

Issue
#001



GUJARATI SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Inside this issue:	Page
Introductory page	2
Teachers and staff	3
Smitaben's speech	4
Special Interview	5
Competitions Page	6
Shivratri	7/8
Holi	9
Games	10
Thank you	11

Tamne Khabar Che... Gujarati No Pehlo (Ever) Newsletter che! - Edition 1

Jai Swaminarayan and Namaste!

The Gujarati School was founded at the old Temple premises at Vaughan Road, Harrow and was one of the first to be established in the UK. It has been running from the new Temple from March 1997 moving successfully to the purpose built Education Building in Spring 1999.

The school currently has 386 students spread out between two sessions and has 25 members of staff. Beginners start at the basic level of Ankodi, then proceeding to Balpothi, Standard 1, Standard 2, Standard 3, Standard 4 and onto GCSE. We follow the syllabus set by the Examining Board. On average the class size is 12-15 students per teacher.

We have been an approved GCSE Examination Centre of Cambridge (Centre No. 12767) since May 2002. Last academic year (summer 2012) we had 38 students take their GCSE exams.

All of the teaching staff at the school are experienced, trained and are encouraged to improve teaching standards. In-house training is given for any new procedural/regulatory updates, covering resource development and management, for classroom control, promotion of learning and general professional approach. Many of our post GCSE students have come back to the school to join our existing dynamic teaching team.

Towards the end of the year, all students sit an exam. This academic year the exams will take place on Saturday 15th June 2013. All students who pass the end of year exams with excellent results are awarded a Certificate of Achievements on last day of term.

The Enrolment day for new students will be Saturday 6th July 2013 (10.00 am to 12.00pm). Those interested in placing their child/children must attend during either session. Please note that we do not take students mid-way through the term and unfortunately we do not keep waiting lists. The minimum age of students must be 7. You will be handed an application form to fill in, please note forms are not available before this date.

We encourage our students to take part in the Temple activities and include in our teaching some basic cultural and religious events and topics.

Thank you in advance for taking some time out to read our very own **Tamne Kabar Che Newsletter: Edition 1.**

Teachers & Staff

We would like to welcome the following teachers to the Gujarati School

Sejalben Dattani

Ashaben Sharma

Neeti Shah

Dharaben Shah

Good Bye and Good luck

Jaikishanbhai Joshi

Vaishaly Rabadia

GCSE 2011-2012 Results

Well done to you all!

Last year's GCSE students' grades ranged from A-C grades.

Congratulations to Aayushi Karsan, Akhil Patel, Atisha Patel, Bhavik Shah, Chandan Varsani, Chandni Raichura, Dhruvi Varsani, Dillan Patel, Dillan Bhudia, Harshvina Kerai, Karan Depala, Keval Shah, Madhav Maru, Nikhita Govind, Nikita Gudka, Niraj Shah, Parin Maisuria, Preena Shah, Raveena Kerai, Tulsi Varsani, Vaishali Raghvani, Amar Shah, Bhavesh Senghani, Devki Gorasia, Diya Patel, Karan Sumaria, Karish Hirani, Kreena Mistry, Kunaal Shah, Nerisha Chouhan, Parth Popatia, Priya Punja & Rianna Patel

Good luck to all the 2012-2013 students sitting their GCSE exams this summer.

Voluntary Staff 2012-2013

Aayushi Karsan These students achieved a GCSE with us and now help motivate and support
Akhil Patel younger students. A BIG welcome and thank you to you Youngsters! Well done.
Chandni Raichura
Dilan Rabadiya
Diya Patel
Harshvina Kerai
Karan Sumaria
Karishma Shah
Nikhita Govind
Raveena Kerai
Rianna Patel
Sohini Vadera
Vaishali Raghvani

Teaching Staff

Asha Parmar
Bansri Shah
Bhavika Shah
Bindiya Kunverji
Darsita Jadva
Deepali Poojara
Dhrupika Patel
Jyoti Patel
Meghna Ranchhod
Naresh Savalia
Neeti Shah
Nimisha Shah
Nitisha Patel
Nyal Vekaria
Pooja Parmar
Rasila Patel
Ratan Patel
Reena Shah
Roshni Kerai
Roshni Patel
Sangeeta Vadgama
Sapna Shah
Sejal Dattani
Shivani Kerai
Shivani Makwana
Shivani Patel
Shreeya Ranchhod
Smita Varsani
Sona Shah
Vaishni Patel
Viruben Patel
Vivek Parmar

Thank you to all of the Gujarati School staff and all of the volunteers for your dedication so far! It is very much appreciated :) Your devotion and support is what makes us a successful Gujarati School!

