

July – Raksha Bandhan – Hindu

'Raksha' means 'protection' and 'Bandhan' means 'bond' or 'tie' and this festival is celebrated by Hindus all around the world. During this festival a girl will tie a 'rakhi' or special bracelet to her brother's right wrist to protect him from evil. In return, he promises to look after her for the coming year and gives her some money as a present! In Hindu families cousins and friends join in too!

The tradition goes back over 500 years when sisters tied rakhis on their brother's wrists to protect them on the battlefield. It is said to have begun when there was a terrible war between the gods and the demons and the wife of the god Indra tied a rakhi around his wrist to keep him safe.

The Beavers might like to make friendship bracelets from plaited coloured wools or a decorated rakhi to give to their friend or a family member at home!

Rakhi Equipment: card circles, ribbon or wool, tape, art materials, glitter, beads, sequins, glue

- Cut card circles to make the decorative centre of the rakhi - use gold or silver card to make it extra special!
- Attach a length of ribbon or wool to the back of the card circle with tape - this will tie around the wrist.
- The Beavers can decorate the card circle of their rakhi with felt pens, colouring pencils and glitter, beads and sequins to make it extra special!

During this festival, prayers are said to the gods to keep loved ones safe - Lakshmi the goddess of wealth and prosperity and Ganesh the god of wisdom are often worshipped. Gifts of delicious sweets are also given - laddu, gulab jamun and barfi!



Ganesh



Lakshmi

Hindu children are taught to be kind, helpful, caring and respect others - teachings which echo our own Scouting Promises!