Topic Home learning – Autumn 2 Week 1

Learning: RE	To identify that Diwali is a festival by learning about the story of Rama and Sita.

Before the lesson have ready:

Translucent yoghurt pots, coloured tissue paper, glue and spreaders, glitter or sequins, battery-operated tea lights.

Subject knowledge

Diwali: The Festival of Lights celebrates the story of Rama, an avatar of the Hindu god Vishnu, and his wife Sita.

The festival symbolises the victory of light over darkness and good over evil after the defeat of the demon king Ravana.

Rama is presented in the colour blue as within the Hindu worldview, a person or deity who bravely combats evil is often depicted in blue.

During Diwali, many Hindus light lamps to symbolically remove ignorance and darkness.

Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas: Children may associate Diwali with the Hindu light festival celebrating the story of Rama and Sita. However, Sikhs celebrate a different festival of light at a similar time to Diwali called Bandi Chhor Divas.

Bandi Chhor Divas focuses on the release of Guru Hargobind, who was wrongly imprisoned by the Mughal authorities at the time.

Activity:

Diya lamps

Explain that to remember the story of Rama and Sita, many Hindu people use diyas – small lamps made of clay with a candle. The lights help to show how good wins over bad in the story.

1. Provide children with a yoghurt pot, glue and tissue paper.
2. Ask the children to tear or cut the tissue paper into pieces and glue it onto the outside of the pot to create a colourful lamp.
3. Encourage them to make their lamps as bright as possible to help Rama and Sita see the way.
4. Once the children finish decorating their lamps, provide them with sequins, or glitter to add an extra sparkle to their lamps.

Optional: provide the children with a battery tea light to place inside their pots.

Display the lamps to create a lit 'path' for Rama and Sita to find their way home. Invite the children to walk along the path and describe how they think Rama and Sita would feel coming home.

Questions

What colours could you use from the story?

Why do you think people put out lamps to help Rama and Sita find their way back home? (Children may suggest because it was dark; to keep them safe; to welcome them.)

Vocabulary

Diwali, diya, festival, Hindu.

Learning outcomes:

Understanding the world: Recognise that people have different beliefs and celebrate special times in different ways.

ELG: People culture and communities: Know some similarities and differences between different religious and cultural communities in this country, drawing on their experiences and what has been read in class.