



Newstead Wood's LANGUAGES NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2021

editorial and design by Angel and Evan, 11W

Welcome to the first edition of the languages newsletter, in which we look at the diversity of different cultures and their related celebrations.

We thank everyone who took their time to submit an article for this edition and look forward to any future submissions we'll receive. We also kindly thank Frau Volkova for helping us in the process of creating this newsletter. Thank you for taking the time to read.

Your editors, Evan and Angel

Culture and tradition in Sri Lanka

By Jananee, 12W

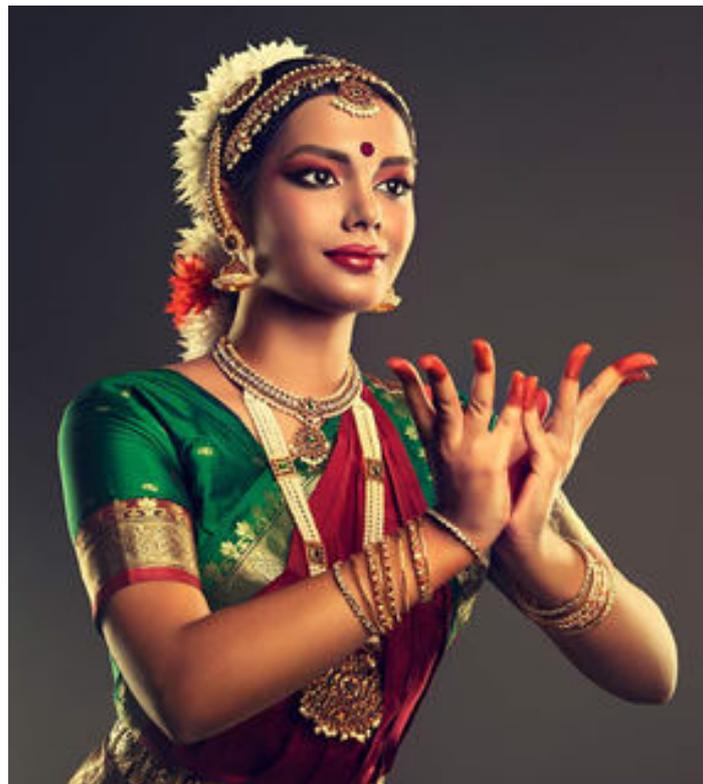


Like many other countries, Sri Lankan Tamils have many cultures and traditions within their families, deeply rooted within their ancestry. Because of our school's diversity, similar to me, there are many, many Tamils, who are proud of their heritage, in our school.

One of the most prominent cultural aspects is our clothes. Whenever there are massive gatherings for weddings, birthdays etc., many women wear fashionable long seamless sarees, which drape over the shoulders, whilst many men wear 'verti', which is a material wrapped around the legs and hips (in North India they refer to it as 'dhoti'). The 'shalvani' has become quite popular nowadays in weddings, although the 'verti' is still the traditional style of dressing for men.

Additionally, jewellery is always used for everyone, whether it's from gold necklaces and earrings, to tiny embellishments on clothes. It's also a custom for married women to wear a red 'pottu' or 'bhindi' on their forehead.

Another significant cultural aspect is our passion for music and dance. In the western world, ballet and tap dancing is very popular, but in the eastern side, throughout India and Sri Lanka, Carnatic music is the main type of music. There are many different instruments that fall under this category of Carnatic music, including violin, flute, miruthangam, veena and nattuvangam. Alongside this, the most popular classical dancing in South India and parts of Sri Lanka is Bharathanatiam, which is very physically demanding and focuses a lot more on footwork and hand gestures, whilst also being based on many religious and mythological stories. In Andhra Pradesh (a state of India), Kuchipudi is the main classical dance, whilst in the South-western region Kerala, Kathakali is the main classical dance.



The way in which we, Tamils, dress and uphold our traditions gives a real sense of pride in our place of origin. Even when many people migrate to different countries, culture and tradition will always remain with us, no matter which part of the world we are from.

FESTIVALS IN SRI LANKA

By Harne, 10W

Diwali

Diwali is one of the major festivals for Hindus and Tamils, which is usually celebrated in November, although this varies some years. The story behind Diwali, varies amongst many countries. Sri Lankans and South Indians share the same story for the festival, which is that Diwali commemorates the defeat of the demon Hiranyakshipu by Narasimha, the lion-headed incarnation of Vishnu. According to legend, Vishnu incarnates himself as Narasimha to rid the earth of an evil king Hiranyakshipu. The king had received a boon from Brahma that he could not be conquered by either god or human for the simple reason that he could be killed neither by beast nor man, neither inside nor outside, neither during the day nor at night.





When Hiranyakshipu's atrocities became unbearable, the gods turned to Vishnu for help. Vishnu reincarnated himself as Narasimha, half man and half lion and, therefore, neither man nor beast. As Narasimha, he killed Hiranyakshipu with his claws at the threshold (which is neither inside nor outside), and just before daybreak (a time when it is neither day nor night). That way he managed to get around the boon given to the king. On Diwali, we wear new clothes, make sweets, visit families and friends, and go to the temple.

