

19 October 2009

## Happy Diwali

In 2009, Diwali is celebrated on 17th October.

Diwali is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains and Buddhists all around the world in October or November. It is the Hindu New Year and is either a 3-day or 5-day holiday depending on where you come from.

It is a very exciting and colourful holiday. Homes are cleaned to welcome the New Year and windows are opened so that the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi, can enter. It is believed that she cannot enter a house which is not lit up, so every household burns special Diwali clay lamps (diyas) to light the way for the goddess, which is why the holiday is also known as the Festival of Lights.



*Diwali lamps for sale in the market*

Children have a holiday from school. Presents are given and delicious holiday food is prepared and exchanged. New clothes and jewellery are worn. Parties are held, and [dice](#) and [card games](#) are played. Fireworks and firecrackers are set off to warn off evil spirits, so it is a noisy holiday too!

The last day of the holiday is a special day for brothers and sisters called Bhaiya-Dooj. Brothers give special presents to their sisters, who cook for them and look after them.

## Mr How's special Diwali recipe

There are a number of traditional sweet and savoury foods for Diwali. The recipes for these vary from family to family but will remain the same year after year.

### Kheer

*Kheer is an Indian version of rice pudding which is especially popular at Diwali. It can be served warm or chilled.*

Serves 4

### Ingredients

1/4 cup long grain rice (preferably basmati rice), washed and drained  
4-5 cups milk  
2 cardamom seeds, crushed  
2 tbsp almonds (blanched silvered)  
A pinch of saffron threads, soaked in a little hot milk  
1 tbsp skinned pistachio nuts (chopped)  
1 tbsp raisins (optional)  
3-4 tbsp sugar

### Method

Put the rice, milk and cardamom in a saucepan. Bring to the boil and then turn down the heat and simmer gently until the rice is soft and the grains are starting to break up (approximately 60 minutes).

Add the almonds, pistachio, saffron and raisins and simmer for 3-4 minutes. Add the sugar and stir gently until completely dissolved.

Remove from heat and allow to cool. Serve warm or chilled.

## Dates for Diaries – a reminder

Half term – School closes after school on Friday 23 October  
School opens again on Monday 2 November

Open Evening – Wednesday 11 November 6 00pm to 8.00 pm

**'The School Goes Pink' on Friday 6 November for two of our favourite charities – Genesis and Christies. More details to come!**

## Deputy Headteacher

The Chair and Governors wish to congratulate Julie Mellish who has been appointed to the post of Deputy Headteacher from 1 January 2010.



## **Make designs on Manchester craft event The Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair at Spinningfields**

**October 22-25, 2009  
Spinningfields, Manchester city centre  
[www.greatnorthernevents.co.uk](http://www.greatnorthernevents.co.uk)**

The Fair will take place at Spinningfields, Manchester's high profile business quarter, located just off Deansgate in the heart of the city.

The Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair provides a unique shopping experience and an excellent opportunity to see and buy the latest works in jewellery, interior textiles, fashion accessories, ceramics, glass, silver, wood, furniture, paper and more from 140 of the most talented designer-makers in the UK.

Visitors can spend the day in a relaxed yet stimulating atmosphere, chat to the makers and find out the story behind each unique piece. As we move away from excess and mass production, this event is about finding something you love and buying it directly from the person who made it. Whether it's something to use, something to give or simply something to gaze at, it can be found at The Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair at Spinningfields.

For more information see [www.greatnorthernevents.co.uk](http://www.greatnorthernevents.co.uk)

### **Opening times:**

Preview by invitation only: Thursday, October 22 from 6pm-9.30pm  
Friday, October 23: 11am – 8.30pm  
Saturday, October 24: 10am – 6pm  
Sunday, October 25: 10am-5pm  
Admission on door: £5 (£4 concession)

Address of Pavilion: Hardman Boulevard, Spinningfields, off Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3AQ

This year The Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair is supported the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

[www.beaverroad.org.uk](http://www.beaverroad.org.uk)

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