



Global Exploits

Linking With St Michaels Ce Primary School Uk

When Ms Amrita Malhotra visited St Michaels CE Primary School she took with her the story of two boys Ram and Ali who want to celebrate Diwali but one of them is poor and has to work in a cracker factory to earn enough to feed himself and his family .She had brought both the protagonists very close to children with her skilful narration and brought alive their dilemma and internal conflicts.

She helped pupils in St Michael's school identify with a situation which they had never experienced in real life .She helped them see both sides of child labour and abuse and how difficult it can be to break the vicious cycle of poverty and debt. She helped pupils think creatively to find solutions to this situation through child protection and fair trade law enforcement. They also suggested compulsory education for children who may have to seek employment early .Most remarkable was their perception about the plight of children in pitiable conditions of cracker factory .



Mr Patrick Sanderson on his reciprocal visit to Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka decided to take the lesson forward and asked pupils about all the festivals they celebrate . He helped them link with seasons and foods associated with them .



Children talked about Holi, Diwali, Christmas and Halloween. They asked Mr Sanderson numerous questions about significance of traditions associated with Christmas and Halloween. Pupils loved engaging themselves in Diya thali as well as Halloween mask making in the process which they eagerly sent to children in their partner schools .All the children from Pre school to class 5 participated in the celebration of festivals of partner school and loved making thanksgiving cards and painting Easter eggs.

Ms Sally Goggin ,Head Education, British Council New Delhi and Mr Mike Hardy, Program Coordinator, Connecting Classroom who witnessed a couple of these lessons appreciated the ease with which teachers and pupils linked to each others' classrooms and lessons and appeared to be part of one global school. Ms Rittika Parruck , Manager School Programs,British Council, New Delhi suggested that school should share its model of integration of international dimension in the school curriculum with others.





Partying Monstrously

"A gypsy fire is on the hearth,
Sign of carnival mirth;
Through the dun fields and from the glad
Flash merry folk in masquerade,
For this is Halloween!"

Halloween Costume Party was organized on October 22, 2009 for the students of Pre-School and Pre-Primary.

The children were involved in decorating the venue and created Halloween decorations to hang from the ceiling and put on the doors. They all came dressed up in impressive and creative costumes with wigs, Halloween masks and accessories like brooms and spooky hats. Everyone had a great time dancing to the tune of creepy music, trying to scare each other.

