



'Service, Excellence, Virtues, Aspiration'
Spring Term 2016



Primary Standard Issue 5

Friday 15th April

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back! I hope you all had a good holiday and everyone is enthusiastic about the Summer term.

We have an exciting term ahead with a host of celebration and inspirational events planned. This week we celebrate Vaisakhi. Children and staff have enjoyed a celebratory lunch, followed by collective worship. We welcomed our guest speaker from The Sikh Relief charity. Vaisakhi celebration assemblies on Monday 18th April will be a wonderful moment for our parents, visitors, staff and pupils to come together and celebrate.

We would like to thank you for your support of World Book day and Sports Relief, where we raised £136.28 and £140.61 respectively. The Easter Bonnet parade was a wonderful spectacle along with the project models. We have some very talented children and parents, well done all!

The school is growing rapidly both in size and pupil numbers. We are pleased to confirm that we have secured external land. The plans for the external development of the school which are displayed in the Reception area include landscaping for play and learning, sports area, social play and picnic areas are included. The EYFS outdoor learning area will be reconfigured to support outstanding learning through play. Plans are in place for internal remodelling of the school to accommodate additional classes, offices and secondary changing facilities.

Consultation feedback in relation to timing of the additional holiday week was overwhelmingly supported by parents resulting with it being added to the October Half Term break.

Once again many thanks for your ongoing support and I hope to see many of you on Monday 18th April 2016.

Mrs P Hammond
Executive Principal

Vaisakhi Celebrations

Happy Vaisakhi to you all! I hope you all have an enjoyable time celebrating Vaisakhi with your families and are looking forward to our assemblies on **Monday 18th April**.

Divan Hall - Programme of Events

09.15 - Reception
09.35 – Year 1
09.55 – Year 2
10.45 – Year 3
11.05 – Year 4

Vaisakhi - Birth of the Khalsa

During the time of Guru Gobind Rai, the rulers of the land were very cruel to people. They wanted everyone to join the same religion as them. **They even took the life of his father The time had come for the Guru to show how to bring.... THE LIGHT!! , Guru Teg Bahadur ji. A feeling of darkness and unhappiness spread through the land.**

Guru Ji: **"I will turn my Sikhs... from sparrows to HAWKS!"** So Guru Gobind Rai called for all the colourful and different Sikh communities to gather near his home in Anandpur. Vaisakhi means "spring" and in the spring of 1699 a humungous group of people had gathered! Some were farmers, some were shop-keepers, some were half-naked yogis, some were Hindus, some were Muslims, some were singers, some were warriors, some were mothers and some were children. Along with all the people, there were many different beings from the unseen worlds that also came to witness the event. Of all the beings there, some were average.... and some were fearless, perhaps even as fearless as Guru Gobind Rai himself!

Guru ji stood on a hill and revealed himself to the huge sangat. He looked perfectly radiant. **People always felt good in his presence.**

Guru Gobind Rai was actually preparing a great test for his Beloveds. He knew that the darkness in the world needs to be healed by pure people who are unbreakable. **He knew that for us to be unbreakable we have to be fearless of death.**

Now for the test!! Though he was still merged in bliss, Guru ji made himself appear very stern. Guru Gobind Rai unsheathed his sword and ROARED! **"IS THERE ANY LOYAL SIKH WHO WILL GIVE THE GIFT OF THEIR HEAD??!"** At first, most people didn't know what to think. Again Guru Gobind Rai roared, **"WHO WILL GIVE THE GIFT OF THEIR HEAD!!??"**

The Guru's powerful voice shocked people to their very bones. Again Guru ji roared, **"WHO WILL GIVE THEIR HEAD??!!"**

There was a man named Daya, **whose fear did not rule over him. His eyes glowed with devotion.** Without hesitating, hands clasped together, he moved towards Guru ji saying, "Guru ji, my head is yours." **The Guru always challenges our fears so that we can be free from fear.**

Even though they'd heard of the Guru's miracles, most people didn't understand what was happening. Sometimes when we don't understand something we get afraid. In the same way many people allowed fear to take over their minds. Most people were scared, some were in awe and some felt the vibration of the heavens. Again Guru ji raised his sword and asked for another head. Another man, Dharam Chand, moved towards Guru ji saying, "I will offer my head to you... my Guru!" Guru ji did the same as before. People started leaving.

