This week's story looks at events related to ...



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What's happening in the news this week?

Picture News



Alamy

Let's have a look at this week's poster!

9th - 15th November 2026

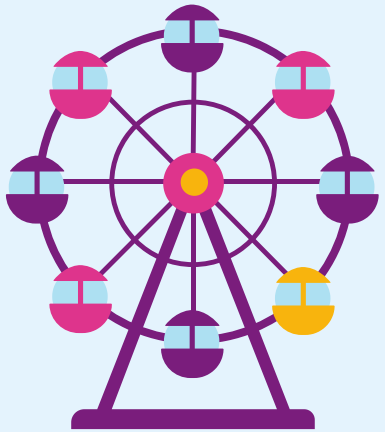

Picture News
Should traditions always stay the same?
Alamy

Let's look at this week's story

Diwali celebrations in Leicester return this November. It's one of the UK's biggest Diwali festival locations, with music, dancing, colourful lights and family activities. However, the traditional public fireworks display will not take place this year as part of Diwali celebrations, due to crowd safety concerns at the park venue. Organisers hope the celebrations will still bring thousands of people together to enjoy the Festival of Lights, despite some familiar traditions being different.



Learn more about this week's story here.
Watch this week's useful video here.
This week's Virtual Picture News here.



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ASSEMBLY RESOURCE

Read the information found below, which explains more about how Leicester celebrates Diwali and this year's changes.

Diwali in Leicester

Leicester is famous for having one of the biggest Diwali celebrations in the UK!

Every year, thousands of people come together to enjoy colourful lights, music, dancing and tasty food. A part of the city called the Golden Mile is filled with beautiful lights to celebrate Diwali, also known as the Festival of Lights.

Different ways to celebrate

Although Leicester's public celebrations are changing, families will continue to celebrate Diwali in their own ways, lighting diyas, sharing food and spending time together.

How has Leicester traditionally celebrated?



Rangoli artwork

Beautiful patterns are created using colourful materials, including coloured sand, to celebrate Diwali.



The Wheel of Light

A giant Ferris wheel runs and is lit up, giving visitors views of the celebrations.



Music and dancing

Performers share traditional and modern music and dance, bringing different generations together.



Fireworks

Fireworks displays have been a popular part of Leicester's public Diwali celebrations, filling the sky with colour and light.

Photos: Leicester City Council

What's changing in 2026?

After concerns about large crowds, some celebrations were reduced in 2025. This year, Leicester is bringing back music, dancing, food stalls, arts and crafts and a funfair.

However, there will be no public fireworks display, as organisers are worried about safety due to the number of attendees at the Cossington Park venue.

Why do you think organisers have decided to make these changes, and how might people feel about them?

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Resource one

Look at the resource below, which shows how some families celebrate Diwali.



Lighting lamps

Some families light small lamps called diyas. These lights have a special meaning.

Why might light help someone feel hopeful?



Sharing food

Families and friends may visit one another and share special food, including sweets.

When do you enjoy spending time with others?



Making rangoli

Some people make colourful patterns called rangoli near their doors to welcome others.

How could you help someone feel welcome?



Praying together

Many Hindus, Sikhs and other people who celebrate Diwali pray. Many Hindus offer prayers to Lakshmi, the goddess of wealth and good fortune.

What might make a celebration special to someone?





Can you explain what Diwali is in your own words?

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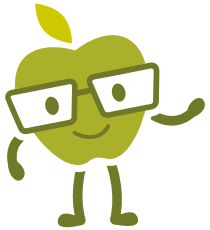
Media Literacy

I can check if facts match in different sources.



Explanation: Let's think about how checking different sources can help us spot information that might be incorrect.



Diwali 2026 is on Sunday 8 November: where to celebrate, from Trafalgar Square to Leicester

Public celebrations in date order, with times and what is free or needs booking, and why Leicester's Diwali Day will have no fireworks display this year.

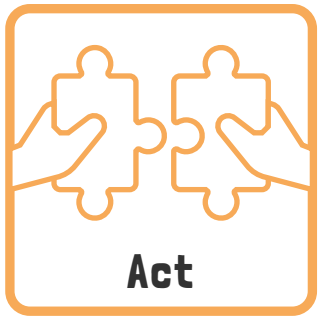
Live Laugh Local team · Edited by Brett Hood · 1 October 2026 at 06:11 · London

Image: Matt Preston, 'Diwali Leicester - Belgrave Road', 12 October 2009, via Flickr and Wikimedia Commons, CC BY-SA 2.0









Questions to Discuss

- How could you check whether a fact you read online is correct?
- Why might two sources give different information about the same event?
- If two sources give the same information, does that always mean it is correct? Why?