This year we have encouraged new younger teachers to join us. We have worked together to guide and ensure that they are familiar with SKSST Gujarati School's culture, ways to develop their skills and make teaching more knowledgeable and interesting (for both themselves and their students). Thank you for your help youngsters!

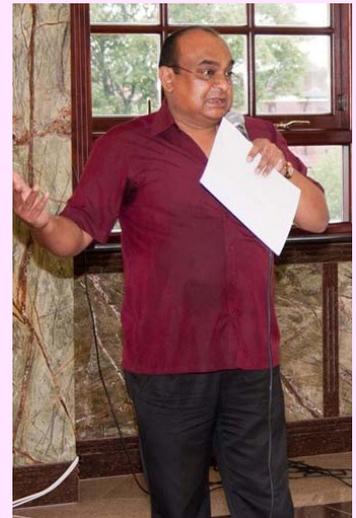
Of course the senior teachers were there to guide the younger teachers! Thank you for their help too.

Smitaben Varsani



Special Interview with Dineshbhai Kerai

- Born in Kampala, **Uganda**
- In 1976 – Founder and member of **Baladia** and Youth Club
- Helped with various **social and political** activities
- Took part in **BT Community Challenge** – Won Silver Award



How many people in your family?

Four: Me, My Wife, My Daughter and My Son

What car do you drive?

Honda

Which famous people have you met?

Rishi Kapoor, Famous Cricketers – Tendulkar, Narendra Modi and many more.

Your favourite colour?

Red

How often do you come to the Mandir?

Everyday!

Your favourite food?

Bhajiya

Do you believe in hard work?

Yes, I believe in hard work because that is the only move you will achieve your goals and be able to move forward.

Food you dislike?

Pasta

Who are you inspired by?

My Parents

Your favourite place?

Baladia in Gujarat – India

Where was your last holiday?

Baladia in Gujarat – India

Your Two Favourite Hobbies?

1. Gujarati School - giving time and spending time with children and teachers.
2. Helping Community and Serving local area.

Which do you prefer? (Answers in bold)

5 words to describe you:

1. Active
2. Jolly
3. Extremely Hard-working
4. Good Sense of Humour
5. Honest

Gulab Jambu or Raasmaali

Askshay Kumar or Salmaan Khan – **NONE**

Pav Bhaji or **Dosa**

Cat or **Rabbit**

Meera's or **Gujarati School**

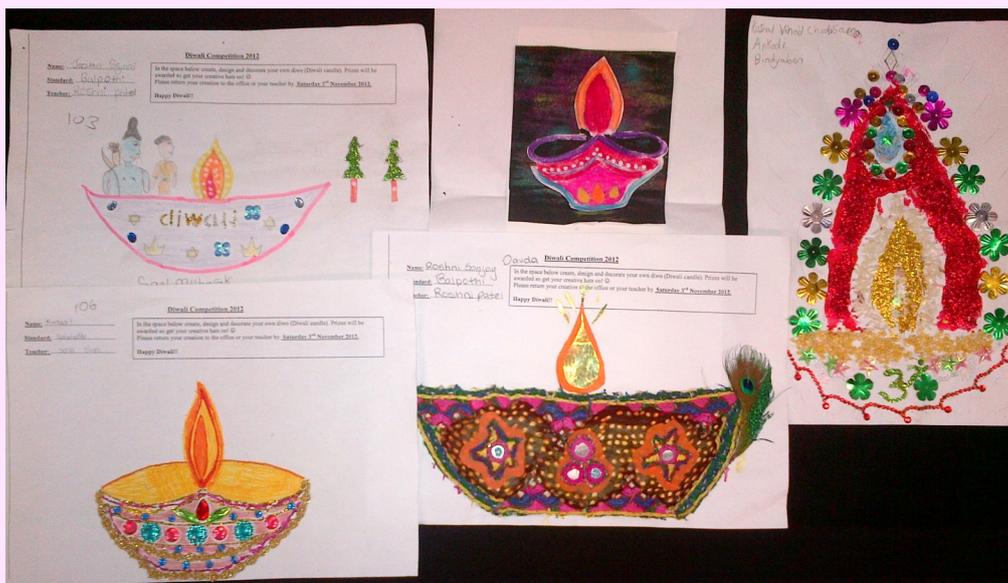
Mercedes Benz or BMW? **My Car Honda**

Diwali & Christmas Competitions

This year we introduced a number of competitions for our Ankodi, Balpothi & Standard 1 students. We had a Diwali themed one, where we asked the children to design their own diwo, and a Christmas themed one, where we asked them to decorate a Christmas tree.

We were overwhelmed with entries in the office which were extremely creative and found it extremely tough to choose the best ones.

Congratulations to all of the students who participated in these competitions.



Diwali competition winners were: Jeevan, Vikita, Kunaal, Roshni & Kushal



Christmas competition winners were: Ashvina, Mahek, Shivam, Eshana & Kajal

Shivaratri



What is Shivaratri?

Sri Maha Shivaratri means "The Night of Shiva". The ceremonies take place mainly at night. This is a festival taken place in honour of Lord Shiva. Shiva was married to Parvati on this day. This is the night is when Shiva is said to have performed the Tandava or the dance of creation, preservation and destruction.

People repeat the Panchakshara Mantra as it is said he who says the Names of Shiva during Shivaratri, with perfect devotion and concentration is free from all sins. He reaches the abode of Shiva and lives there

happily. He is separated from the cycle of births and deaths. Many pilgrims travel to the places where there is a Shiva temple on this day.

When is Shivaratri?

The auspicious festival of Maha Shivaratri falls on the 13th or the 14th night of the new moon during Krishna Paksha in the Hindu month of Phalgun. The Sanskrit term, Krishna Paksha means the period of waning moon or the dark fortnight and Phalguna corresponds to the month of February - March in the English Calendar. Shivaratri is celebrated on a moonless night.

Shivaratri Fast

Shivaratri Fast is considered to be the most important fast for the devotees of Lord Shiva. Shiva Purana goes on to say that if a devotee observes Shivaratri Vrata with sincerity, pure devotion and love he is blessed with the divine grace of Lord Shiva. Every year devotees observe Maha Shivaratri fast with devotion and sincerity. Though many go on a diet of fruits and milk, some do not consume even a drop of water all through the day and night of Shivaratri.

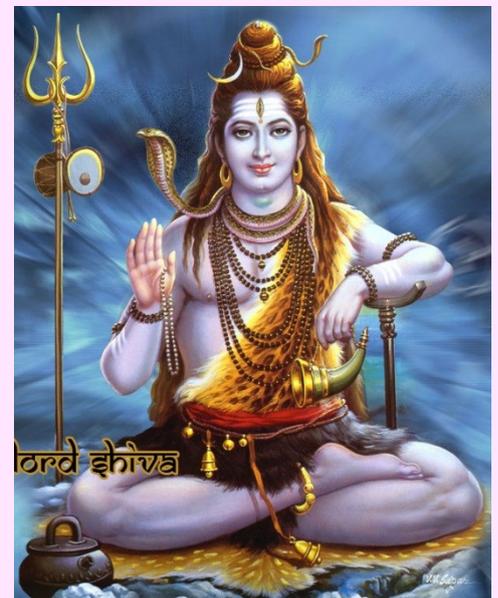
OK! So lets test your knowledge on how much you know! Email the correct answers along with your full name to school@sksst.org , good luck!

1. What do lord Shiva devotees eat and drink on Shivaratri?

- A. Only water
- B. Only ladva
- C. Nothing

2. What mantra do people repeat on Shivaratri?

- A. Swaminarayan Maha Mantra
- B. Panchakshara Manta
- C. Krishna mantra



3. Where do pilgrims travel to on this day?

- A. To a Shiva temple
- B. To a Parvati temple
- C. To a Krishna temple

4. What does Shivaratri mean?

- A. The day of Shiva
- B. The night of Shiva
- C. The day of the Lord

5. When is Shivaratri celebrated?

- A. On a sunny day
- B. On a full moon night
- C. On a moonless night



By Pavan Lunagaria

Holi



Over the years when we think about Holi we think about bonfires and throwing coloured powder on each other to mark the beginning of spring and to celebrate the victory of good over evil. The famous scriptural reference that explains the significance of Holi is the story of Holika and Prahlad.

Prahlad was the son of Hiranyakashipu, an arrogant king. Hiranyakashipu had been granted a boon by Brahma which meant that it was impossible for him to be killed. He was protected so that he could not be killed during the day or night, inside or out, nor on earth or in the sky, and neither by man nor animal. Due to this boon he became much more arrogant and considered himself to be the ruler of the Universe and higher than all of the Gods. He attacked the Heavens and the Earth and demanded that people should stop worshipping Gods and start to worship him.



However, Prahlad never believed that his father was higher than the Gods as he was a faithful devotee of Lord Vishnu. Hiranyakashipu was furious with Prahlad and had threatened and attempted to kill Prahlad in various ways such as throwing him off a cliff, being trampled by elephants, bitten by snakes and attacked by soldiers. Despite these threats and attempts Prahlad continued to worship Lord Vishnu and his devotion become stronger.

Finally, Hiranyakashipu decided to burn Prahlad. He asked his sister Holika to sit in the fire with Prahlad as she also had a boon which prevented her from being burnt by fire. This meant that Prahlad would die in the fire whereas Holika would remain safe and unharmed. Prahlad willingly accepted his father's order and prayed to Lord Vishnu to keep him safe. Since Holika was using her ability to be unharmed by fire for evil her power vanished and she was burnt into ashes. Everyone watched in amazement as Holika was burnt whilst Prahlad was unharmed. The next day everyone celebrated the death of Holika as Prahlad survived from the flames which we all know as Dhuleti.



As all stories have a moral so does this one and that is this

“ saaraM kama krvaavaaLaanaaM hMmaoSaa ivaJya qaaya Co.”

(Those who do good will always win.)

So what happened between Hiranyakashipu, Prahlad, and Lord Vishnu after this victorious moment for good? Well in the end Lord Vishnu found a loop hole in Hiranyakashipu's boon and was able to defeat him, this meant that Prahlad become the king of his fathers' land and ruled as a wise king bringing the joy back to his people that his father once took away.

Sangeeta Vadgama

Fun & Games

Easy

	૩				૧	૯	૪	
૬	૯		૩		૪			૭
		૧		૫		૬	૩	
૩			૧					૪
	૨						૭	
૭					૮			૧
	૬	૩		૭		૧		
૨	૮		૫		૩		૬	૯
	૧	૪	૮				૨	

Hard

	૫		૭			૬		
	૬				૪			૮
૧				૮				૨
			૧		૫		૨	
૬			૯					૪
	૧				૨			
૭				૧				૫
૯			૮				૬	
		૧			૩		૮	

Print this out, complete the sudokus and hand it in to the Gujarati School Office as soon as possible

Thank you....

This Tamne Kabar Che Newsletter: Edition 1 was produced with the help of:

- Shivani Patel
- Smita Varsani
- Pooja Parmar
- Sangeeta Vadgama
- Shreeya Ranchhod
- Meghna Ranchhod
- Pavan Lunagaria
- Dineshbhai Kerai
- Nyal Vekaria

Thank you to you all for all of your help!

We hope that you enjoyed our first edition of Tamne Kabar Che and hope to receive lots of Shivarati answers and Sudoku answers.