Navratri honours and celebrates Goddess Durga for defeating the demon Mahishasura. The festival lasts 9 nights, Goddess Durga is worshiped for the first three days, followed by Goddess Lakshmi during the next three days, and finally Goddess Saraswati on the last three days. However, this year, the festival starts on the 7th of October, and ends on the 15th of October, meaning it lasts for 8 nights. The festival can also sometimes last 10 nights, this is because, astrologically, some of the lunar days occur on the same date or occur across two dates. Vijayadashami is a major festival celebrated at the end of Navratri every year and celebrates the victory of good over evil.

TAMIL NADU

A CULTURE RICH STATE IN SOUTH INDIA

By Prajnaa, 7P



Tamil Nadu is a state in South India. It is an ancient place full of many wonders and beliefs. This article will tell you about the different cultures, traditions and more in Tamil Nadu.

WHAT MAKES TAMIL NADU SPECIAL?

Tamil Nadu has some of the oldest surviving cultural traditions followed by many Tamilians. Even the language, Tamil is the most ancient language in the world. There are so many beautiful scriptures still surviving from millennia ago.



FOOD AND CATERING TRADITIONS

There is a wide range of Food in Tamil Nadu. Farming had influenced the population of Tamil Nadu to start eating more vegetarian meals. Some of the most popular ones are: pongal, idli and sambar.

BANANA LEAF

A Banana Leaf is extremely common in South India, especially in Tamil Nadu. A Banana Leaf is typically used as a plate to put food on; you may be thinking why this is, but it actually enhances the flavour of the dish massively. As well as this, it is eco-friendly, which makes a positive impact on our environment!

THE SOIL OF TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu's land is fertile and full of life - it is the place of 14 battles, 38 615 temples and 67.86 million people!

AGRICULTURE

The Soil of Tamil was pure and was a big encouragement to start farming in Tamil Nadu. In 500BCE – 300 CE farming was considered as the way of life for Tamilians. This is why local residents started planting crops and from then on, this became a necessity for the majority of Tamil Nadu. As they have been farming for centuries, Tamilians became aware of the different types of soil and fertilizer; with this, their crops thrived.

MEALS

Even though rice has been the staple food, over centuries, Tamilians have found the perfect way to make their food healthier. Farmers have achieved this by growing a variety of healthy foods, for example, lentils and millet. These foods have improved the quality of life for Tamilians and will continue to for many more years.



RELIGIOUS LIFE

TEMPLES

Tamil Nadu is also known as “The land of temples”. This is because Tamilians have great beliefs in gods and moral values.



There are about 33 million gods known to the modern day population!

Each of these gods are responsible for a different aspect in life to help all people. Even though Hinduism is the main religion in Tamil Nadu, they happily co-exist with other religions.

TEMPLE ARCHITECTURE

Temples in Tamil Nadu date back to as long as 3,000 years ago during the Sangam age.



These temples were beautifully designed, carved and cut by builders who made sure that the temple could look as neat and appealing as it could.

The most famous and mysterious of these temples is Mahabalipuram which is located on the coast of Tamil Nadu and nobody knows who built it. This is because the construction of Mahabalipuram dates to 8th Century AD. Historians have been trying to solve these mysteries for thousands of years.

SOCIO-POLITICAL ISSUES

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Unemployment rates in Tamil Nadu are drastically increasing. As of February 2021, unemployment rates in Tamil Nadu were at 2.7%, but due to the global COVID-19 pandemic families that lived on daily income couldn't earn their wages.

For example, people who worked in the construction industry and the agricultural industry couldn't get or continue their work, so they were pushed into poverty.



The Tamil Nadu government recently formed an economic committee with various leading economists around the world to improve their economy. Now the government is trying to get more investments from various companies like car manufacturers to bring in more jobs to reduce the unemployment rates.

cultural calendar

autumn 2021





SEPTEMBER

Knowledge Day of Russia 1 SEP

The 1st of September (commonly known as Knowledge Day or "День знаний") is a traditional Russian celebration, marking the start of the school year.

Mid-autumn Festival 21 SEP

There are differences in the ways nations celebrate this festival. In this issue we will cover the Chinese traditions.

Ghanaian yam festival

The Ashanti Yam Festival is an annual celebration of the Ashanti people of Ashanti. It marks the first harvest of yams during the autumn season, after the monsoon season. The yam is the staple food crop in Ashanti and most of Africa.



OCTOBER

Nigerian Day of Independence 1st OCT

Every year on the 1st of October, Nigerian Independence Day is celebrated in Nigeria as a national holiday. It celebrates Nigerian independence from British rule, which was established 61 years ago in 1960 under Governor General Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, who also became Nigeria's first president.

Tag der Deutschen Einheit 3rd OCT

Tag der Deutschen Einheit, or 'Day of German Unity' is a national holiday in Germany.

Durga Puja 11th OCT

Durga Puja is an annual Hindu festival (also known as Durgotsava or Sharadotsava) normally held between September - October, which is based on the moon on the Hindu calendar.

Oktoberfest

The Oktoberfest is the world's largest Folkfest. It is traditionally held in Munich, a city in Germany. The Oktoberfest is an important part of German culture, having been held for 220 years.



OCTOBER

Saraswati Pooja 12th OCT

Saraswati Pooja is a Hindu festival which is also called Sarasvati Pradhan Puja in honour of the goddess Saraswati.

Spain's National day 12th OCT

The Día de la Fiesta Nacional is celebrated annually in Spain on the 12th of October.