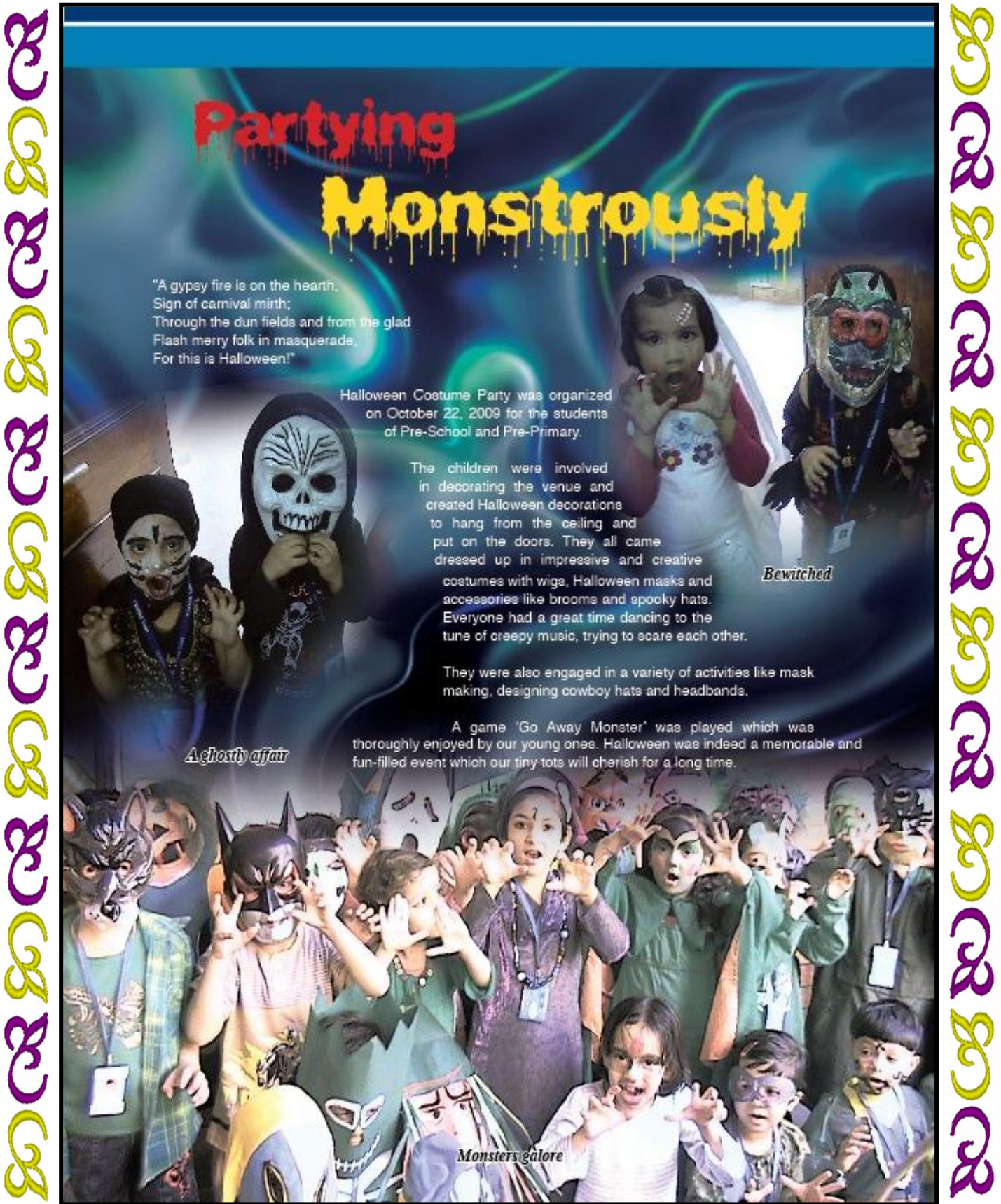
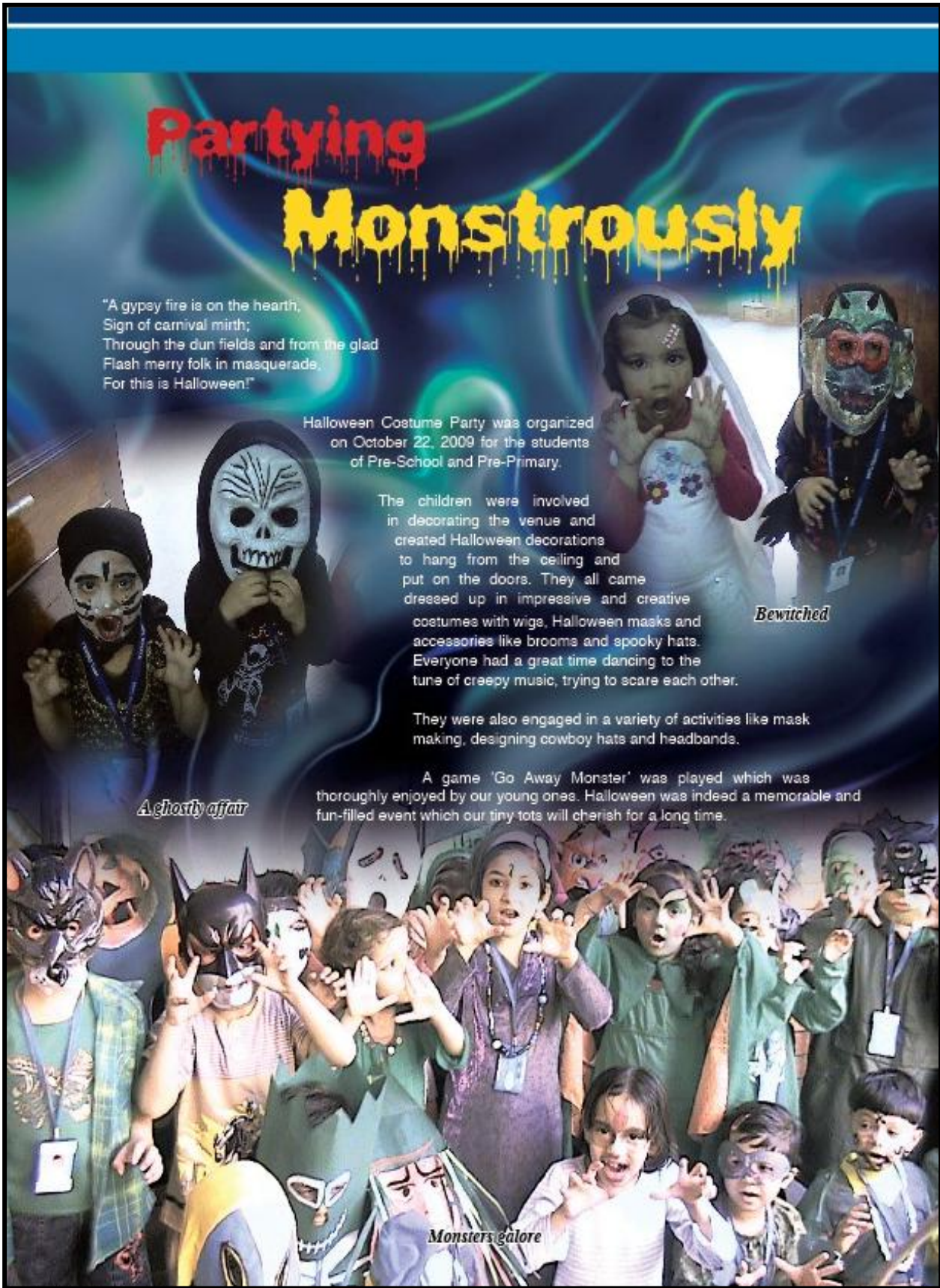
Bewitched

They were also engaged in a variety of activities like mask making, designing cowboy hats and headbands.

A game 'Go Away Monster' was played which was thoroughly enjoyed by our young ones. Halloween was indeed a memorable and fun-filled event which our tiny tots will cherish for a long time.

A ghostly affair

Monsters galore





Activity number

Activity Cover Sheet

Please complete a separate sheet for each activity



School Name:	BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL , DWARKA
Title of activity:	LEARNING ABOUT FESTIVALS OF PARTNER SCHOOL
Teacher responsible:	Principal, Headmistress, Ms Amrita Malhotra, Ms Emily Connors and Ms Katie Coleborn from Winterbourne High School, Mr Patrick Sanderson from St Michaels CE Primary School UK Ms Swati Soni, Ms Anupa, Ms Jasmine.
Other staff involved:	Ms Poonam Jain and respective class teachers students reports Kunal Dhir and Krit Goyal, Drishti Sagar, Aishwarya
Subjects involved:	EVS, Social science, art and craft, language and communication.

