

Year 3 – Why are festivals important to religious communities?

Key Vocabulary	
<b>festival</b>	A day or period of celebrations, usually for religious reasons.
<b>Easter</b>	A Christian festival that celebrates new life after Jesus was resurrected.
<b>Christmas</b>	A Christian festival that celebrates the birth of Jesus.
<b>Harvest festival</b>	A Christian festival that gives gifts of food to the poor.
<b>Pentecost</b>	A Christian festival that celebrates the descent of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' disciples, 7 days after Easter.
<b>Diwali</b>	A Hindu festival that celebrates light over darkness and good over evil.
<b>Eid</b>	The name of 2 Muslim festivals, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Fuyr is known as the 'Feast of Breaking the Fast' and is celebrated at the end of Ramadan.
<b>Yom Kippur</b>	A Jewish festival that is also known as 'A Day of Atonement'.
<b>Rosh Hashanah</b>	A Jewish festival that celebrates Jewish New Year.
<b>shared values</b>	Beliefs and traditions that communities have in common.
<b>resurrection</b>	When Jesus rose from the dead.



**Did you know?**

Easter falls between March and April. It is never on the same date, but it is always on a Sunday.

Festivals facts and knowledge

**The Easter Story**

Jesus was nailed to a crucifix on what we now call Good Friday. After his death, his body was placed inside a tomb and the entrance covered by a huge rock. Two days later, on Easter Sunday, Jesus had risen from the dead and his body was no longer inside the tomb. Christians celebrate Easter to mark the day Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Easter celebrates the beginning of new life and is often symbolised by eggs, flowers and young animals. Easter eggs, hot cross buns and Simnel cake (a type of fruit cake) are all foods eaten at Easter.

Eid al-Fitr is an Islamic festival celebrated by Muslims. Muslims celebrate Eid to mark the end of Ramadan - a month of fasting (refraining from eating and drinking during the daylight hours). Muslims celebrate Eid to thank Allah for the help and strength he gave them in practising self-control through Ramadan.

Diwali is a 5-day festival celebrated by the followers of Hinduism. The festival celebrates the victory of good over evil, light over darkness and knowledge over ignorance, although the actual legends that go with the festival are different in different parts of India. Diwali is also known as the Festival of Lights.