

AKSHYA CELEBRATES

THE ETON ACADEMY

By EtonHouse

DEEPAVALI





Akshya's phone rang. It was a video call from Janna.

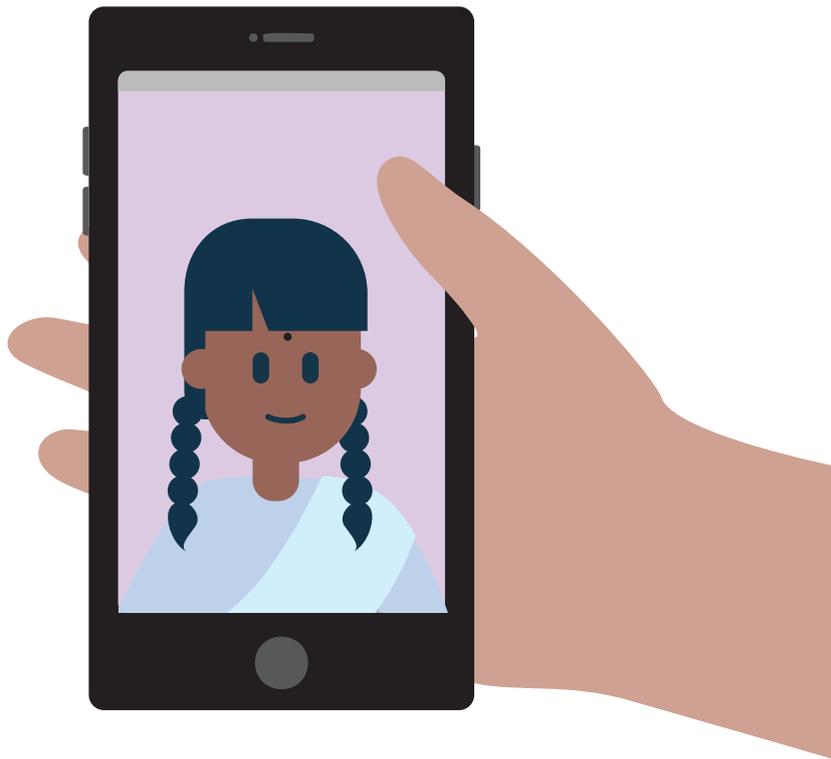
"Hello, Akshya!" Janna exclaimed.

"Hi, Janna! It's nice to hear from you," Akshya replied.

"I'm calling to invite you to my house for dinner on Thursday. Would you be able to come?" Janna asked.

“I would love to but it is Deepavali on that day and I will be busy with celebrations!” Akshya replied.

“Oh, that’s right! I don’t know much about Deepavali. Can you tell me more about it?” Janna asked eagerly.





“The word ‘Deepavali’ means ‘rows of lighted lamps’, so that’s why the holiday is also known as the ‘Festival of Lights’. While states in South India call the festival ‘Deepavali’, it is known as ‘Diwali’ in North India,” Akshya explained.

“During Deepavali, we light earthen lamps called *diyas* and place them all around our home. We believe that the lights represent the triumph of good over evil,” Akshya added.

“Do you also need to clean your house like what we do on Hari Raya and our friends do on Chinese New Year?” asked Janna.

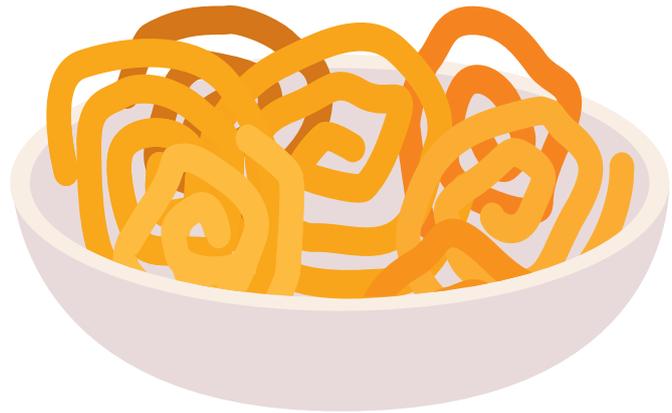
“Yes, we do!” Akshya answered. “My mother tells me that if we make our house clean and beautiful, we would invite blessings into our home.”





