at dusk therefore devotees fast till dusk on this day.

At Avanti the children sing a prayer daily to Narsimha dev for protection. The children learn about this story as one of the school values is courage and they take inspiration from the faith and courage of this young boy.

This year fire sacrifices were offered at the Bhaktivedanta Manor Temple in Watford for the well being and protection of everyone around the world during these difficult times.

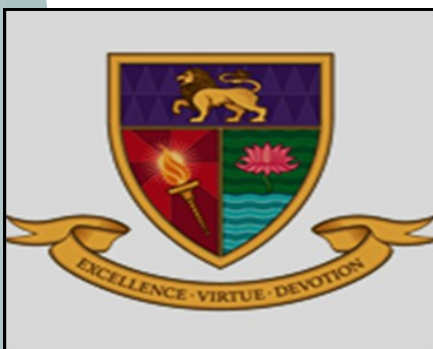


#### Ramadan

This month Muslims all over the world are partaking in Ramadan. Ramadan is the ninth month in the Islamic calendar which is based around the cycles of the moon. This year Ramadan began on the 24<sup>th</sup> of April and will continue for 30 days. During this time Muslims fast from dawn till dusk.

Traditionally during this month Muslims will eat and drink before sunrise which is at the time of their morning prayer. During the day Muslims ensure they pray the remainder of their five prayers by going to the mosque if they can and praying together. Fasting gives Muslims an opportunity to understand what it is like for those who are less fortunate. Ramadan is the most charitable month in the Islamic calendar, this is where many people give money, food and clothes to the poor. During this time Muslims pray more, read the Qur'aan and also try and refrain from bad habits. Ramadan is an auspicious occasion for all Muslims as this was the month that the Qur'aan, their holy book was given to their prophet, Muhammad. After many hours of fasting, Muslims open their fast, which is called 'Iftar', typically with a date because the Prophet Muhammad did so himself.

It is also a time for families to gather and celebrate. At the end of Ramadan, a three-day spiritual celebration known as Eid al-Fitr occurs. During this time, Muslims rejoice in the completion of their fast. Family members and friends gather to share in feasts and prayers.







AVANTI COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

# FESTIVALS AND ART

PRE with Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & year 2

**Nursery** have learnt a story from the Ramayan. What did you learn from the story?

'All monkey are helping to build a bridge suddenly they saw a squirrel, it is helping taking sand all over its body and shaking inside the water to build a bridge .... I learn that we have to help always to everyone.'



Bridge with Rama's name.

**Reception** have started learning about the incarnations of Krishna. They learnt a song about the ten avatars.



Avatars of Lord Vishnu  
Matsya-fish incarnation Kurma turtle incarnation Varaha - Boar incarnation Narsimha - half man half-lion Incarnation

We had a video of a teacher in the making! She taught her friends the names of all the avatars and used her phonics to say the names.

Lovely cover for the ten incarnations book.



**Year 1** have learnt about qualities of a friend.

**WALT: Recognise the qualities we need to be a good friend.**

- 1) I think the good friend is Arjuna because he said he values Krishna and be his friend.
- 2) I think Arjuna wants to be friend with Krishna because he is loyal, honest and he shows his great values to everyone. He didn't want to be friend so Krishna could do something for him.
- 3) I would be friend with the one who shares, being kind and being helpful.
- 4) Duryodanan felt happy because he had the army in his side to win.
- 5) He had made a good choice because he values his friend more than anything else.



Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2020  
**WALT: understand what a journey is**  
Last summer I was going to my dad's friend's house. We went by car. I was very excited because I was meeting them for the first time. It took us 3 hrs to reach their house. My Uncle had invited us to his house.  
On the way we played eye spy. I had a book of games so I played the games. He and my dad were giving prizes as different cars. After a while I lost piece of the story and played games on my iPad.  
I ate a packet of chips and we reached their house. We walked around and went inside. I played with him. His room was like a toy shop. Our mums and dads were chatting a bit. We had loads of gifts.  
At 4pm we went to the beach. Later we had dinner. I watched a movie with my new friends. We slept at 10 o'clock. I slept on the floor with my dad. I didn't need a blanket because I was feeling very hot.  
In the morning my mum woke me up. My dad made porridge for breakfast. Now it was time for us to leave so we got in our cars.  
I was very sad to leave as in this short time I had made a new friend. In the way home I slept. zzz

**Year 2** have started their new topic on journeys and they shared their favourite journeys to help them understand the meaning of journey.