Brief details of the aim, content and outcomes of the activity

“The festivals are like a map charting our spiritual progress in God.”

The aim of the project was Celebration of Festivals of UK and India including Diwali, Christmas, Halloween with our partner schools in UK.

Pupils exchanged write up of festival, Weather details, Diwali Diya and decorations. Christmas greeting cards and Halloween masks and pictures and had fun while learning about festivals of their partner country UK.

LINKING WITH ST MICHAELS CE PRIMARY SCHOOL UK

When Ms Amrita Malhotra visited St Michaels CE Primary School she took with her the story of two boys Ram and Ali who want to celebrate Diwali but one of them is poor and has to work in cracker factory to earn enough to feed himself and his family. She had a brought both the protagonist very close to children with her skilful narration and brought alive their dilemma and internal conflicts. She helped pupils in St Michael’s school identify with a situation which they had never experienced in real life.





She helped them see both sides of the child labour and abuse and how difficult it can be break the vicious cycle poverty and debt. She helped pupils think creatively to find solutions to this situation through child protection and fair trade law enforcement. They also suggested compulsory education for children who may have to seek employment early. Most remarkable was their perception about the plight in pitiable conditions of cracker factory. They were quick to conclude that the cost of environment was too high to celebrate Diwali with Crackers.

Mr Patrick Sanderson on his reciprocal visit to Bal Bharati Public School Dwarka decided to take the lesson forward and asked pupils about all the festivals they celebrate. He helped them link with seasons and foods associated with them.

Children talked about Holi, Diwali, Christmas and Halloween. They asked Mr Sanderson numerous questions about significance of traditions associated with Christmas and Halloween and he was never tired of answering them in each class where he went. Pupils loved engaging themselves in Diya thali as well as Halloween mask making in the process which they eagerly sent to children in their partner schools. All the children from Pre-School to class 5 participated in the celebration of festivals of partner school and loved making thanksgiving cards and painting Easter eggs.

Ms Sally Goggin, Head Education, British Council New Delhi and Mr Mike Hardy Program Coordinator Connecting Classroom who witnessed a couple of these lessons appreciated the ease with which teachers and pupils linked to each other's classrooms and lessons and appeared to be part of one global school. Ms Rittika Parruck, Manager School Programs, British Council, New Delhi suggested that school should share their model of integration of international dimension in the school curriculum with others.

FESTIVALS BRING BRITISH AND INDIAN PUPILS TOGETHER

Ms Katie Coleborn and Ms Emily Connors of Winter bourne (Ridings High) School UK had a unique opportunity to spend a part of their gap year teaching Pre-School and pre primary pupils of Bal Bharati Public school Dwarka about festivals of their native country . It was a collaborative project where the British girls learnt not only the methodology adopted for teaching in kindergarten school but also got an opportunity to share their personal experiences while teaching about Festivals . The teachers had Bal Bharati had designed lesson plans on festivals where children got an opportunity to celebrate



different festivals including Diwali, Christmas, Holi and Halloween. Children enjoyed making Christmas and Diwali decorations for their classroom where Emily and Katie helped them sharing their expertise and experiences. “It brought back memories of spending time with my parents while putting up the Christmas Tree “said Emily who appreciated the common threads of joy , festivity and reverence for Holy spirit exhibited in both Diwali and Christmas . Kids on the other hand had fun with decorations and sweets on both occasions. They coloured Santa and Diwali Diyas with same fervour.

Pre primary school children had the maximum fun celebrating Halloween and Holi giving them ample scope to pamper the urchin in them. The Ghost party was big hit with children trying to scare the wits out of each other with their scary costumes and props. Teachers took this opportunity to address the issue of fears nestled inside subconscious of children and showed them how to have fun with figments of their imagination. Emily and Katie showed them some tricks which they had learnt while growing up in England. They lamented the fact that most families in losing out on these traditions which give family values and feeling of togetherness in the pursuit of modern lifestyle.

The entire preschool and Pre-Primary section had fun riot with colours on the occasion of Holi. There were fun games organized which included Pichkari and balloon race and clown race among others. Everyone present was left the place looking like a veritable rainbow of colours splashed all over them. Joy written large on their faces and smiling indolently Katie said “This was the best day of my visit. I could not have experienced it had I not come here.” Both the girls expressed their gratitude for the warm hospitality and the unique Indian experience provided to them by staff and Principal of Bal Bharati Public school Dwarka.

Countries explored	India and UK
Link school(s)	St. Michaels CE primary School (UK), Winterbourne School (UK), Balmulidy School, Scoland (UK)
Other sources of information	Personal interaction, emails, elanguages website, internet, library books
Time period of activity:	Throughout the year
Number of students involved in this activity:	Pre-School, Pre-Primary and Primary school



Age range of students involved:	3 -12 yrs
Type of Evidence included:	1. Photographs 2. Display boards 3. Letters and greetings. 4. Feedback mails from partner school

Exchange of write up on Christmas in India and UK Christmas Celebration at Bal Bharati Public School

Students of Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka celebrate Christmas in its true spirit. Every year, we have a special assembly of staff and students. In the assembly, students of various classes put up programmes. It includes a skit depicting the nativity scene, Christmas carols and welcoming Santa Clause. The school believes that students should understand that Christmas is not just about Santa Clause and gifts but we celebrate Christmas because it is the birthday of Jesus Christ and it is a festival of loving one another and sharing what we have with others.



After the skit, the school choir sings Christmas carols and then Santa Clause arrives to distribute sweets and candies to one and all. This is the most awaited moment for all the students as they wish to seek blessings and receive sweets from Santa.