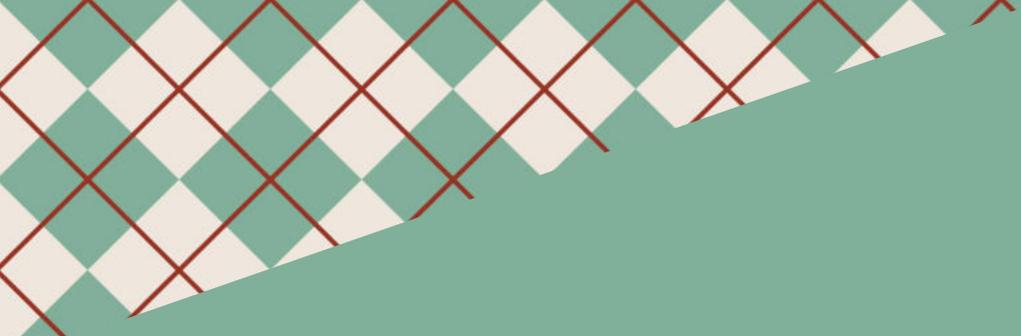
It commemorates the discovery of the Americas by Christopher Columbus on the 12th of October 1492.

Vap Poya 20th OCT

Every month there is a Poya celebration as this occurs when there is a full moon. Here, I will be discussing Vap Poya, which takes place in October.

Republic Day of Turkey 28th OCT

It starts at 1:00pm on 28th October for 35 hours, following into 29th.



NOVEMBER

Diwali

Diwali usually starts between October and November. It is referred to as 'The festival of new beginnings' and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness.

All Saints' Day in Poland 1st NOV

Wszystkich Świętych (All Saints' Day) is also called the Day of the Dead (Święto Zmarłych). People visit cemeteries to light candles and lay flowers on the graves of their family and friends.

Bulgaria National Awakening Day 1st NOV

It is also known as National Enlighteners Day. On this day, Bulgarians celebrate the founders of Bulgarian culture, education and religion.



NOVEMBER

Día de los Muertos 1st and 2nd NOV

The Day of the Dead is a Mexican festival celebrated on the 1st and 2nd of November throughout Latin America.

Hallowe'en in the Philippines 1st and 2nd NOV

It is called Undas. It can last from a week before the 31st (24th October) to All Saints and All Souls Day, on the 1st and 2nd of November.

Yee Peng Lantern Festival 19th NOV

It is held in November every year. Hundreds of deep golden lanterns are sent off into the night sky.

SEPTEMBER

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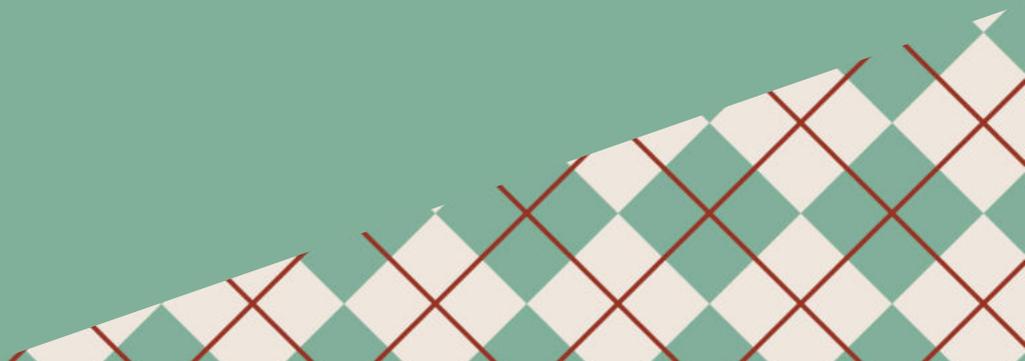
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Knowledge Day of Russia

1ST SEPTEMBER

On this day, students come in with bouquets of flowers and cards for their teachers, thanking them for the school year that lies ahead. Usually, bells are rung to indicate the start of the school year. In some schools there is also a ritual followed every September 1st; a small child gets onto the shoulders of a taller, older student and they parade the school, whilst also ringing a small bell. Banners and posters are hung up and students are encouraged to come in with their smart uniforms. This day also marks the end of summer and the beginning of autumn. It has special significance for the incoming class of first graders who come to school for the first time and often participate in a celebratory assembly on this date.



ULJANA, 9P

Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival

21 SEPTEMBER 2021

Mid-Autumn festival is one of the most important holidays in Chinese culture. The history of the mid-Autumn festival dates back over 3000 years. The festival is held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunisolar calendar with a full moon at night. One this day, the Chinese believe that the moon is at its brightest and fullest size.



There are quite a few stories associated with the Mid-Autumn festival. One popular story is about a moon goddess called Chang- E, who was greedy for immortality and stole the elixir of life from her husband Houyi and drank it. The effect of the elixir made her fly to the moon, but she could never go back to Earth again. Soon after Chang E flew to the moon, a new significant figure appeared, called the jade rabbit, who was proved worthy of keeping the goddess company on the moon. Both the jade rabbit and Chang E's story are known even today.

There are several popular dishes during the Mid-Autumn festival, such as mooncakes, pumpkins, duck and hairy crabs. Mooncakes began the tradition out of thanks and celebration of the harvest. The roundness of the mooncake symbolizes the reunion of families as well as the full moon. Presenting mooncakes to family and friends demonstrates wishing Their cherished ones a long and happy life. Dumplings are also a favourite when it comes to Mid-Autumn festival.



