

Issue
#008



GUJARATI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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Introduction

Get ready for another fun-packed Diwali 2015 newsletter.

This is our first newsletter since we started our first term since September 2015. Therefore, we will be sharing our experiences of our end of term charity event in July 2015.

Diwali and Navratri are both lovely and exciting Hindu festivals which are full of colourful clothes, eating lots of food, time to be with your loved one and pray to God.

Did you know we do GCSE gujarati?

Did you know we have a teacher called Hansaben Teli?

Enjoy reading...

Calendar

For 2015 –2016:

Saturday 5th September 2015 – Start of New Term

Saturday 14th November 2015 – Closed for Diwali

Saturday 19th December 2015 – Closed for Christmas

Saturday 26th December 2015 – Closed for Christmas

Saturday 2nd January 2016 – Closed for New Years

Saturday 9th January 2016 – Start of Classes

Saturday 26th March 2016 – Closed for Easter (One week)

Saturday 25th March 2016 – End of Year Exams & Enrolment of
New Students

Saturday 16th July 2016 – Open Day/ Awards & Last Day of
School before Summer Break

August 2016 – Closed for Summer Break

Saturday 3rd September 2016 – Start of New Term.

Please note that the School's phone number is **020 8909 9389** (Ext.239) (during school hours - 10am to 3pm).

Diwali

Dhan Teras

Dhan Teras is the first of the five day celebration, Dhan meaning wealth and teras meaning 13th day of the month. On this day, houses are cleaned and decorated to welcome Laxmiji, Goddess of wealth. In addition, lamps are lit for the welcoming and houses are decorated using Rangoli patterns. As well as this, cattle in villages are adorned and worshipped as they are their main source of income.



Kali Chaudas

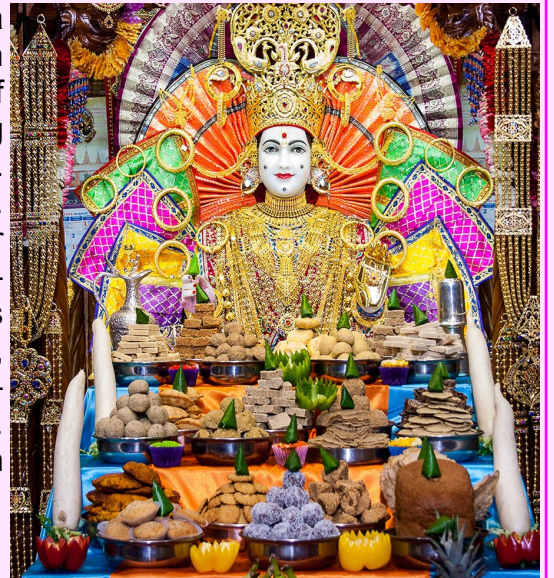
This is the second day of celebrations, this falls on the 14th day of the month. On this day, Hanumanji's arti is sang and puja is done to protect us from evil spirits. Also coconuts and ladhoo's made of sesame seeds, rice and ghee are offered to Hanumanji.

Laxmi Pujan and Diwali

This is the third day of celebrations. This day celebrates Ram bhagwan's journey back to Ayodhya after 14 years of exile. This day also celebrates Ram bhagwan's victory after killing Ravan and rescuing Sitaji. On this day, devotees of Ram Bhagwan lit lamps to direct him back to Ayodhya and made Rangoli's to celebrate the joyous occasion. It is also said that Laxmiji only enters houses that are clean and decorated with lamps and Rangoli's and are pure. The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word 'Deepavali'- Deep= Light Avali=Row. Also on this day, Chopada Pujan is done which is a puja done to thank Laxmiji for her presence and blessings. Lastly on this day Lord Shri Krishna left his mortal form on Earth on this day.

Ankooth – Bestu Varas

This is the fourth day of celebrations. This is known as 'Padwa' which makes the coronation of King Vikramaditya and Vikram-Samvat was started from this day. Also on this day at the end of each monsoon season people of Gokul used to do puja of Indradev. One year young Krishna stopped them which made Indradev angry. Indradev retaliated and it rained for 7 continuous days. Krishna lifted the Govardhan Mountain with his little finger on his left hand so the people of Gokul could shelter under it. The monsoon season brings new harvest which is used to make the Ankooth. A mountain of different foods, sweets and savouries are put before Bhagwan. Bhagwan is also dressed in beautiful garments and jewellery. 'Nutan Varas' means dawn of the new year also known as Bestu Varas.



Bhai Beej

Bhai Beej is the fifth and the final day of the celebration. Bhai means brother, Beej means the 2nd day of the bright half of the month Kartik. On the day of Bhai Beej, sisters call their brothers and his family to their homes for a meal. Brothers normally give a gift or leave money under their plate after they have finished. By tradition brothers would to the sister's marital home to make sure she was in good health.

Navratri

Navratri is one of the largest Hindu festivals celebrated every year. The festival of Navratri is marked by the celebrations of nine days. Navratri is a very important Hindu festival celebrated in India, which is devoted to Goddess Durga. The festival is celebrated with great reverence and faith across the country. It stretches over a period of nine days, with each of the nine days being dedicated to one of the nine forms of the Goddess. Talking about the history of Navratri festival, it can be explained through the stories mentioned in the Hindu scriptures.