Apart from celebrating Christmas at school, students celebrate Christmas at home with their families. While some students just decorate their house with stars, lights and balloons, others decorate a Christmas tree and on the eve of Christmas almost everyone keeps a stocking under the Christmas tree or hangs it on the wall with the hope of receiving a gift from Santa Clause.



On Christmas day, Children go out with their families to nearby markets, shops and malls to buy Christmas cake and goodies for everyone in the family. Thus students of our school, although most of us being non-Christians celebrate Christmas with high spirits and the spirit remains the same everywhere even though the mode of celebration and traditions vary.



Fw: Diwali movie presentation

Thursday, December 25, 2009 4:39 PM

From:

"sandhya kakkar" <sandhya_kakkar@yahoo.com>

View contact details

To:

"audrey nicholson" <Audrey.Nicholson@carltondigby.notts.sch.uk>, "claudia lorenz" <cbalorenz@hotmail.com>, "katie Artemiou" <katieartemiou@hotmail.com>, monkeyseb@aol.com, schweitrieg@netcologne.de, "andy egan" <andy.egan@britishcouncil.org>, "Alfonso Pelayo TAE" <alfpelayo@tae.edu.mx>, "Head tr New Castle Community" <office@nchs.staffs.sch.uk>, "Lolis Buena Tierra" <lolis@buenatierra.edu.mx>... more

Re[2]: about joining the project Our cultures...

Sunday, December 21, 2009 3:30 PM

From: "Наталья Сизова" <navisi@mail.ru>

To: "sandhya kakkar" <sandhya_kakkar@yahoo.com>

Thanks a lot! The movie is amazing. I have never seen anything like this festival. I am sure my students will be interested.

Best wishes

Natalia Sizova

"Elizabeth Jones (Thorpe - North Hill St Michael's CE Primary School)" <elizabeth.jones@thorpe-north-hill.lincs.sch.uk>

I find this short film on you tube about the Festival of Diwali which we celebrate with the same fervor as Christmas

Sandhya Kakkar

Headmistress

Bal Bharati Public School

Dwarka

New Delhi

India

www.bbpsdwarka.org

--- On Sun, 5/24/09, Наталья Сизова <navisi@mail.ru> wrote:

From: Наталья Сизова <navisi@mail.ru>

Subject: about joining the project Our cultures...

To: "sandhya kakkar" <sandhya_kakkar@yahoo.com>

Date: Sunday, May 24, 2009, 7:54 AM

Dear colleague

You are welcome to the project OUR CULTURES: DIFFERENCES AND SIMILARITIES. Let us share our similarities and celebrate our differences!

Kind regards

Natalia Sizova





Teacher Evaluation of International Activity

Name: Emily, Katyeesha
The students: Mrs. Grigor, Miss. ...
Date: 20/05/20

Please comment on the impact this activity had on the students involved.

The students seem to enjoy the story, songs, puppets & the small objects explained to them clearly & the children were all engaged and listening.

Please comment on the impact this activity had on you and any other staff involved.

Wow! Ms. Smith was good on including us into the class activity & we had a lot of fun with the children.

Please make any suggestions for improvement e.g. What was the most effective part of this activity for you and what other staff were involved?

Including children during the operation definitely keeps their attention.

FEEDBACK FORM

EVENT - VISIT OF PUPILS FROM BIDDINGFIELD UK TO BHPS DWARKA

1. What was the objective of this visit and to what extent was it achieved?
A lot of things were to achieve to do with what they had to do. I was surprised by their level of English and how they spoke. I was very happy.
2. Please share something that you experienced for the first time?
Very happy but I experienced a lot of things that I had never experienced before. I was very happy to be there and to see the children and to see the things that they had to do.
3. Which experiences would you recommend for future visit planning?
One people who asked to be taken to the school. They had a very good time and they were very happy to be there. They were very happy to be there and to see the children and to see the things that they had to do.
4. What are your observations about host families?
They were very helpful, giving us a lot of information and they were very helpful in the kitchen and in the school.
5. In what ways can we promote greater collaboration and understanding between both schools?
By giving them the opportunity to visit.

Emily & Katie from Winterbourne Academy share experience of Festivals in India & UK

Visitor Evaluation of International Activity

Name: Katie Robinson
The students: Mrs. Grigor, Miss. ...
Date: 6/1/20

Please comment on the impact this activity had on the students involved.

The students were very interested in the Christmas festival activities when asked questions about the nature of the festival they were able to answer questions for example the date, why and how we celebrate it.

Please comment on the impact this activity had on you and any other staff involved.

I was impressed by the way the students were able to work on different activities and how they were able to communicate whilst other activities were being explained.

Any other comments?

The students were very engaged and worked quickly.

Teacher Evaluation of International Activity

Name: Mrs. Grigor
The students: Mrs. Grigor, Miss. ...
Date: 12/1/20

Please comment on the impact this activity had on the students involved.

The activity was very useful as it allowed the children to see the children who were celebrating Christmas in their own country. The children were very interested in the different activities and they were able to answer questions about the festival.

Please comment on the impact this activity had on you and any other staff involved.