There are different varieties of fun activities you can participate in during the Mid-Autumn festival. It includes making paper lanterns, drinking Osmanthus wine, admiring the moon, and worshipping the moon.

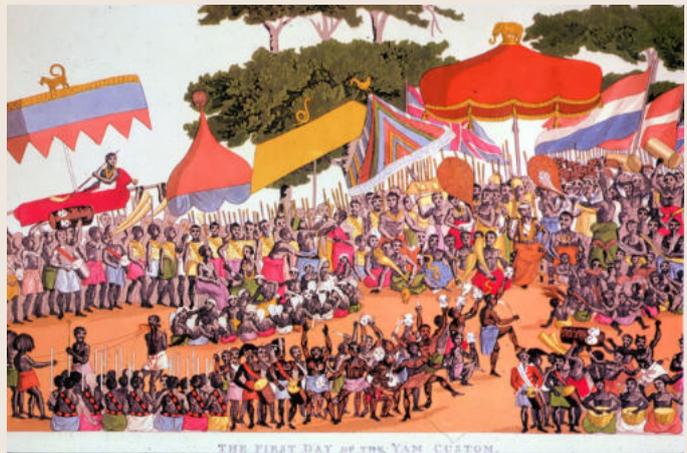
CHI-YING AND WEN, 7P



Ghanian Yam Festival

The Ashanti Yam Festival is an annual celebration of the Ashanti people of Ashanti. It marks the first harvest of yams during the autumn season, after the monsoon season. The yam is the staple food crop in Ashanti and most of Africa.

The festival, a national holiday, is observed for five days starting with a Tuesday, as dictated by the local chief priest. It marks the first harvest of yams during the autumnal season. This festival has both religious and economic significance. Religiously, the festival is used to thank the god and the ancestors for the new harvest and to traditionally outdoor the new yam.



Ashanti yam ceremony, Asanteman.
A painting of the yam ceremony from 1817.



The first offering of the crop is made to the ancestral gods by the chief priest of the Ashanti (the religious rite includes taking the yams on the second day of the festival in a procession to the ancestral ground). Music and dance are part of the festivities on all the five days.

The festival is also popular because the King supervises the performance of the ablution ceremony by cleaning all the ancestral royal Stools (chairs). Another tradition during this festival is the melting of royal gold ornaments, ancient in design, and with due approval of the Government, to fashion them into new designs.



On the first day of the festival, the way to the burial ground of the Chiefs of Asantis is swept clean. On the second day, the yam is carried by the priests in a colourful procession for offering to the ancestors buried in the burial chambers. Only after this offering is completed are people allowed to consume the new crop of yam. The third day is observed as a mourning day for the ancestors and also to keep a fast. On the fourth day, the chief hosts a dinner at his house for all people. On the night of the fourth day, people remain indoors to avoid witnessing the cleansing of the chiefs' thrones. On the fifth day, a grand parade of the chief and his family, and courtiers, all dressed in regal finery, proceeds through the streets to pay respects to the senior local chief at his residence. In the parade, some people are carried in colourful decorated palanquins shaded by umbrellas.

IMOGEN, 7W



OCTOBER

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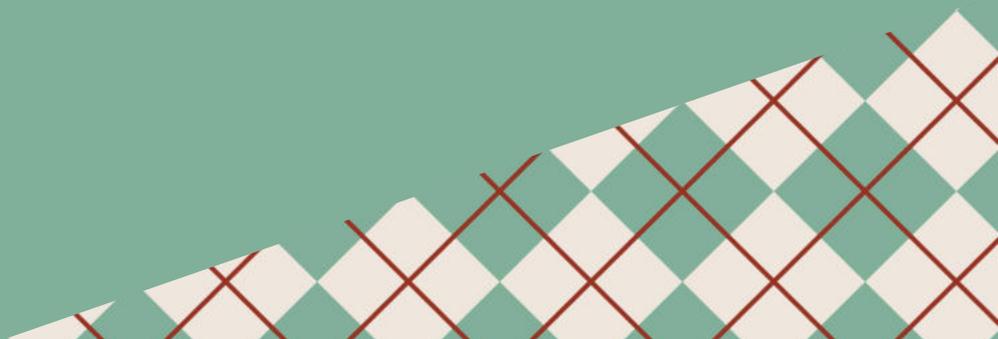
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NIGERIAN INDEPENDENCE DAY

1ST OCTOBER

Every year on the 1st of October, Nigerian Independence Day is celebrated in Nigeria as a national holiday. It celebrates Nigerian independence from British rule, which was established 61 years ago in 1960 under Governor General Dr Nnamdi Azikiwe, who also became Nigeria's first president.

Nigeria is a country in West Africa which is the most highly populated country in the whole continent. It carries a very large amount of history, and the country went through a lot to get where it is today. In the 1400s, Nigeria was first colonised by Britain and Portugal. They used the ports of Nigeria for slave trade and for several goods such as palm oil, palm kernel and export trade in tin, cotton, cocoa, and groundnuts. Lagos, the former capital of Nigeria (now Abuja), was first invaded by the British in 1851, before being taken over shortly after in 1865. 36 years later in 1901, Nigeria was declared a British protectorate, meaning that Nigeria was now officially controlled and protected by Britain.



