SMITHILLS SCHOOL
SUCCESS FOR ALL

C. Dewse: Headteacher
BA (Hons), PGCE, National SENCO Award, NPQH

Bolton impact trust
Believe Inspire Transform

Smithills Dean Road, Bolton, BL1 6JS 01204 842382 office@smithillsschool.net smithillsschool.net

CDE/CMS/Diwali

4 November 2026

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we enter this special season, I would like to take the opportunity to recognise and celebrate Diwali – the Festival of Lights.

This year, Diwali falls on Sunday 8th November 2026, with celebrations taking place over several days. It is one of the most important festivals in the Hindu tradition and is celebrated by millions around the world. Diwali represents the triumph of light over darkness and good over evil. The return of Lord Rama after defeating Ravana is remembered through the lighting of lamps (diyas), colourful decorations and the sharing of sweets and gifts.

For many, Diwali also marks the beginning of a new year. It is a time for reflection, fresh beginnings and the spreading of joy and hope. Homes are decorated, prayers are offered and families come together to celebrate.

Attendance and Religious Observance. We recognise the importance of Diwali to our families. In line with our school's approach to religious observance, one day of authorised absence will be permitted for students observing Diwali where this falls on a school day. Please notify the school in advance so that attendance can be recorded appropriately. We also ask that students return promptly following their day of religious observance, as regular attendance is essential to their learning.

To all our families who are celebrating, we send our warmest wishes for a Diwali filled with joy, peace, and prosperity. May this festival bring light into your lives and continue to strengthen the sense of community we share.

Even for those who do not mark Diwali, this time of year is a wonderful reminder of the values of kindness, generosity, and unity that we all hold dear.

Wishing you a very Happy Diwali!

Regards

C. Dewse

C. Dewse
Headteacher