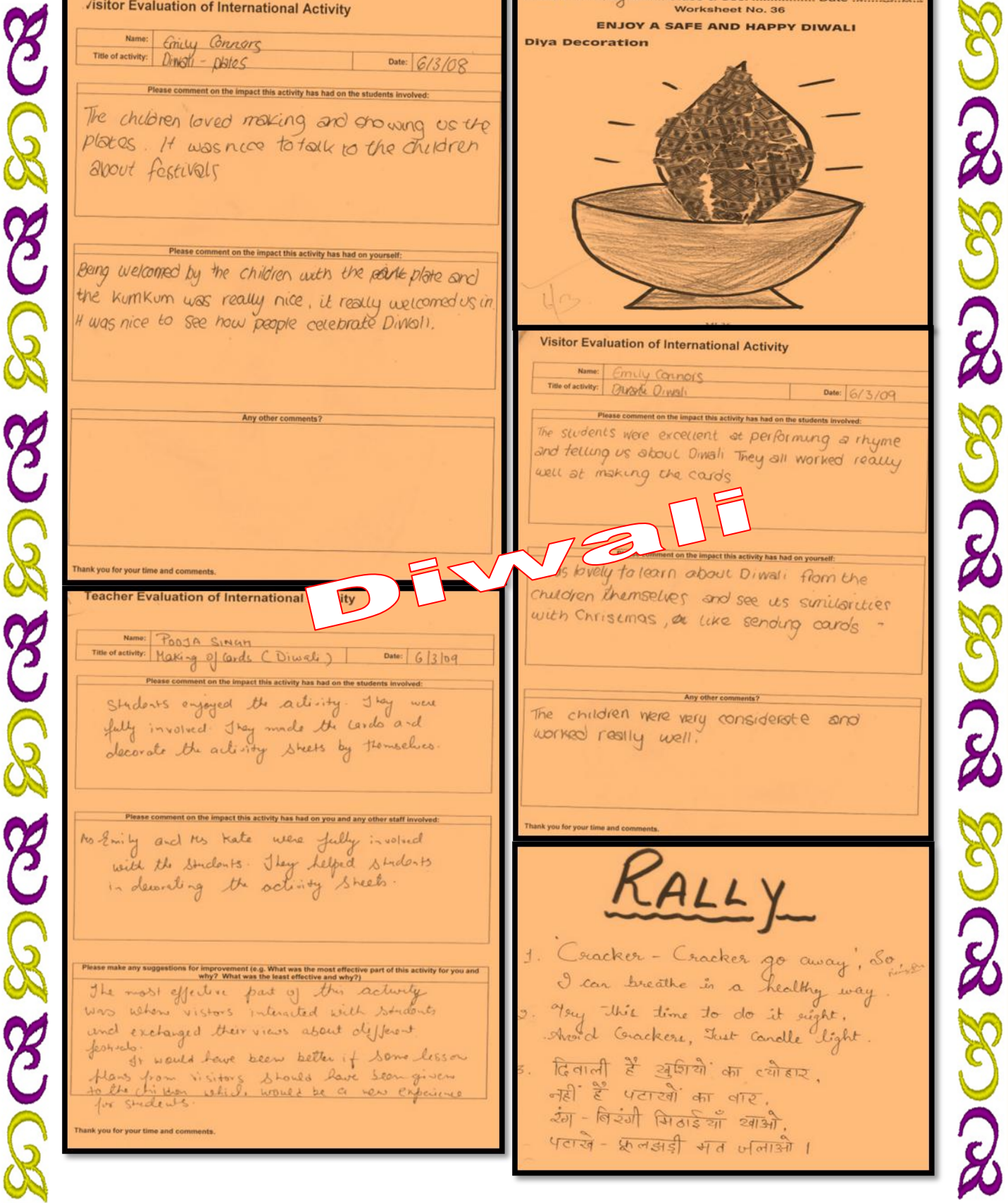
The children were very interested in the different activities and they were able to answer questions about the festival. They were very happy to be there and to see the children and to see the things that they had to do.

Please make any suggestions for improvement e.g. What was the most effective part of this activity for you and what other staff were involved?

The children were very interested in the different activities and they were able to answer questions about the festival. They were very happy to be there and to see the children and to see the things that they had to do.

Feedback





Visitor Evaluation of International Activity

Name: Emily Connors
Title of activity: Diwali - plates
Date: 6/3/08

Please comment on the impact this activity has had on the students involved:

The children loved making and showing us the plates. It was nice to talk to the children about festivals.

Please comment on the impact this activity has had on yourself:

Being welcomed by the children with the plate and the kumkum was really nice, it really welcomed us in. It was nice to see how people celebrate Diwali.

Any other comments?

Name: Emily Connors
Class & Sec: Kavya
Date: 6/3/08
Worksheet No. 36

ENJOY A SAFE AND HAPPY DIWALI
Diya Decoration

Visitor Evaluation of International Activity

Name: Emily Connors
Title of activity: Diwali Diwali
Date: 6/3/09

Please comment on the impact this activity has had on the students involved:

The students were excellent at performing a rhyme and telling us about Diwali. They all worked really well at making the cards.

Please comment on the impact this activity has had on yourself:

It is lovely to learn about Diwali from the children themselves and see the similarities with Christmas, like sending cards.

Any other comments?

The children were very considerate and worked really well.

Thank you for your time and comments.

Teacher Evaluation of International Activity

Name: POOJA SINHA
Title of activity: Making of cards (Diwali)
Date: 6/3/09

Please comment on the impact this activity has had on the students involved:

Students enjoyed the activity. They were fully involved. They made the cards and decorated the activity sheets by themselves.

Please comment on the impact this activity has had on you and any other staff involved:

Ms Emily and Ms Kate were fully involved with the students. They helped students in decorating the activity sheets.

Please make any suggestions for improvement (e.g. What was the most effective part of this activity for you and why? What was the least effective and why?)

The most effective part of this activity was when visitors interacted with students and exchanged their views about different festivals. It would have been better if some lesson plans from visitors should have been given to the children which would be a new experience for students.

Thank you for your time and comments.