“We also make *rangoli* to usher in blessings and good luck. *Rangoli* is a colourful art piece created on the floor and made with coloured powder, rice or flowers!

Most families place *rangoli* at the entrance of the home to create a welcoming aura for family members and friends who come to visit,” Akshya explained.

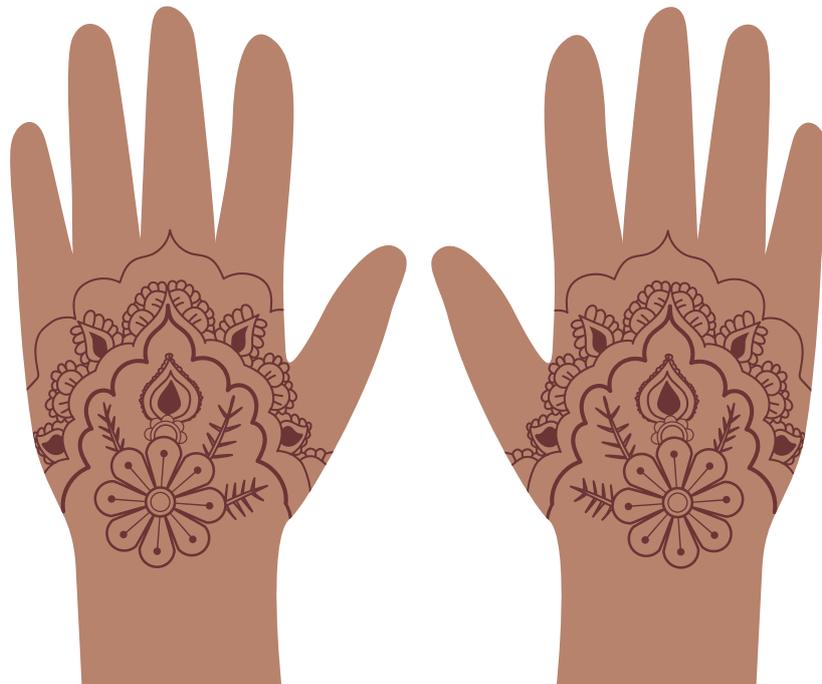


“Wow! That all sounds amazing! What special food do you eat during the celebrations?” Janna asked.

“We enjoy many delicious snacks and dishes! Traditional Deepavali food includes sweets known as *mithai*, dried fruit, savoury fried snacks like *murukku* and vegetarian dishes. My favourites are *jalebi* and *gulab jamun*!” Akshya shared enthusiastically.

“I will also decorate my hands with *henna* in preparation for Deepavali. On the day itself, my family and I have an oil bath and put on new clothes before going to the temple to pray.

Parents and married couples will also give purple money packets to children and unmarried family members. I look forward to receiving my money packets from my relatives every year!” Akshya added.





In India, Deepavali celebrations usually have fireworks but in Singapore, we play with sparklers instead!” Akshya continued.

“Your celebrations sound marvellous, Akshya!” Janna said enviously. “I wish I could experience Deepavali with you too!”

“This year, we won’t be visiting as many relatives as we usually do and will be celebrating the festivities at home. Would you like to join us?” Akshya offered.

“Thank you, Akshya! I would love that,” Janna said excitedly.



Activity Page

What are some of the things that are used in Deepavali celebrations? Paste the stickers in the correct boxes below!

Place
sticker
here

diyas

Place
sticker
here

henna

Place
sticker
here

rangoli

Place
sticker
here

traditional snacks



INIYA DEEPAVALI NALVAZHTHUKKAL

TEA

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