Guru Ji : **"I NEED ANOTHER, WHO WILL GIVE ME HIS HEAD?!"**

Many people started to run away. The crowd became smaller. They listened only to their minds and became convinced that this was scary and wrong. **Very few felt the truth, that Guru ji was giving us a great gift.** Not everyone understood this heavenly test of devotion. The mind always convinces us in various ways of things that may not be true. On this day, minds were going crazy with endless thoughts of doubt. They saw the blood and became scared. But there were some who were SO in love with Guru Gobind Rai that they WANTED to offer their heads. **Three more men came before the Guru, their hearts answered Guru ji's call,** Himmat, Mokam, and Sahib offered their heads saying, "my head is yours and has always been yours..."

Next, a large bowl was brought out and water was poured into it. The Guru put his double edged sword in the bowl and started stirring. As he stirred he sang in his warm and heartfelt voice: "ik ongar, satinam, karta purkh, nirbao, nirvair, akal murat, ajooni, saibhang, gurprasad, jap, aad sach, jugad sach, hai bhi sach, nanak hosi bhi sach...."

The heavens erupted in cheers at this incredible gift to us. **The seal of victory had now been given! Guru ji's wife, Mata Sahib, came over and put some sugary sweets in the bowl of water.**

She put in the sugar because she knew that whoever drank it would be so powerful that they must never forget their sweetness! **That is the love and wisdom of our mother, Mata Sahib ji!**

Finally Guru ji recited the song of Bliss, Anand Sahib: "Anand bhia mere mai satguru mai paia..."
We are now blessed to be happy and successful.

Infused with the vibrations of the Banis, the water turned in to nectar. Nectar mixed with the Guru's sword in the steel bowl and was blessed with the loving sweetness of Mata Sahib. The nectar, the Amrit, includes the blessings of heaven and earth!

Daya was the first to give his head. Guru ji came over to him and sprinkled the Amrit on his head and into his mouth.

"WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!"

THE BODY OF DAYA ROSE UP!... AND ROARED!!

"WAHEGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHEGURU JI KI FATEH!"

Everyone became totally silent. Everyone was completely enchanted by this miracle.

One by one, Guru ji gave the nectar to each of the 5 Beloved Ones.

"Waheguru ji ka Khalsa Waheguru ji ki Fateh!" said the Guru. "Waheguru ji ka Khalsa Waheguru ji ki Fateh!" said the five beloveds.

Reverently, he sprinkled the water on the top of their heads. We call it the 10th gate, a sacred place on the human body. It's on the top of the head right where babies have a soft spot. After blessing their divine 10th gate and blessing their mouths and eyes, he gave the Khalsa invocation to all the bodies one by one.

"Waheguru ji ka Khalsa Waheguru ji ki Fateh!"

One by one, they all got up and answered.

"Waheguru ji ka Khalsa Waheguru ji ki Fateh!"

Rarely does one person pass the crucial test of faith and take the opportunity to give their life. On this day five men gave up all fears and became their true selves. **They became divine humans. They were born in to a new life; a new life of light. Free from fear of death.** They would no longer be convinced of anything but the Truth. They will always be awake as pure spirits, in a physical body or beyond it.

There is no way to count how many angels were singing and cheering at this time!!

The Guru's wonders hadn't finished yet! Guru Gobind Rai brought them out of his tent. After giving them another life, do you know what Guru ji gave to them? He gave the priceless gift of being one with him. **Guru ji dressed in the most beautiful clothes, the Guru's Bana!** The robes of a warrior-saint. The five beloved ones, with bright faces, are now the shining image of the Guru!

From that day on, these five beloved ones are honored as being royalty. They are called kings, they are called lions... They are Singhs!

Daya Singh

DharamSingh

Himmat Singh

Mokam Singh

Sahib Singh

The five beloved ones manifest the full glory of being human! They realized the great experience of living while liberated. They became masters.

The house of Nanak now carries on in the Khalsa. The Khalsa are the fearless Sikhs who love the Guru so much, they merge with the Guru and become like the Guru.

With high actions and humble minds may we all be so humble as to obey the Guru and manifest the same greatness as he. Then, believe it or not, another amazing thing happened. Like a mountain transforming in to a swan, Guru Gobind Rai knelt down on one knee, asked them to honor him, so he too could receive the Amrit from their hands. The Five Beloved Ones had sacrificed their heads, they had offered their lives to receive this gift!.