Following WWII, Africa came together and decided that they had experienced enough of the exploitative behaviour of Britain and called for a change. On October 1st, 1960, Nigeria, after years of toil and struggle, finally became free from the British; this day is celebrated as Nigerian Independence Day.



Independence Day in Nigeria is celebrated with many bands, parades, parties, food and friend/family gatherings. Customarily, the day starts with a speech from the President (currently Muhammadu Buhari) which is an official commencement to the celebrations for the day.

Additionally, there is an official parade with a large assortment of music, imagery, bands and dancing, followed by a performance of songs and dances to represent the many ethnic groups that make up Nigeria; there are almost 400 tribes in the country and over 500 languages spoken. A few of the most well-known tribes that make up Nigeria include the Yoruba people, Igbo people, Hausa people and Edo people.

Lots of flags, signs and colourful clothing fill up the streets as people celebrate such a significant day - many can be seen wearing green and white due to the country's flag colours.

HRYSTYNA AND TISE, 10S



Day of German Unity

3RD OCTOBER

Tag der Deutschen Einheit, or 'Day of German Unity' is a national holiday in Germany. It celebrates the anniversary of the official reunification of the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany) and the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). The reunification took place on the 3rd of October 1990, nearly a year after the fall of the Berlin Wall which separated East and West Berlin from August 1961 to November 1989. Some films centred around the reunification of Germany are: Good Bye Lenin! (2003) and Berlin is in Germany (2001).

SANGA, 13S



Durga Puja

BETWEEN SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER

Durga is a Hindu goddess of power and strength. She has ten arms that hold special weapons, that were given to her by each God. They were given to her so that she could battle against the demon, Mahishasur. She always rides her favourite animal, a lion. Her husband is Lord Shiva. She has two daughters and two sons.

Durga Puja is an annual Hindu festival (also known as Durgotsava or Sharadotsava) normally held between September - October, which is based on the moon on the Hindu calendar. It is a ten-day celebration, and it is one of the major Hindu festivals. According to your religion Durga Puja is celebrated in different ways; for example, some religions celebrate Durga Puja for ten days and some religions celebrate Durga Puja for five days. Durga Puja can also be celebrated for nine days in some religions and it can also be called Navaratri.

Durga Puja has always attracted people from far away cultural crowd and devotees. If you are interested in Puja, Kolkata is the place to go to witness the divine power of Bengali culture! it where people from far away come together to celebrate this famous festival.





The celebration and its plans start long before the actual Puja. Months before, people start making idols looking like goddess Durga and send and preserve them for the Puja. Garment and jewellery shops get busy as lots of people come to buy traditional and beautiful clothes and ornaments for friends and family.

The five-day festival starts with Maha Shashti. This is when goddess Durga comes and resides on the sanctified thrones of the various mandapas. It's normally known as the Bodhon of the deity. The celebration continues until Maha Dashami, and after the Puja is over the idols are immersed in rivers. The occasion ends with sweets and greets, as children take blessings from their parents. They are all blessed with health, prosperity and happiness. The enjoyable five days of fun are spent with Bengali dance forms and music.



Fun filled feelings spread across the religions from creed. Everywhere people would chant mantras and the aroma of Shiuli flowers (flowers that bloom only at Durga Puja) spread everywhere. The tune of Dhak (a musical instrument) and the pleasant weather, just summarises the interesting and amazing celebration.

RAINA, 7W

Oktoberfest

FROM MID- OR LATE SEPTEMBER TO OCTOBER

What is Oktoberfest?

The Oktoberfest is the world's largest Folkfest (beer festival and travelling funfair). It is traditionally held in Munich, a city in Germany. The Oktoberfest is an important part of German culture, having been held for 220 years.



Traditions during Oktoberfest

Believe it or not, there's much more to Oktoberfest than beer! Men wear something called a Lederhosen (a pair of shorts or three-quarter-length pants sporting either buttoned or zippered fastening), women wear a Dirndl: a beautiful dress with a full skirt and an apron.





One of Oktoberfest's most favourite side-dishes is the Brezel (soft pretzel). Festival versions are giant, doughy, sprinkled with salt! Yum!

No Oktoberfest is complete without the Chicken Dance, a festival tradition for more than two decades.

To participate, make chicken beaks with your hands by pressing together your thumbs and fingers, opening and closing them like mouths four times to the music. Next, tuck your hands into your armpits and flap elbows four times outward. Then, lower your hands to your sides with palms downward and fingers outstretched, bend your knees, and wiggle back and forth four times. Finally, rise to your feet while clapping four times, and either spin in circles with your arms outstretched, or lock arms with your neighbour and spin. Repeat faster each verse, keeping in time to the music.

Why do we celebrate Oktoberfest?

The Oktoberfest tradition started in 1810 to celebrate the marriage of Bavarian Crown Prince Ludwig to the Saxon-Hildburghausen Princess Therese. The citizens of Munich were invited to join in the festivities which were held over five days on the fields in front of the city gates.

