

"LIGHTENING UP THE LIVES, IN AN INCREDIBLE WAY"

"A smallest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intention." To instil the feeling of togetherness and to lighten up the faces of the impoverished with a smile, Sri Vamshidhar High School with its Students and Staff celebrated Diwali in a unique way. As, Charity begins at home, they contributed in the festivity by providing pulses and edible oil to the people of the Orphanage at Nadergul.

Diwali, the festival of lights is one of the most important festivals celebrated with great pomp and splendour. It is also known as 'Deepavali'. The word 'Deepavali' has two words. 'Deep' means light and 'vali' means a row. So, 'Deepavali' means 'a row of lights'. It signifies the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, knowledge over ignorance, and hope over despair.

Traditionally, the lighting of a Diya is an important part of prayer and it signifies purity, goodness, good luck and power. The festival falls on the day of Amavasya or new moon day (15th day of Karthik Masam). The significant kind cause behind lighting up the diyas is, as the days are shorter and nights are longer in winter, sun sets down early in the evenings, the light of the diyas outside the inmates houses show path for the tired farmers, pedestrians and the travellers.

The presence of light means the non-existence of darkness and evil forces. Evil spirits and powers are thought to gain strength and become aggressive when there is no light. So, diyas are lit to weaken those evil forces in every corner of the house.

The Diya has a deeper meaning. The oil in the diya symbolises the dirt in the human mind such as greed, envy, hatred and lust. The cotton in the diya is symbolic of the soul or the atma. When the oil is burnt by the wick, the diya provides illumination. Therefore the illumination of the diyas means that one should get rid of greed and materialistic thoughts. This frees us from all kinds of grief, leading the path to enlightenment and to connect with God.

Lord Rama and Sita began their long journey back to their kingdom, and everybody lit oil lamps to guide them on their way and welcome them back. Ever since, people light lamps on Diwali to remember that light triumphs over dark and good triumphs over evil.

To make the students aware of the importance of Diwali, Colouring and Diya Painting Activities were conducted. Students danced to the tunes of festival songs and celebrated eco-friendly Diwali. The students were also made to realise that true happiness is in sharing and making others happy through our deeds.

Every festival teaches us to help the needy, support them in all the ways and treat them as one among us. It teaches us that one must learn to love and serve others unconditionally.



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