RALLY

1. 'Cracker - Cracker go away', So I can breathe in a healthy way.
2. Play this time to do it right. Avoid Crackers, Just Candle light.
3. दिवाली है खुशियों का त्यौहार, नहीं है पटाखों का वार, रंग - बिरंगी मिठाईयाँ खाओ, पटाखे - झूलझड़ी मत जलाओ।





A Report

Halloween is annually celebrated on 31st October in UK. Halloween is one of the oldest celebration in the world.

Students of class II had a Halloween party on 27th of October. They had brought their favourite food. They were dressed up as ghosts, witches, vampires and other scary figures.

Mr Patrick from St. Michael's school UK was the guest lecturer. He shared useful information with the students about Halloween. He explained that Halloween celebration in UK include parties where guests are often expected to arrive in a costume to reflect the day. Other people gather together to watch a play at home or at a cinema. Some people go to a treat. This means that people give out scary character and people's houses knocking on the door for a bowl of sweets or a treat those who do not give out a treat may be tricked with a joke instead.

Students enjoyed this thoroughly. Students were given a cut out of mask & they decorate it using coloured papers. It was a new experience for students.

A Report

Halloween is celebrated on 31st October. It is one of the oldest celebration. The day is often associated with orange and black colour. The celebration has some elements of a festival of the dead.

Students of class I had a halloween party on 27th of October. Children had brought their favourite food. They were dressed up as scary figures.

Mr Patrick from St. Michael's school was the guest lecturer. He shared information about Halloween with the students. He explained on this day, people were invited and honoured. The skeletons are hanged on the wall.

Students were given a worksheet. They had to colour the papers. It was a new experience for students.

Halloween



LESSON PLANS

CLASS: II B TOPIC: Halloween-Activity SUBTOPIC: ...

Points to be developed:

Objective: To strengthen cross border relationship. To acquaint the students with halloween-main festival celebrated in UK. To compare and contrast the festival with Diwali.

Introduction: A conversation will be initiated with the children. They will be asked when is your favourite festival? Expected answer - Diwali, Holi, Dussehra, Christmas etc.

The teacher will gradually explain the importance of these festivals together. Task & Class Tests: being done to each other. Then the teacher will tell them that Diwali is a festival of lights. It is celebrated in India. Halloween is celebrated in UK, one of the oldest celebration in the world. Halloween parties are held on 31st October. It is a date where ghosts and guests dress up as skeletons, ghosts, or other scary characters.

Reports & Feedback



Teacher Evaluation of International Activity

Name: Ms. Chhavi Chhalra Title of activity: Halloween Activity Date: 27/10/09

Please comment on the impact this activity has had on the students involved:

Children came to know about Halloween celebration. On this day pumpkins are carved into frightening or unusual face and place it on their doorstep after dark. Students came dressed up as a scary character e.g. witches, ghosts, Vampires.

Please comment on the impact this activity has had on you and any other staff involved:

We learnt about Halloween Mr Patrick shared some useful information.

Please make any suggestions for improvement (e.g. What was the most effective part of this activity for you and why? What was the least effective and why?)






WEATHER REPORT

Hi,
 My name is Bhavya Parvathi
 I live in Delhi. I am a student of
Bal Bharati Public School

In this letter I would like to tell you about the weather in this part of the country where I live. It is winter season here. The days are short and nights are long.
 When I get up in the morning there is fog.
 But sun does not fall here. Wind breeze blows during the day. Usually the minimum temperature is 7°C and the maximum temperature is 25°C. In winter season we eat Hot food and drink hot beverage to keep ourselves warm. Out of all the seasons I like winter season because my favorite fruits come in this season.

This is a picture I have drawn on winter season:



I would like to tell you a secret. Winter season makes me feel very lazy. I find it very difficult to get up early in the morning to go to school.
 I hope you will find this little information about me and my country useful. Waiting for your reply.


Your friend
Bhavya Parvathi
Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka
New Delhi

WEATHER REPORT

Hi,
 My name is Pranav
 I live in Delhi. I am a student of
Bal Bharati Public School

In this letter I would like to tell you about the weather in this part of the country where I live. It is winter season here. The days are short and nights are long.
 When I get up in the morning there is fog.
 But snow does not fall here. Wind breeze blows during the day. Usually the minimum temperature is 10°C and the maximum temperature is 24°C. In winter season we eat hot food and drink hot to keep ourselves warm. Out of all the seasons I like winter season because my favorite fruits grow in this season.

This is a picture I have drawn on winter season:



I would like to tell you a secret. Winter season makes me feel very lazy. I find it very difficult to get up early in the morning to go to school.
 I hope you will find this little information about me and my country useful. Waiting for your reply.


Your friend
Pranav
Bal Bharati Public School
New Delhi, India

WEATHER REPORT

Hi,
 My name is Narayan Jain
 I live in Delhi. I am a student of
Bal Bharati Public School

In this letter I would like to tell you about the weather in this part of the country where I live. It is winter season here. The days are short and nights are long.
 When I get up in the morning there is fog.
 But sun does not fall here. Wind breeze blows during the day. Usually the minimum temperature is 10°C and the maximum temperature is 24°C. In winter season we eat hot food and drink hot to keep ourselves warm. Out of all the seasons I like winter season because my favorite fruits grow in this season.

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 I hope you will find this little information about me and my country useful. Waiting for your reply.

Your friend
Narayan Jain
Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka
New Delhi

WEATHER REPORT

Hi,
 My name is Rahul Raju
 I live in Delhi. I am a student of
Bal Bharati Public School

In this letter I would like to tell you about the weather in this part of the country where I live. It is winter season here. The days are short and nights are long.
 When I get up in the morning there is fog.
 But sun does not fall here. Wind breeze blows during the day. Usually the minimum temperature is 10°C and the maximum temperature is 24°C. In winter season we eat hot food and drink hot to keep ourselves warm. Out of all the seasons I like winter season because my favorite fruits grow in this season.

This is a picture I have drawn on winter season:



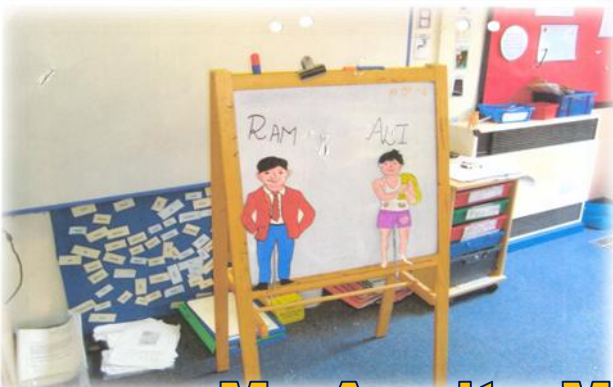
I would like to tell you a secret. Winter season makes me feel very lazy. I find it very difficult to get up early in the morning to go to school.
 I hope you will find this little information about me and my country useful. Waiting for your reply.

Your friend
Rahul Raju
Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka
New Delhi, India





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Ms Amrita Malhotra

Stick puppets prepared at St. Michael's.

teaching at

St. Michael's about Indian festivals

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Lent and Easter

Lent

Lent is a festival in which we acknowledge Jesus's sacrifices in the desert. During Lent most people will give up something, for example chocolate. In the past people gave up food completely, as Jesus did this.

Shrove Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday also known as pancake day, is the day before Lent. Pancakes is a meal made from the food forbidden during Lent.

To make pancakes you need, eggs, flour, and milk. Then you fry all the ingredients in a frying pan. Traditionally you put lemon and sugar on pancakes, but you can put other foods on like maple syrup, chocolate sauce, jam and some other weird flavours. There are 3 different types of pancakes, these are traditional, Scotch and American pancakes.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent. The ashes from the previous years palm Sunday are made into the mark of a cross on Christians forehead, this is usually done in a church.

Easter

Maundy Thursday

Day of recognition of Jesus's last supper, the meal Jesus shared/enjoyed with his disciples before being betrayed by Judas.

Good Friday

Good Friday is the day that Jesus was crucified. On this day people eat hot cross buns, which is bread with raisins and sultanas in. The bun has a cross on the top. This represents that Jesus was crucified on (and he died for us).

Easter Sunday

Easter Sunday is the day when Jesus rose from the dead. On this day people eat chocolate eggs, the chocolate eggs represent new life. Also spring chickens and bunny rabbits are associated with easter, as they mark the start of spring.



← a chocolate egg

Hiya, My name is Jenna I am 14 years old and I was born on the 3rd October in 1994. I live in Cornwall, in a town called Bodmin. Cornwall is in the South west of England, which is the part of England which sticks out at the bottom. I go to Bodmin College and I am in year 9. Most people in Cornwall work either as farmers or in tourism, these are the main trades in Cornwall.

I live at home in Bodmin with my mum, Brother Ali who is 16 and my twin sister Kirsten. I have 2 pet cats called Charlie and Millie, they are 3 years old.

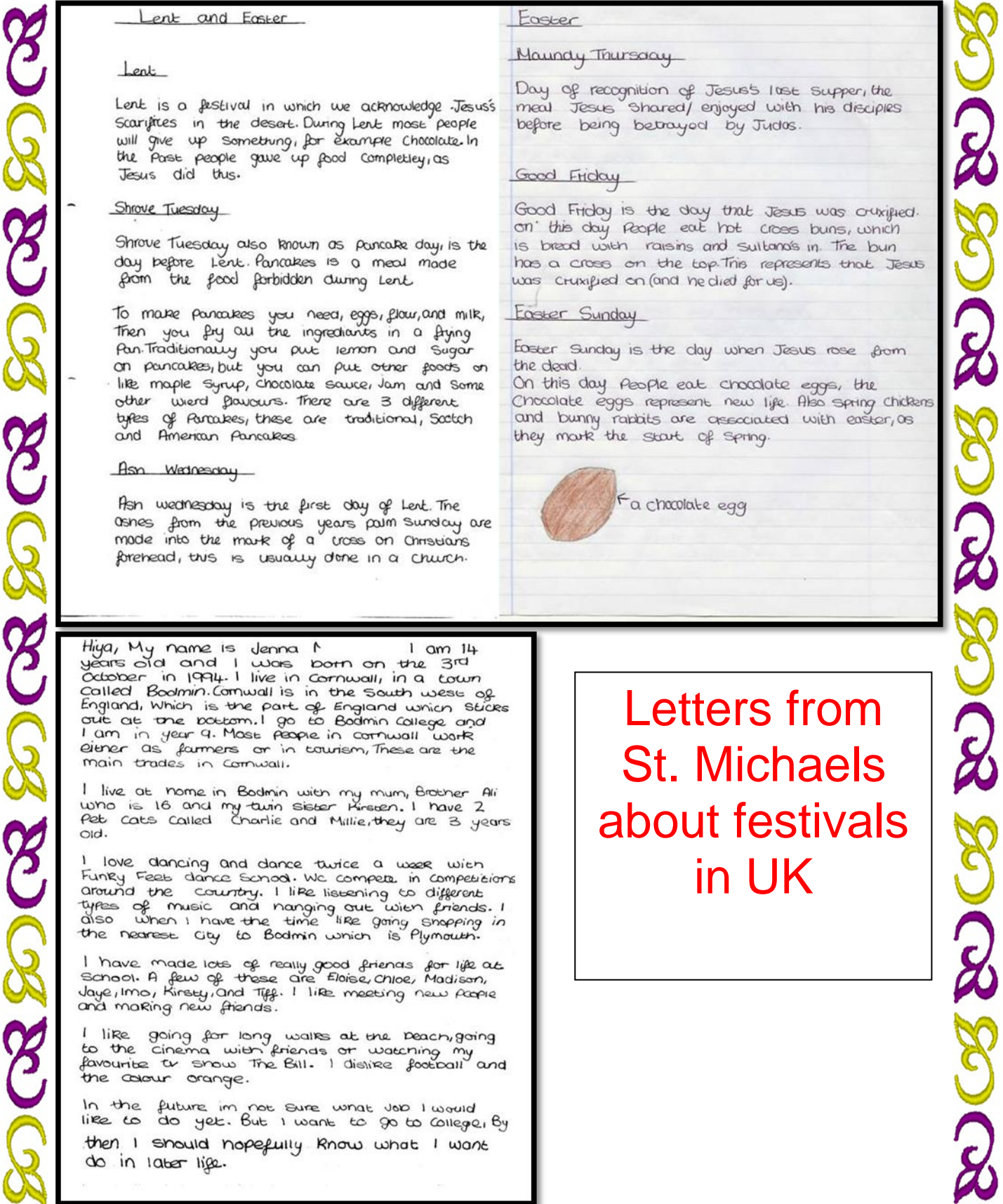
I love dancing and dance twice a week with Funky Feet dance school. We compete in competitions around the country. I like listening to different types of music and hanging out with friends. I also when I have the time like going shopping in the nearest city to Bodmin which is Plymouth.