Activity

Imagine you are planning to visit one of the Diwali events in Leicester or London. You want to make sure you have the correct information before you go!

- Read the news story and choose an event you would like to visit.
- Find another source, such as the event's official website.
- Check whether the dates, times, location and activities match.
- If you find different information, what could you do to find out which is correct?

Think about: Why is it important to check information in more than one place before making plans?

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Protected Characteristics

Which protected characteristic do you think this week's story highlights?



Diwali is an example of how people come together to celebrate their faith and traditions. Everyone should be free to practise their religion or belief and celebrate traditions that are important to them.

Share your thoughts. Do you agree?

- Sex
- Who People Love
- Age
- Disability
- Being Yourself
- Marriage and Civil Partnership
- Pregnancy and Maternity
- Race
- Religion or Belief

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British Values

I Really Do Matter!

Individual Liberty

Rule of Law

Democracy

Mutual Respect and Tolerance

Which British value do you think this week's story highlights?



Individual Liberty is highlighted through people's freedom to celebrate their religion and take part in traditions that are important to them.

The decision to cancel the fireworks display links to Rule of Law, as it considers how to keep people safe during the celebrations.



Do you agree with either person, or think something different?

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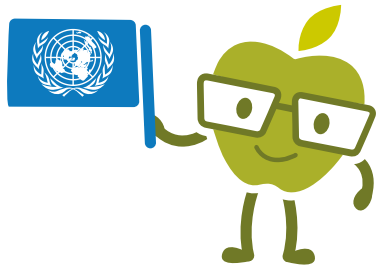
UN Rights of the Child



Every child has the right to follow their own religion or beliefs. Diwali is an example of how people can celebrate and share their religious traditions.



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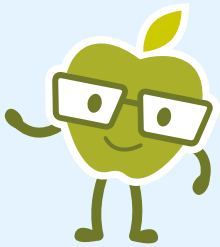
Reflection



Traditions can help us remember what matters, but sometimes changing how we celebrate can help us keep their meaning alive.

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Useful Vocabulary



Attendees

The people who go to an event, such as a celebration or show.

… organisers are worried about safety due to the number of **attendees** at the Cossington Park venue.

Despite

Even though something happens or is true.

Organisers hope the celebrations will still bring thousands of people together to enjoy the Festival of Lights, **despite** some familiar traditions being different.

Generations

Groups of people of similar ages, such as children, parents and grandparents.

Performers share traditional and modern music and dance, bringing different **generations** together.

Keep (something) alive

Help something continue, such as a story, idea or tradition.

Traditions can help us to remember what matters, but sometimes changing how we celebrate can help us **keep their meaning alive**.

Suited

Right for a particular person, group or purpose.

Sometimes traditions change to make celebrations safer, more welcoming or better **suited** to the people taking part.

Traditions

Special ways of doing things that people repeat and pass on to others.

Thinking about your family and community, what **traditions** do you have?

Can you use them in a conversation this week?

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Picture News

Should traditions always stay the same?

Diwali celebrations in Leicester return this November. It's one of the UK's biggest Diwali festival locations, with music, dancing, colourful lights and family activities. However, the traditional public fireworks display will not take place this year as part of Diwali celebrations, due to crowd safety concerns at the park venue. Organisers hope the celebrations will still bring thousands of people together to enjoy the Festival of Lights, despite some familiar traditions being different.

Listen Think Share

- Look at the poster. Does anyone know what might be being celebrated? It shows celebrations for Diwali in Leicester.
- Read the information found on the **Assembly Resource**, which explains more about how Leicester celebrates Diwali and this year's changes. Why do you think organisers have decided to make these changes, and how might people feel about them?
- Watch this week's useful video, which shows Diwali celebrations from 2019 with fireworks. How do you imagine the celebrations might feel without fireworks this year?
- Think about your family and community. What traditions do you have? Which do you most enjoy and why?
- Have any of your traditions changed over time? Are there any traditions you would like to amend? Why? Talk about how our lives, communities and the world around us are always changing. Sometimes traditions change to make celebrations safer, more welcoming or better suited to the people taking part.

Reflection

Traditions can help us remember what matters, but sometimes changing how we celebrate can help us keep their meaning alive.

Picture News

KS1 focus

What is Diwali?

Listen Think Share

- Have you ever been to a party or celebration? What did you do? Perhaps you ate special food, sang songs or played games. Tell a partner about something you enjoyed.
- This week's news is about Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Have you heard of Diwali before? Look at the lights on the poster. What colours and shapes can you spot?
- Diwali is a special festival celebrated by many people around the world. Its lights can remind people of goodness and hope. Look at **Resource 1**, which shows how some families celebrate Diwali. Can you spot the little lamps called diyas? What else can you find?
- Some families make colourful patterns, called rangoli, to welcome people. They may also visit friends and family, share food and pray. When someone visits your home or joins your class, what can you say or do to welcome them?
- In Leicester, people will enjoy lights, music and dancing, but there will be no public fireworks display. The organisers want to keep everyone safe when lots of people gather. Imagine you were looking forward to the fireworks. What might you say when you heard the news? What else could you enjoy?
- Imagine explaining Diwali to someone who has never heard of it. What would you tell them? Can Diwali still be special without fireworks? Explain your ideas.

Reflection

Diwali is a special time for many people to celebrate light, goodness and being together. Families can celebrate in lots of different ways.

Picture News

KS2 focus

What are examples of traditions we might have?

Listen Think Share

- What does the word 'tradition' mean to you? Explain that a tradition is a custom people repeat and pass on because it has meaning for them. Where might we find traditions? Think about traditions at home, in school, as part of a faith or in a wider community.
- Think of a tradition you follow, or one that you have seen or learned about. Describe it to a partner.
- Look at **Resource 2**, which shares some things people do. Which do you consider a tradition? Why? Think about what people do, when they do it, who takes part and why it matters.
- Does repeating something make it a tradition? Compare brushing your teeth each morning with singing a special song at a celebration.
- How are traditions passed on to others? Think about learning a song, watching someone cook or hearing a story. Must a tradition be very old? How might a new tradition begin?
- Think back to Leicester's Diwali celebrations. What is changing, and what will stay the same? Why might some people miss the fireworks while others welcome the change? Can people have different opinions but still care about the same celebration?
- Choose one tradition discussed today. What might people most want to keep the same about it? Could the way it happens change, while keeping the meaning?

Reflection

Traditions can include special meals, songs and stories. Families, schools and communities have different traditions that are meaningful for them.

Picture News

KS2 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Work in a small group to think of three traditions your school has, such as sports day, an annual performance or a leavers' assembly.

Find out which tradition each person in your group would most like to continue. Each person has one vote.

Record the votes using tally marks, then make a bar chart on squared paper. Remember to label it! Take turns explaining your choices.

Would anyone suggest a change to one tradition that might help more people enjoy it? Vote again using a different colour.

Compare your results. Did any votes change? Does the tradition with the most votes matter most to everyone? What might happen if you asked another group?

Option 2

Some families light small lamps, called diyas, during Diwali. Look at some examples online, then use air-drying clay to make your own.

Roll your clay into a ball. Press your thumb into the middle, then gently pinch around the edges to form a shallow bowl. Add patterns using a pencil or modelling tool. Once dry, decorate your diya.

Compare your designs with a partner. What is similar or different? How might families follow the same tradition in different ways?

You could display your finished diyas with battery-operated tea lights and a short class description explaining the tradition.

Picture News

KS1 follow-up ideas

Option 1

Your teacher has been learning about Diwali, but they keep getting things muddled! Can you help them?

Teacher says:

- *Everyone makes exactly the same rangoli pattern!*
- *Everyone makes their own diyas.*
- *Without fireworks, there's nothing else to enjoy!*

Listen to your teacher, then talk to a partner about what your teacher said. Do you agree or disagree with them? Why?

You can use the resource to help explain your answers.

Challenge: Swap roles! Can you become the teacher and share something you know about Diwali?

Option 2

Look at some examples of rangoli, the colourful patterns some people make near their doors during Diwali. Use loose parts, shapes, counters or pieces of coloured paper to make a repeating pattern inspired by the colours and shapes you have seen.

Ask a partner to continue your pattern. Can they explain the rule for your pattern?

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This week's useful websites

This week's news story

https://livelaughlocal.co.uk/seasonal-and-holidays/diwali-2026-date-where-to-celebrate-trafalgar-square-leicester?

This week's useful video

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4LXtqBloRhI

This week's Virtual Picture News

www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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TAKEHOME

9th – 15th November

In the news this week

Should traditions always stay the same?



Alamy

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Things to talk about at home ...

- What traditions do you celebrate with your family? Why are they special to you?
- Why do you think some people might feel upset when a tradition changes?
- In your opinion, is it more important to keep traditions the same or find new ways to celebrate? Why?
- If you could create a brand-new tradition for your family, what would it be and why?

Please note any interesting thoughts or comments

Share your thoughts and read the opinions of others www.picture-news.co.uk/discuss

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT 1 NEWSPAPER 9th – 15th November

Ready, Steady, Grit!

Meet Mr Salty Pants, Plough Patrol and Taylor Drift! These are some of the funny names chosen for 62 new gritting lorries in Kent, in south-east England.

