

# Diwali

One of the most significant festivals in Indian culture is Diwali which is celebrated this year on November 7<sup>th</sup>. We hope our families celebrating have a lovely day and thank Tania, Aaryan, Rida and Samihan along with their families for sharing with us today.



Diwali is the five-day festival of lights, celebrated by millions of Hindus, Sikhs and Jains across the world. The festival, which coincides with the Hindu New Year, celebrates new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness.

The festival is marked by large firework displays and lights all over the towns and city. Those celebrating the festival also light traditional earthen diyas (candles) and decorate their houses with colorful rangoli artworks - patterns created on the floor using colored rice or powder. During Diwali, families and friends share sweets and gifts and there is also a strong belief in giving food and goods to those in need. It is also traditional for homes to be cleaned and new clothes to be worn at the time of the festival.

Our Diwali celebrations today involved

- Children painting their own Diya to take home
- Seeing traditional dress worn by the families – girls wear *lehenga le chunni* and boys *kurta le pyjama*
- Drawing Rangoli – with chalk on paper and coloring printed designs
- Sharing some traditional food – gubabjamum (sweets) and murruku (savoury)
- Dancing
- Watched Sue have a sari draped around her
- Learnt about the goddess *Lakshmi* saw the shrine displayed with her photo in kinder.