I have made lots of really good friends for life at school. A few of these are Eloise, Chloe, Madison, Jaye, Imo, Kirsty, and Tiff. I like meeting new people and making new friends.

I like going for long walks at the beach, going to the cinema with friends or watching my favourite tv show The Bill. I dislike football and the colour orange.

In the future im not sure what job I would like to do yet. But I want to go to college, by then I should hopefully know what I want to do in later life.

Letters from
St. Michaels
about festivals
in UK





**Exchange between Balmulidy Primary,
Scotland and BBPS, Dwarka**

Students of Bal Bharati Public School, Dwarka received letters from Balmulidy Primary in Scotland. The Scottish students wrote about their various festivals. They shared with us how they celebrate each festival and its importance to them as well as to their nation. Along with the facts and information students also sent drawings and posters on some of the most famous festivals. They also wrote paragraph on the topic - a night before Christmas.

When it was shared with the students through Elanguages website, we decided to write about our festivals and share with them our customs and traditions. Students made beautiful drawings representing how each festival is celebrated.





**Mr Patrik Sanderson from
St. Michaels school teaching
about festivals**





TRADITIONAL FESTIVAL

Masks, Traditional Dress, and Age-Old Customs Mark Romanian Festivals

With all due respect to ruins, monuments and cathedrals, nothing highlights a trip or provides better photo opportunities than a traditional festival. And few people in today's world maintain and cherish their age-old customs as do the villagers of Romania. Hardly a week goes by without a religious or secular festival somewhere in this eastern European country. Some of the best, however, take place between Christmas and New Year's



- For the grandest winter spectacle, people head to Romania's northwestern corner by December 27 when the Winter Festival takes place in the town of Sighetu Marmatiei

Masks hang from lamp posts and people (overwhelmingly local) pack the streets. More masks—part demon, part animal, part indescribable—hide the faces of young men who run through the streets as oversized cowbells hanging from their waists clang loudly. Far from idle Halloween fun, masks, here, are an old tradition, symbolizing fertility, the passing and renewal of time and the good and bad aspects of human nature



- Accompanied by music and carols, some 40 to 50 groups, representing virtually every village in Maramures, pass along the main street. All are in traditional dress, meaning, for girls and women, stiff white blouses with fancy work and puffy sleeves, white or flowered skirts partially covered by striped woven front and back panels, headscarves, embroidered black woolen vests, thick knee-high socks, a stiff ballet-type shoe called opinci which laces cross fashion over the socks, and white or black wool jackets. Large homemade bags, usually of a black and white checked design, hang by long twisted wool from shoulders. Some walkers reach into these bags to toss rice or grain toward the viewers which represents both prosperity and ridding oneself of bad fortune. Boys and men don similar jackets or a white, long-haired cloak, wide white pants, loose shirts, tooled leather belts, boots and tall hats of curly black or gray wool.



- When a group reaches the reviewing stand, they earn a few minutes in the spotlight for a carol, a folk dance or a tune on old instruments such as the trambita, an extremely long horn, or the buhai, a small barrel through which horsehairs are pulled.

Signaling the end, a horse-drawn sleigh filled with white-jacketed youths, musicians and of course, Santa Claus passes by the crowd.

- Throughout the afternoon, folk musicians, singers and dancers perform from a stage set up by city hall.



- Another festival staple is the dance of the bears (the two-legged costumed variety). Accompanied by their Gypsy trainer and a youth beating a tambourine-type instrument, the animals crawl through the crowd. Reaching the center, they perform a dance until eventually, the bears fall dead on the ground. After their hearts are taken by the trainer, they return to life, theoretically, a more gentle one. Even today, more bears exist in Romania's Carpathian Mountains than any other place in Europe and this ancient rite suggests the power of man to tame nature.