Bhai Daya Singh asked the Guru: "What do you give as an offering to receive Amrit?" Guru Gobind Rai replied, "**Oh great Khalsa, I would sacrifice my parents and my children for your sake.**" The five beloveds were convinced of this truth and agreed to give him Amrit. They sprinkled the water on him, just as he had done for them. "**WAHIGURU JI KA KHALSA, WAHIGURU JI KI FATEH!!**" From this day on Guru Gobind Rai was now Guru Gobind... **Singh!!!** Every soul there beamed with light. It was such a beautiful scene that even the angels longed to receive the holy Amrit. After this incredible miracle, the sangat started coming forward to receive the life-giving Amrit. On that day, thousands of men became royal lions and thousands of women became graceful princesses.

The Khalsa had been formed! Corruption and darkness cannot stand in the face of the Khalsa who live beyond the fear of death and radiate the strength of God's Light. Guru ji, along with the Amrit, gave us the discipline to hold that blessing. Guru ji knew that it is only with discipline that one can remain Khalsa. Just as many people make a New Year's resolution, Guru Gobind Singh encourages us to be resolute! To stay fearless of death, and be divine humans.

Seva Studies

The theme for our assemblies for the next month is courage. In our religious assemblies led by Mrs Khalsa we will be looking at what courage is and how Sikhs can develop courage through the Guru's Teachings.

Through the Guru's Teachings, I have obtained courage, faith and the Lord.

He keeps my mind focused continually on the Lord, and the Name of the Lord

dhheeraj dharam guramath har paaeiaa nith har naamai har sio chith laavai

In our Tuesday morning assemblies, we will be looking at famous people in history who have demonstrated courage. This week we discussed the work carried out by Florence Nightingale and how through her showing courage, she paved the way for the high quality nursing we have in our hospitals in Britain today. Next week we will be looking at the work of Nelson Mandela.

Astronaut Visit

On Tuesday 19th April, Dr Michael Foale CBE will be visiting Seva School to inspire and motivate our pupils. It is hoped that the visit will generate some really good follow up activities. These we hope to share with you in our 'Wow' assembly on Friday 22nd April.

Easter Egg Collection

We collected 212 Easter egg for the Coventry Food Bank. Your kind and generous contributions enabled many people less fortunate to a special treat over the spring holiday.

Primary Projects

What a wonderful response! I would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone who completed the projects. There were many, many excellent 3D models, a lot of well thought out pieces of writing and Easter Bonnets. We were all very impressed with everyone's hard work.

Attendance

Our attendance for the week Monday 21st – Thursday 24th March 2016. I hope we see a huge improvement in our attendance figures during the summer term. We are looking at each class achieving 98%+ attendance each and every week. Any attendance figures below 96% are cause for concern. Please work with us to achieve outstanding attendance.

Class	Attendance
Reception MP	94%
Reception SS	87%
Year 1FR	95.5%
Year 1KN	97.5%
Year 2KN/ML	91.7%
Year 2LH/JW	92.2%
Year 3SP	94 %
Year 3TY	95.3%
Year 4	88.9%

Homework

It is essential that your child completes all homework given to a high standard each and every week. The main homework we give our children in the primary phase is reading. We expect all children to read for 10 – 15 minutes at least five times per week. We appreciate your support in making this happen. I would like to say an enormous thank to all the parents who supported their children in completing the Vaisakhi primary projects over the spring holidays. Some real team work. Well done to everyone who participated! Parents will have the opportunity to see the wonderful work produced when they attend their child's Vaisakhi assembly on Monday 18th April.

Dates for your diaries - Summer Term 2016

Dates	Activity
18 th April	Vaisakhi Assembly
19 th April	Astronaut Visit - Dr Michael Foale CBE
21 st April	Queen Elizabeth's 90 th Birthday Celebrations
23 rd April	St George's Day – Patron St. England/Shakespeare's Birthday
Monday 2 nd May	Bank Holiday
Monday 23 rd - Friday 27 th May	Key Stage 1 SATs
27 th May – 3 rd June	Summer Half term Holiday
Monday 6 th June	Beginning of the second half of summer term
20 th - 24 th June	Art Week
6 th or 8 th July	Proposed Primary Sports Day
12 th July	Reports sent out
14 th July	Proposed Parent Consultations
18 th July	Celebration Assembly – Times to be given for each phase at a later stage
20 th July	End of term

Remaining Term Dates:

Monday 11th April to Friday 27th May 2016

Monday 6th June to Wednesday 20th July 2016

Teacher Training days – Monday 11th April 2016 and Monday 6th June 2016.

In the next Standard we will include 2016/2017 term dates.

Please remember that we expect all pupils to be in full school uniform every day and to have their PE on each of the days that they have PE. I look forward to working with you all throughout the summer term. Have an enjoyable weekend

Yours sincerely

Jane Morgan
Interim Primary Leader

Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh

