

## Diwali

Diwali is a five-day festival that happens each year to honour Lakshmi - The Goddess of Wealth and the God Ganesh who represent good luck, wealth and enlightenment. It originated in India, and the word Diwali comes from "deepavali" which means row of lighted lamps.

Diwali is known around the world as 'The Festival of Lights', because people light lots of small, clay lamps called 'diyas' to celebrate good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance. The lamps are used to help Lakshmi find her way into people's homes to bring about good luck.

It is a traditional holiday for Hindus, Jains, Buddhists and Sikhs - although it has now become part of many other cultures around the world. People celebrate by spring cleaning their homes, wearing new clothes, exchanging gifts and preparing festive meals and of course decorating with lamps or having fireworks displays.

The day of Diwali will be on Sunday 30th October this year - so look out for the lights and firework displays near you.