The history of Navratri

The legend in North India goes that Mahishasura, the mighty demon, worshipped Lord Shiva and obtained the power of eternity. Soon, he started killing and harassing innocent people and set out to win all the three lokas. The gods in swargaloka appealed to Lord Shiva, to find a way to get rid of the demon. To protect the world from the atrocities of Mahishasura, the Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva united their powers and created a divine female warrior, known as Goddess Durga. Mahishasura, when he saw the divine beauty of Goddess Durga, got mesmerized.

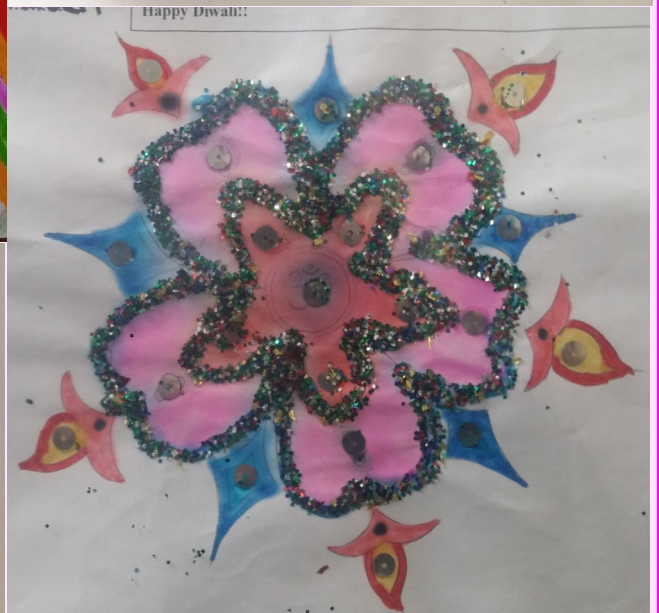
Mahishasura was so fascinated by Goddess Durga's beauty that he approached her with the intention of marriage. The goddess agreed to marry him, but put forth a condition - Mahishasura would have to win over her in a battle. Mahishasura, (proud as he was), agreed immediately! The battle continued for 9 nights and at the end of the ninth night, Goddess Durga beheaded Mahishasura. The nine nights came to be known as Navratri, while the tenth day was called Vijayadashmi, the tenth day that brought the triumph of good over evil.



Rangoli

Rangoli is a folk art from India in which patterns are created on the floor in living rooms or courtyards using materials such as coloured rice, dry flour, coloured sand or flower petals. It is usually made during Diwali. The purpose of rangoli is decoration, and it is thought to bring good luck. Generally, this practice is showcased during occasions such as festivals, auspicious observances, marriage celebrations and other similar milestones and gatherings. Rangoli designs can be simple geometric shapes, deity impressions, or flower and petal shapes but they can also be very elaborate designs crafted by numerous people.

We asked Ankodi and Balpothi students to create a rangoli design of their choice and here are a few:



Charity Event

On the 18th of July 2015, we held a charity event where children took part in many games and activities such as face painting and cake decorating. On this day, gujarati school raised a grand total of £481. Thank you to all. Here are a few pictures if the day:



GCSE

We would like to congratulate our GCSE Gujarati students of 2014—2015 on the fantastic set of results which they produced this summer.

Congratulations to :

Our school GCSE results are:

◆ Diresh Chhabhadya	2 A*
◆ Mayur Halai	5 A
◆ Nikita Halai	15 B
◆ Kiana Hirani	3 C
◆ Anjali Kapadia	
◆ Nikhil Kerai	
◆ Payal Kerai	
◆ Janvi Kotecha	
◆ Pavan Lunagaria	
◆ Isha Mehta	
◆ Harshik Patel	
◆ Nundni Patel	
◆ Neha Ruda	
◆ Jaanvi Senghani	
◆ Trushali Senghani	
◆ Simran Shah	
◆ Dimple Varsani	
◆ Khushi Varsani	
◆ Payal Varsani	
◆ Sonal Varsani	
◆ Nikita Vekaria	

Hansaben's Interview

- **Your Full Name?**

Hansaben Kishorlal Teli

- **Age and Date of Birth?**

65 years

- **How many people in your house and who?.**

4 - 2 sons, Husband and myself

- **When did you join Gujarati School? And why?**

I have taught Gujarati since 1992 because I am from Gujarat. I have taught at Gujarati school since November 2013. I joined as I would like to pass on our culture - our ID as Gujarati. I am proud of my mother tongue and also love to teach.

- **What standards do you usually teach?**

Standard 4 and Gcse

- **3 items of food you love:**

Panipuri, Dahiwada and Sevपुरi

Hansaben's Interview

- **3 items of food you dislike...yuk:**

Difficult question, I like all foods

- **Few words of wisdom for the kids?**

Fight for your right and never give up!

Work hard to achieve your goal.

Always speak sweet and truthfully - never hurt anyone's feelings.

- **What are your plans now?**

To carry on teaching at Gujarati school.

- **Who have been your friends at Gujarati school?**

Everybody

- **Do you like wearing Indian clothes?**

Yes

- **Do you like speaking gujarati?**

Yes as it is my mother tongue