

Diwali (Sikhism)

Diwali is a 'festival of light' for Sikhs. It reminds Sikhs of the release from prison of Guru Hargobind and 52 others in 1619.

The terms were arranged for the release of the Guru, but he wanted to take all the other prisoners with him. There were 52 in the prison.

The Emperor said that only those prisoners who could hold his cloak could be released, so a special cloak was made with 52 strings attached to it, so every prisoner could hold on to the cloak and leave.

Sikhs celebrate this release by lighting the Golden Temple at Amritsar. Today this annual festival is celebrated by Sikhs in many ways. They decorate their homes with lights, hold family parties, exchange gifts and let off fireworks to drive away evil.



- ① Sit down with the children and show them the series of pictures overleaf. You may wish to lay the sheets out either on a table or the floor, and then read the story.
- ② Ask the children the following questions and discuss them:-
Which picture did you like and why?
How did Guru Hargobind help others?
Can you think of another way all the prisoners could have been released?
- ③ Talk to the children about how they feel when they have to stay in the same place for a little while (maybe the naughty stair!).
- ④ Ask the children to draw a picture of the cloak. You can use the blank drawing template on iChild for this.
- ⑤ Talk about special celebrations families take part in. How do you celebrate these?

The Story Of Diwali (Sikhism)



**Guru Hargobind
was put in prison
by the Emperor.**



Guru Hargobind was told he could be released, but he asked if the other prisoners could be released as well. The Emperor agreed to release any prisoner that could hold on to the cloak of the Guru. So the Guru had a special cloak made that had 52 strings attached to it.



**All the prisoners were
then released.**



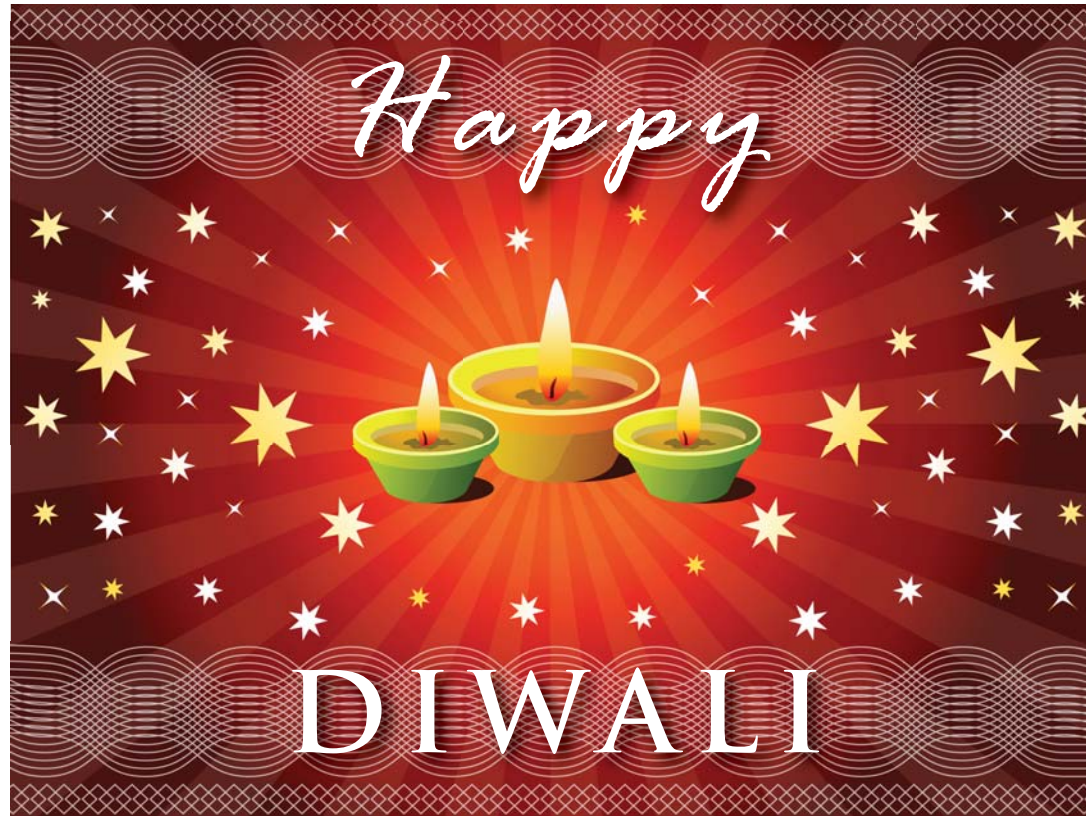
A great celebration followed and the Golden Temple was lit up.



Today Sikhs still celebrate by lighting up the Temple, but also by exchanging presents and having family parties.



Fireworks are lit to drive away evil.



Greetings cards are also sent.