

# About Diwali

OR KNOWN AS  
DEEPAVALI/BANDHI CHOR

Diwali means 'row of lights' and is one of the major festivals celebrated in India by Hindus, Sikhs, Jains, & Buddhists. It is known as the New Year and is usually celebrated over 5 days. Diwali symbolises the spiritual victory of light over darkness, good over evil and knowledge over ignorance. Diwali honours the Hindu goddess of wealth, Lakshmi but different countries have different Diwali beliefs. The lights and lamps are said to help Lakshmi find her way into peoples' homes, bringing prosperity in the year to come.

Diwali is a time to have fun with friends and family! People exchange gifts and sweets, enjoy delicious feasts, dance, watch firework displays and wear new clothes. It's a time to clean and decorate your home too!



31<sup>st</sup> – 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 | Occurs between October and November depending on the position of the moon



## FIREWORKS

Fireworks are an iconic part of Diwali celebrations representing the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. There are many vibrant firework displays around the UK, Leicester being the largest one.



## PRAYER

People will gather at places of worship called **mandirs** to leave offerings to deities and **pooja** known as prayers are made for a happy and prosperous new year. Homes and mandirs will be lit a few days before Diwali, as a sign of paying respect to and welcoming this festival.



## RANGOLI

Rangoli is a popular Diwali tradition which are beautiful patterns made using colourful powders and flowers. People draw rangoli on the floor by the entrance of their homes to welcome the gods and bring good luck.



## SWEETS AND FOOD

Gifting sweets is also a medium of expressing love, care and warmth to your loved ones. Its believed to bring good luck and positivity into their life so that their coming year is filled with joy. It's usually a sugar overload, full-fat milk and cream type of sweet which is certainly indulgent!