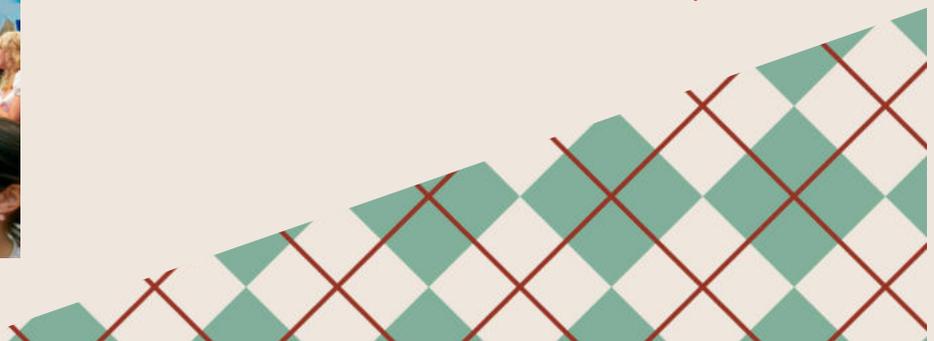


Fun facts

- Despite the name Oktoberfest, it actually takes place at the end of September.
- There are 14 different beer tents.
- There is a wine tent too!
- Paris Hilton is permanently banned from Oktoberfest.



LENA AND SOFIA, 7W



Saraswati Pooja

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER AND FEBRUARY

Saraswati. Goddess Saraswati is the goddess of knowledge and the sign of purity and peace. This puja plays a very important role in India's culture of respect for learning. People remain vegetarian during this period and sing/play songs to her.

Saraswati Pooja is celebrated twice a year, once in February to mark the arrival of spring and another in September/October.

On the day of Adhuya Puja, it is celebrated around this time and is popular to South India and Sri Lanka and Vansant Panjami in February.

SURABI, 9P



Vap Poya

OCTOBER

Vap Poya is a Buddhist celebration taking place in Sri Lanka. This is celebrated on the 7th month of the Buddhist calendar, which is October in the Gregorian calendar. However, this is celebrated when there is a full moon, meaning the specific date varies every year. In 2021, it is happening on the 20th of October.



Buddha's mother, Maya, passed away one week after Buddha's birth and is believed to have been reborn in Tavatimsa Heaven as the God 'Santusita' (however, many Buddhists disagree with this as original Buddhism does not believe in any type of God or Goddess). Buddha then ascended to Tavatimsa Heaven and preached from Abhidhamma – Ancient holy Buddhist texts – for 3 months straight in order to honour his mother. Because of this, Buddhist Lent starts in July and continues for 3 months. During this period of time, Buddhist Monks stay inside their temples or in jungles while relying only on the necessities given by devotees. This fasting ends on October's full moon, which is when Buddha returned to Earth. This day has come to be known as Vap Poya.

TIYANA, 7P

Día de la Fiesta Nacional de España

12TH OCTOBER

History

Since the fall of Constantinople in 1453, the old Silk Route had become difficult and costly to use. People in Europe wanted to find a new route to the Indies, and Columbus believed he could do this by sailing west. Two months after starting their journey, Christopher Columbus and his crew arrived at an island in the Bahamas, believing it to be India, on the 12th of October 1492. Columbus established the first contact between Europe and the Americas, making this the first union between the two worlds. This significant day is the main root of Spain's celebration today, commemorating the Spanish legacy to the world, especially in America.



The Día de la Fiesta Nacional was previously known as El Día de la Hispanidad. It was first celebrated in Madrid in 1935 and was made an official public holiday in 1981. In 1987, its name was changed to Fiesta Nacional (Spain's National Day), removing any reference to Spanish colonialism. For many people in Latin America, the era of Spanish colonialism is seen as a period of oppression for many indigenous people. Although the day is also celebrated in some Latin American countries they have shifted the day's focus away from Columbus and Spain to focus instead on their own history and culture.

Día de la Fiesta Nacional: Today

On El Día de la Fiesta Nacional, Spanish people celebrate the history of the country, recognising what has been achieved together, and they reconfirm their commitment for the future as a nation. The 12th of October also celebrates the union and the ties of Spain with the Spanish-speaking world.

The main celebrations in Spain are held in la Plaza de Colón in Madrid, where a great military parade and tribute to the national flag takes place through the city's streets. The Spanish Air Force perform a stunning aerobatics show. The parade is attended by the Spanish Royal Family, the Prime Minister, and other officials, including representatives of Spain's 17 Autonomous Communities. This parade is broadcast on national television so that the whole country can feel a part of the celebrations.

EMMA, 7W



Republic Day of Turkey

29TH OCTOBER

It starts at 1:00pm on 28th October for 35 hours, following into 29th

In Turkey it is called Cumhuriyet Bayrami and includes fireworks, concerts, parades and even events at schools or cultural programme.



It all started when Mustafa Kemal Ataturk declared that Turkey was a republic country. It was first mentioned in 1920, but has only been recognised three and a half years later. Then it was declared that Turkey's official name would be Turkiye Cumhuriyet (The republic of Turkey). Colourful fireworks showcase the most important day in Turkey's history.

MYLA, 7P

NOVEMBER

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Diwali

BETWEEN MID-OCTOBER AND MID-NOVEMBER

What is Diwali?

Diwali is a festival which is celebrated by Hindus, Sikhs, and some Buddhists. It is referred to as The festival of new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil, and light over darkness.

When does Diwali begin?

Diwali usually starts between October and November, and the date varies every year. The date is formed by the Hindu Lunar Calendar, which is mostly used for religious purposes, and marks important days of devotion. The main reason the date changes every year is because the Hindu Calendar is based on both lunar and solar cycles, that are combined into one system.

What is the festival about?

Reasons why Diwali is celebrated are all different according to the religion you are.

