

Last half term a group of ten pupils from year 6 attended an event at St. Michael's Primary School entitled "A Festival of Lights". There were two purposes to the day. Firstly to meet faith leaders from different major world religions and secondly to meet other children who will also be moving to the High School in September.

When we arrived we were given a booklet to fill in throughout the day. Our first task was to go on a treasure hunt around the hall, finding out important information about each of the different religions.

We then spent about fifteen minutes with each faith leader. They spoke to us about the important parts of their religion, such as where and when it began, which God or Gods are worshipped, the name of the Holy book and where and how they worship. They then explained about how light is used during different celebrations in their faith calendar.

We met a Jewish rabbi who told us about the festival of Chanukah, a priest who spoke about the importance of light during Easter, a Muslim Imam who told us about Eid, a Buddhist who explained about the use of light during the Vesak celebrations around the world and a follower of the Hindu faith who told us all about Diwali.

After the morning activities we all gathered in the hall to share a delicious lunch of chicken or vegetarian curry, rice, naan bread and onion bhaji. Following lunch we spent some time in meditation ready for more activities in the afternoon.

Our first activity was to learn a Bollywood dance, led by a specialist dance teacher. In just twenty five minutes we managed to put together a quite long sequence of steps. The final activity of the day was playing traditional Indian board games, like the ones families would play during holiday and festival times when they get together.