Children helped name the vehicles in a competition. Some visited a special gritter parade to see the names on the lorries and find out how they work.

Gritters have an important job: they spread salt on roads to help stop ice forming when the weather gets cold. This helps people travel more safely.

Jonathan Lupton, whose company built the gritters, said, 'We hope the winning names bring a smile across Kent.'



Pictured: A gritter and its driver. **Source:** Canva.

Children who suggested the winning names received a special online certificate called a 'Gritificate'. Some children also made model gritters using recycled materials. The lorries are now all ready for winter!

If you could pick a name for a new gritter, what would it be?

What Big Teeth!

Did you know, bones and teeth can give us clues about animals that lived thousands of years ago! Experts study these remains to find out what the animals were like. At Leeds Discovery Centre, experts have recently been checking the condition of, and caring for, a collection of these amazing objects. One skull belonged to a huge kind of brown bear that no longer exists. It was dug up in a cave in Ireland more than 150 years ago.

The collection also includes a mammoth's tusk and teeth from a cave hyena. There is even a giant tooth from megalodon, the biggest shark ever to live!

Museum expert Clare Brown said, 'It's extraordinary to imagine that these remarkable animals once lived in the UK and walked in the very same places where we live and work today.'

Have you ever visited a history museum? Would you like to?



Pictured: A megalodon tooth (left) compared with a great white shark tooth (right). **Source:** Canva.

How can emojis help us to communicate?



I feel like if you were trying to say something but you don't know how to put it into words emojis could help.
Quin

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT 2 NEWSPAPER 9th - 15th November

Cheetah Cub Cam

The Smithsonian's National Zoo's Cheetah Cub Cam is live again! You can now watch what the five new cheetah cubs and their mum, Zura, are getting up to inside their cheetah den on the Zoo's website. The institute in Virginia, USA, announced their arrival on the website with, 'Carnivore keepers at the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute (SCBI) are delighted to announce the birth of



Pictured: A cheetah and cub. **Source:** Canva.



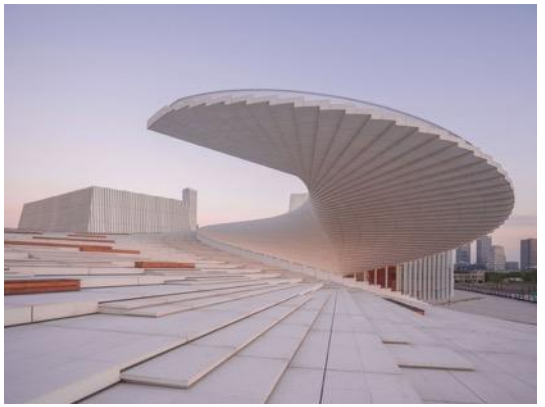
Pictured: Cheetah cub cam picture of Zura and her cubs. **Source:** Smithsonian's National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute on Facebook.

five cheetah cubs on October 5, 2026. The cubs and their mother, 5-year-old Zura, are healthy, strong and active.' The live webcam gives a rare look into the cheetah family's home, and allows you to hear the soft chirps, tiny purrs, and meows as the cubs develop strong bonds with their mother. The cubs are a significant milestone of the Smithsonian's cheetah conservation programme and the 21st litter born at SCBI since 2007. 'With these cubs, we now have four generations of the same cheetah family with us,' said Adrienne Crosier, carnivore curator at SCBI. 'It's a testament to the high level of care our team is able to provide for these animals.'

Do you know any facts about cheetahs? You can watch the Cheetah Cub Cam here!

Fan-tastic Staircase

A gravity-defying, fan-shaped staircase has been unveiled at Shanghai Grand Opera House in China. The opera house, on the banks of the Huangpu river, has recently opened to the public after ten years in development. The striking building was designed by Norwegian firm Snøhetta. Visitors can climb the Chinese fan-inspired spiral staircase on the building's exterior, all the way from the street level up to an observation platform at the top! 'Our initial thought wasn't about what the building should look like, but rather: How can an important cultural institution be integrated into everyday public life in one of the world's most vibrant cities?' says Kjetil Trædal Thorsen, founding partner of Snøhetta. 'We wanted to explore how to transform it into a public landscape – a place where people can stop, experience, and enjoy themselves, whether they are watching a performance or not.'



Pictured: Gravity-defying grand staircase at Shanghai Grand Opera House. **Source:** Shanghai Grand Opera House on Facebook.

Do you enjoy looking at interesting buildings? Which is your favourite?

How can emojis help us to communicate?



Emojis can help us communicate if we use them wisely and correctly.
Opeyemi

Let us know what you think about this week's news picture-news.co.uk/discuss help@picture-news.co.uk /picturenewsprimary/

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