Hindus celebrate it over the return of the deities, Rama and Sita, to Ayodhya after their 14 year exile. They also celebrate the day Mother Goddess Durga destroyed a demon called Mahisha.

Sikhs celebrate Diwali because of the release from prison of the 6th guru Hargobind Singh, in 1619. But Sikhs did still celebrate before this time.



What food is eaten during Diwali?

Food is a very important aspect throughout celebrating Diwali as it is a fun and joyful time. Diwali is mainly a vegetarian course. Some of the sweets that are eaten are kheer and Gulab jamun. Some of them savoury foods include: Aloo Tikki, Samosas, pakoras and more. According to Hinduism, food should be treated with respect, as they think of it as a gift from god.



What are the traditions of Diwali?

There are many traditions for Diwali. One of the traditions are lighting diyas (or lamps). People start decorating their houses with lighted la L's and diyas. However, there is a symbolic connotation that is duly attached with this tradition of lighting of lamps, for it symbolises getting rid of darkness from the world.

Another tradition for Diwali is rangoli. 'Rangoli' refers to a decorative design that is made with a various number of colours. The patterns are typically created with materials like that of coloured rice, dry flour, (coloured) sand, or even flower petals. During Diwali, people clean the houses and decorate the courtyards, walls, and entrances with hangings, torans, and colourful rangolis, meant for the sacred welcoming of Goddess Lakshmi.

PRAVENA AND ALEEZA, 7W





Wszystkich Świętych

(All Saints' Day in Poland)

1ST NOVEMBER

What is Wszystkich Świętych?

It's a Christian holiday. In Poland, it's also called the Day of the Dead (Święto Zmarłych) and is deeply rooted in the Polish tradition – the holiday is observed by many people in Poland, regardless of their faith and beliefs. People visit cemeteries to light candles and lay flowers on the graves of their family and friends.



What do people do?

Special church services are held to commemorate the saints in various towns and cities in Poland. Many people in Poland lay flowers and candles on the graves of deceased family members and friends in cemeteries. This tradition continues through to All Souls' Day (Dzień Zaduszny or Zaduszki), which is on 2nd November, but it is not a public holiday.

Public Life

All Saints' Day is an official public holiday in Poland, so schools, banks, government offices and most private businesses are closed.



How did it all start and where does it come from?

It dates back to the early fourth century when the celebration was observed for the first time. However, the Polish background of the All Saints' Day comes also from an ancient Slavic (meaning from the times when Poland has not yet been a Christian country) feast called Dziady, which in Polish means Forefathers.



Church of all Saints – Warsaw, Poland

Celebrations Today

The All Saints' Day is taken very seriously in Poland and people will go to cemeteries before November 1st to clean the graves: people try to make the graves look well cared-for, with flowers and candles. On the 1st of November, after the visit to the cemetery, people will usually get together with their families to have a meal and spend time together. My family usually come together at the end of the day and light up candles near all the pictures of our deceased friends and family when we are not in Poland, or we are unable to visit the cemetery. We take a few moments to remember our loved ones and then share a family meal together.

HANNA, 7W



Bulgaria National Awakening Day

1ST NOVEMBER

On November the 1st, Bulgarians celebrate National Awakening Day in Bulgaria or National Enlighteners Day. On this day, Bulgarians celebrate the founders of Bulgarian culture, education and religion. It is celebrated annually in remembrance of Bulgarian visionaries and scholars that helped change the nation's history. The day is traditionally used to give awards to teachers, actors and artists from all walks of life as a way to remember those in the past that provided such monumental contributions to Bulgaria.

CHRISTINE, 7P

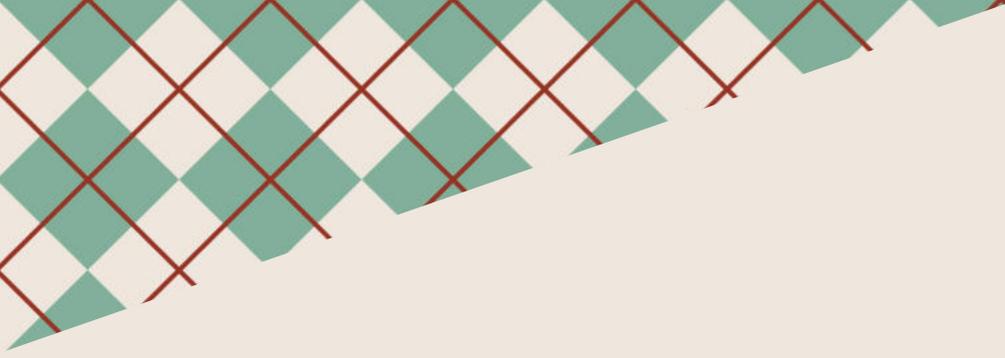


The flag of Bulgaria.

White: peace, freedom

Green: agriculture.

Red: the blood of troops who died for Bulgaria



Día de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead)

1ST AND 2ND NOVEMBER

It originated and is mostly observed in Mexico but also in other places, especially by people of Mexican heritage elsewhere.

Although associated with the Catholic celebrations of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, it has a much less solemn tone and is portrayed as a holiday of joyful celebration rather than mourning. The multi-day holiday involves family and friends gathering to pay respects and to remember friends and family members who have died. These celebrations can take a humorous tone, as celebrants remember funny events and anecdotes about the departed.