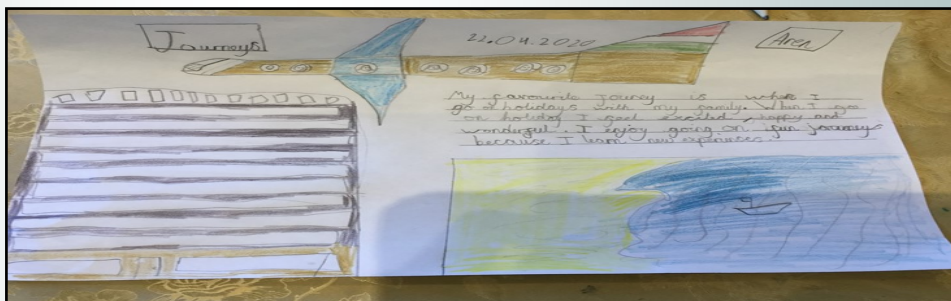
**WALT: understand what journeys are**



What is a Journey?

**Write about your favourite journey, use description, and explain why it was your favourite journey. Why did you go on that Journey?**

In the past few years I have been on different kinds of journeys, during the summer holidays. Today I'm going to tell you all about it and why it is my favourite one. It happened last year in the summer. We decided to go on a trip by car from London to Cardiff. At night my mum starts packing out some light clothes, toiletries, pyjamas and so on. The next day around 7.00am my Dad went to the shop to get some snacks, biscuits, juices and fruits. My sister helped my mum prepare some sandwiches and other stuff to eat in the car. We left home around 10.30am because it is a long journey and also there will be less traffic on the road. I was very excited to start a new adventure and visit a new place. Cardiff is very beautiful and a big place. I have explored a variety of things such as the market, big shopping malls, famous candy shops and the Hare Krishna temple. Finally, we reached the Marriott hotel around 5.45pm. We were exhausted but despite that I was so happy to go in the swimming pool to relax myself. We went outside for dinner in a small restaurant called [BELLA ITALIA] not too far from the hotel. I was so very happy when I went to Cardiff because it was the best day of my life. The next morning was an auspicious day because it was Nityananda prabhu appearance day, Raksha Bandhan and Independence of India as well. We went to the temple for prayers and followed by a procession to the Cardiff castle in the town. After visiting we went to the gift shop to buy some presents for my family who lives in London. This was my favourite journey; I was so happy to travel by car and have a nice time in Cardiff with my family. What makes it so special to me is that I had a good chance to celebrate Nityananda Prabhu's birthday there. Finally we managed to reach home happily and safely to celebrate Raksha Bandhan with my big brother.





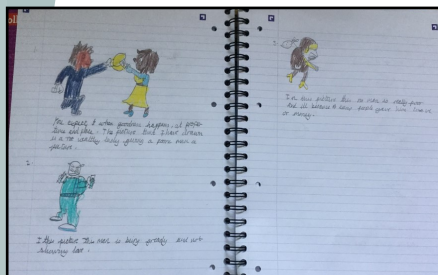
## FESTIVALS AND ART

### PRE with Year 3, & Year 4

Year 3 have been learning about charity and how we can give charity in different modes (goodness, passion and ignorance).

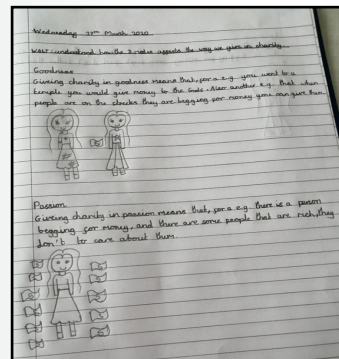
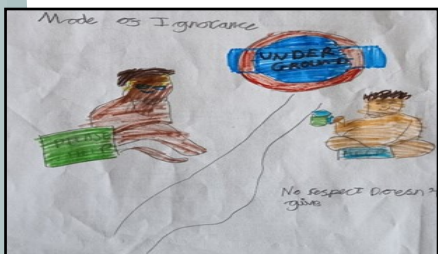
#### Charity in the Modes

	Goodness	Passion	Ignorance
<b>Attitude</b>	Duty	Grudging mood, obligation	No attention or respect
<b>Result expected</b>	Not expect return	Expect return	Doesn't give
<b>Time and place</b>	Proper time and place	Proper time and place	Wrong time and place
<b>Given to</b>	Worthy person	Unworthy person	Unworthy person



#### PRE charity in the 3 modes.

1. charity in the mode of goodness :- duty, without expectation of return, proper time and place, worthy person.
2. charity in the mode of passion :- the expectation of some return, a grudging mood, proper time and place, unworthy person.
3. charity in the mode of ignorance :- no attention or respect, doesn't give, wrong time and place, unworthy person.



Year 4 have learnt about how God can be seen in his three aspects. They have created analogies to explain their learning.

#### WALT: analyse how God is in three places

We can be friends with god as he is a person too. We have relationships with god because he made us. We should pray to all three aspects of god because god is everywhere. God can be compared to the sun which also has three aspects. In our culture, every morning we see the sun and we pray to it because the sun has three aspects as well and god made the sun. The sunshine is like the energy of God which is what we see when we first look at the sun. The sun's disc shape is what we see when we look a bit closer which is like knowing about God in the heart, the disc of the sun is PARMATMA and the star is God the person.



This story showed that the best is to think of God as a person. In the story there is a description of the lord and it is so beautiful. The saints gazed upon God in wonder and in the story it said the lord which was in their hearts was now visible to their eyes. They four saints taught us that God is a person as they saw him in the spiritual world and we can have a relationship with him.

We can also see the three features in the example of the moon because the light is like the energy forming around the world. It is shaped like a disc which means god is in the heart. If you see closer it is a globe which means god is a person.

#### Moral of the Story:-

Most complete understanding of God is as a person (bhagavan) because once we consider God as a person then we can relate to him in more detail. As a person we can look into different aspects of him physically (i.e. Having shape or features) and spiritually e.g. similarly to as an online friend vs a physical person as explained in the story of four kumaras meeting Lord Vishnu.

#### Analogies Moon:-

- The moon in the night gives us moonlight which is all around us as a calm light like brahman (energy).
- When looking from a distance moon is like a white disc shape similar to knowing about God in heart.
- Let's go closer to the moon using a telescope, we find that the moon is a giant white ball which is like knowing God as a person who has energy and is in the heart of everyone.





# AVANTI COURT PRIMARY SCHOOL

## FESTIVALS AND ART

### PRE with Year 5 & Year 6

**Year 5** have read synopsis of the Mahabharata story and have summarised part of it.

In the beginning of the Mahabharat there were two brothers: Pandu and Dhritrashtra, Dhritrashtra was older but he was blind and therefore Pandu was declared the king. He was cursed by a sage when he accidentally shot an arrow at the sage's daughter and him. So he went on an exile and there had a heart attack, dying at a young age, he had two wives and when dying his second wife then decided to die with him. The other wife, after having a wish which was; that she could have a child from the gods by using a special prayer. So she then used it to get the five Pandavas, called Yudhisthir, Arjun, Bheem, Nakul and Sahadev (placed from oldest to youngest). Dhritrashtra had hundred sons whose eldest was Duryodhan, who had a grudge against the pandavas due to his uncle Shukuni. They were taught by the same guru: Dronacharya, where Arjun became the best archer. Duryodhan plotted to kill Bheem by giving him poisoned rice pudding and then they threw him in the Ganga. However, living there was the king of snakes who had the cure and because the king was their mother's grandfather, he gave life to Bheem and also gave the strength of a thousand elephants to him. They then met Krishna, who they easily recognised. The Pandavas went in two exiles one was when they were gambling and they lost everything, including their wife, Draupadi. They went on exile for 13 years and 1 year more hiding in a city without anyone recognising them. They then went to ask for their kingdom, but the kurus didn't and so the battle began. With the help of Krishna they won it and returned happily home.

#### WALT: Describe the Mahabharata

The origins of the Mahabharata one of India's great epics has been lost in antiquity. The main warriors Yudhisthir, Bheema, Arjun, Nakul and Sahadev waged a war of justice over the right of Hastinapur being their kingdom against the sinful Duryodhana and his 99 deceptive brothers. By right Hastinapur should've been Yudhisthir being the eldest son of Pandu but due to Duryodhana's greed of Hastinapur a war was waged on the battlefield of Kurukshetra. Nakul and Sahadev were sons born from Madri and Yudhisthira, Bheema and Arjun were born from Kunti who were both wives of Pandu. After Bhishma Pitamah and Vidur had decided to nominate a new king Vidur decided Pandu would be a better king as Dhritrashtra was blind. Pandu became Hastinapur's new king. But soon Rishi Kindama cursed Pandu for killing his wife and Pandu and his wife Madri broke the curse and died. Soon after, as Dhritrashtra had the right to the throne he took over the throne with Gandhari as his wife, but he still had to care for his sister-in-law Kunti and her sons. Kunti had taken the responsibility to take care of Madri's sons Nakul and Sahadev.

Kunti was not treated properly but like a maid after Gandhari was queen. Gandhari was given a boon to give birth to 100 sons and the oldest was Duryodhana. Duryodhana often hated to share with Yudhisthir, Bheema, Arjun, Nakul and Sahadev and even tried to poison Bheema's food. This greed swelled in Duryodhana. As the boys grew up, they came under the teaching of Drona. Yudhisthir was taught knowledge, Arjun was into archery, Bheema could hold all his brothers and his mother at one, Nakul was expert in horse breeding and Ayurveda. His role was not that significant as of Arjun or Bheema, but it was important one. He along with Bheema led the Pandavas in the first day of the battle. He defeated Dushasan on the first day. And Sahadev who was the youngest of the lot could predict the future by just looking at the stars. Now Kunti is sister (cousin) of Vasudeva, Krishna's father. So Kunti is paternal aunt of Krishna. So, Krishna who is an avatar of the supreme personality of godhead grew up with the pandavas.

#### Summary of Mahabharata

Mahabharata is the epic book in Hindu mythology. It was set on the date 22nd November in 3067B.C. The Mahabharata explains about the war between The Kauravas and Pandavas ; interestingly they were all part of one family. The Mahabharata war happened as because The Kauravas refused to give back the Pandavas their kingdom. Though Pandavas tried their utmost best not to fight against family, but the war became inevitable as the Kauravas; mainly the eldest brother Duryodhana arrogantly replied that he wouldn't spare them enough land into which to drive a pin. Once the Pandavas tried everything they could they had no choice but to ask Krishna to be their messenger. However, even when Krishna pleaded for peace the Kauravas still refused. From that point the war was confirmed. In addition, from the war the Bhagavat Gita was going to be written.

**Year 6** have been learning about rites of passage.

WALT: Analyse rites of passage.

The similarities between these two faiths are that the baby is given ghee or honey and the father whispers the names of the Lord in the child's ears. The differences are that Jewish have a surgeon to perform an operation on the baby while he/she is placed on the Father's lap.

1. There was a time when my Maternal grandmother passed away when my mum, my 1 year old brother, and me just got to India. That was my first deep impression of life. I couldn't believe she was gone and we never really spent time together. That was when I realized what life was.
2. Some impressions left in the mind are not so important as some are there to make you tense, and some are there to make you more aware about the world.
3. In my opinion, I think that not a lot of people can control their impressions as their emotions take over. For example, I went to sing a song on stage, I controlled my emotions. I wasn't so excited but I was happy.

PRE reflection

1. The things that make a deep samskaras are the ceremonies that we have from when we are born to the day the day we die due to the fact that when we have a particular ceremony it creates a positive mindset to be able to move from one stage of life to another like from the stage of birth to the stage of becoming married. Furthermore, these samskaras create a deep imprint into our lives.
2. These samskaras vary from religion to religion . For example, it varies from Hinduism to Christianity to Islamic to Judaism. This is clearly seen as part of their samskaras and what they do at different times of their life as they have different ways of ceremonies from the Christians way of baptism to the Hinduism way of Jata karma Samskara is a way that different religions use many types of ways

Class:Gold

The thing that left a strong impression in my mind was the first time I went to a mandir I was amazed by everything. Like the moorties of god, the bhajans and the prasadam. It was a positive was a positive experience. All of the stuff made me feel joyful and cheery. It was an important impression because religion and god is a big part of my life. We can control the impressions that enter our mind by our emotions or mood. We can personally choose whether it was positive or negative.

Impressions

Moving to London was the strongest impression that I had in my life. I was only 4 years old when moving from India to London and while travelling I felt a mix of emotions. Some of them were excitement and sometimes I felt worried and scared of this new, unknown place. This impression was really important to me because my whole life changed, I was in a completely different country. When I was in India, I had more than 50 people but in London it was only me and my parents. It was very difficult to make new friends and settle into this new environment. We can control the impressions in our mind by always staying calm in every situation whether it's positive or negative.