Traditions connected with the holiday include honoring the deceased using calaveras and aztec marigold flowers known as cempazúchitl, building home altars called ofrendas with the favorite foods and beverages of the departed, and visiting graves with these items as gifts for the deceased. The celebration is not solely focused on the dead, as it is also common to give gifts to friends such as candy sugar skulls, to share traditional pan de muerto with family and friends, and to write light-hearted and often irreverent verses in the form of mock epitaphs dedicated to living friends and acquaintances, a literary form known as calaveras literarias.

EVIE, 7W

Examples of ofrendas:



Dia de los Angelitos (12 am, 1st of November) is when spirits of children are believed to be reunited with their families. Families construct an altar, known as an ofrenda, with the departed child's favorite snacks, sweets, toys and photos to encourage them to visit. The names of the passed children will often be written on a sugar skull.

Dia de los Difuntos (12 am, 2nd of November) is a celebration for the adults. The ofrendas include more adult-themed items, such as tequila. Families play games, remember their loved ones and dance with their village as local bands play. At midday, people come together for parades and recently, people have started to dress up and paint their faces as calaveras (skulls).

It is traditional to visit a family member's grave to clean it and decorate it with marigold flowers, gifts and sugar skulls. Day of the Dead may sound like a serious occasion to us, but it is a holiday celebrating life and death together.

MAYDELIA, 9W



Some sugar skulls



Parades:



Undas

(Hallowe'en in the Philippines)

1ST AND 2ND NOVEMBER

Hallowe'en in the Philippines is called Undas. It can last from a week before the 31st (24th October) to All Saints and All Souls Day, on the 1st and 2nd of November. It's different from Hallowe'en celebration in England because they don't really do the trick-or-treating. Instead, they use it as a time to celebrate with their loved ones.



Family and relatives will go to the cemetery and find their loved ones' graves. They will clean around the cemetery and graves making sure it is repainted as they see it as a sign of respect. Then they will pray for the dead and pay their respects.

Hallowe'en traditions in the Philippines include:

Making Atang (an offering of food people place on the graves of their loved ones), candle lighting - in the Philippines, people light up candles as a way for the dead to travel into the afterlife and many celebrate with picnics brought to the cemetery.

Unlike the UK, Hallowe'en is a public holiday for all, meaning everyone is given time to spend with those they haven't seen for a long time, and as many families probably won't have the chance to visit the cemetery, they believe their ancestors will come to visit them instead.



ELISE AND OLIVIA, 7P

Yee Peng Lantern Festival

19TH NOVEMBER

On the 19th of November, one of the most beautiful festivals is celebrated in Thailand, Chiang Mai. Hundreds of deep golden lanterns are sent off into the night sky.

Yee Peng Festival in Chiang Mai (sometimes written as 'Yi Peng') is celebrated on the full moon of the twelfth lunar month every year, which normally means mid-way through November, but this can change. The Yee Peng lantern festival is held in November every year. The lanterns are set off the Ping River. You could also light up your lantern and wish for good fortune in the new year.

If you think you have no idea what this festival looks like, you might have seen it before. In a Disney movie called Tangled, you might have seen the lanterns rising from the river. Of course, this was an animation; it would look much more wonderful in real life. Here are a few pictures of the lantern festival to show you the beauty:



AMELIA J, 7P

Do you recognise the film?

Notices from MFL department

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The Internationale Deutsch Olympiade (IDO)



The Internationale Deutscholympiade (IDO) the world's biggest German language contest. In 2022, the final will take place in the Hanseatic city of Hamburg from 25 July to 5 August 2022.

Congratulations to Udita, 10G, and Glynnis, 11P, who passed the first qualifying round and are going to represent Newstead at the national UK final on 26th November.

Congratulations on making it this far and good luck for the final!

Notices from MFL department

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Japanese club

every Tuesday lunch time (13:30-14:00) at M16.

The J-club is for all students from Y7 to Y9 who are interested in Japanese language and culture. We will make origami, play Japanese traditional games and watch Japanese anime. It is very fun and enjoyable. Last week, around 40 Y7 students have attended, and they collected Japanese words which have been imported in foreign languages, such as origami, tofu, kawaii etc.

J-club is a good way to learn about Japanese language and culture.

Japanese mentoring project

The Japanese Department used to have a relationship with UCL (University College London) and through them with SOAS -School of Asian and African Studies, also a part of University of London, linking with their language students and our students.

The SOAS students studying Japanese were matched up with our students via Moodle. Unfortunately, the funding was stopped and so we were not able to continue.

This year within the school, we have Y12 students who have studied Japanese and are mentoring one to one with our Y11 students. It means when a year 11 student wants to know something, her mentor is on hand to help. It was fantastic that so many Y12s came forward. It is not just finding out about the language study but also that our Y11 students can find out about the personal experience of being a 6th Former. It is beneficial for both groups as Y12s can write about their experience on their Personal Statement which is required to apply for universities in this country.

Y11s also have a weekly revision session during lunchtime on Mondays.

Notices from MFL department

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German mentoring project

Year 10 German Prefects Amy (10W), Kayani (10N) and Sathana (10N) taught engaging mini-lessons for Year 7 and Year 8. The students participated in interactive speaking activities and not only had a lot of fun, but learned in the shortest time many new words!

This amazing tutoring project was initiated by Year 13 German Prefects Sanga (13S) and Hana (13G).

Here are some impressions from the lessons:

