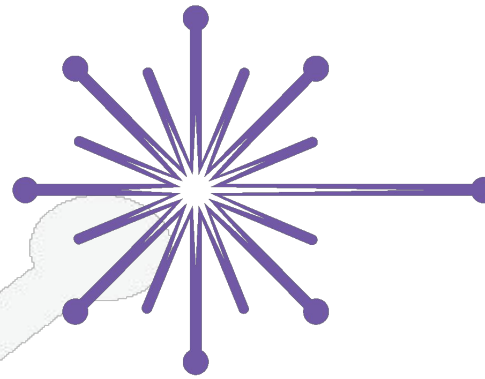




THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST



Priory Press: Special Edition



Module 1 - Edition 3 Autumn Festivities Special!



Seasonal Feature

Emily



Autumn

From Monday the 22nd September to Sunday the 21st December 2025, Autumn is here again in the UK. We all recognise autumn as the season of falling leaves, and colours of reds, oranges, yellows, and browns that fill nature. So, to celebrate another spin of the earth to bring us to this season, here are four facts about Autumn.

- The word Autumn comes from the Latin word 'autumnus' which means "season of harvest" or "passing of the year."
- Before the 16th century, Autumn was more commonly known as harvest from the German original meaning of "picking," "plucking," or "reaping." Autumn was previously known as harvest because it was the time for gathering crops from reaping after the summer to feed locals. This was important as the number of crops made determined how well the community would survive in winter.
- Because of different time zones of the earth, half of the world experience Autumn in September like us in the northern hemisphere, and the other half of the world, the southern hemisphere, in March. This includes countries like Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, etc.
- In Autumn, leaves turn yellow, red, orange, and brown due to the days shortening and the temperatures dropping. Chlorophyll which is the green pigment in leaves, breaks down to reveal other colours beneath.

From exploring the history behind Autumn in hope of appreciating the colder season, meaning has been discovered and brought a light to this underrated time of year. So, put on a film, snuggle under blankets, and make a hot chocolate to really take in the autumn feel.

Autumnal Feature

Anusha



Día de Los Muertos: Celebration of Life and Remembrance

Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, is a vibrant and deeply meaningful holiday, celebrated primarily in Mexico and parts of Latin America. Far from being a sombre occasion, it is a joyous and colourful celebration that honours deceased loved ones. Rooted in indigenous traditions and Catholic beliefs, this multi-day festival is a testament to the enduring bonds of family and the cyclical nature of life and death. The holiday, which takes place on the first or second of November, is marked by a variety of unique celebrations. Families construct elaborate ofrendas (altars) in their homes, laden with marigolds, candles, photographs, and the favourite foods and beverages of the departed. These offerings are meant to entice the spirits to return home and share in the festivities. Sugar skulls, pan de Muertos (bread of the dead), and intricate paper cut-outs known as papel picado add to the festive atmosphere, transforming homes into vibrant displays of love and remembrance. Cemeteries are also a focal point, where families gather to clean and decorate gravesites, often spending the night in vigil, sharing stories, music, and food.

Public celebrations include colourful parades with elaborate costumes and face painting, particularly the iconic skull makeup known as "calaveras." Music and dance are integral parts of the festivities, with traditional songs and dances performed in town squares and community centres. Día de los Muertos is a powerful reminder of the importance of cherishing memories and celebrating the lives of those who have passed on. It is a time for families to come together, share stories, and honour their ancestors in a spirit of joy and reverence. This unique cultural tradition offers a beautiful perspective on death, embracing it as a natural part of life's journey and keeping the spirits of loved ones alive in our hearts.

Autumnal News

Ted



Spectacular Autumn Sights Due This Year

Summer is officially over. The days will be getting shorter, and so will most peoples' tempers. I mean, who doesn't love Summer? In Autumn, it's back to work and school, and people are a bit fed up. But is there really a point in grumbling? After all, experts have made the exciting prediction that Britain's woodlands are set to burst into one of their most vibrant colour displays in years.

Fiery reds, vibrant oranges, and crisp yellows are going to pave the streets of England this year. But why? Well, this July was officially the hottest on record with non-stop sun, says the Met Office. Though the changes in weather patterns due to climate change pose a number of challenges, these warmer temperatures help trees produce more natural sugars in their leaves, which turn into the bright shades we all enjoy in autumn. So where should you head to make the most of it? Peak autumn viewing runs from now right through to November, with some of the most dazzling displays in northern England. Grizedale Forest in the Lake District and Kielder Forest in Northumberland are among the top spots for fantastic views.

Summer may be a firm favourite for some people, but why not give Autumn a chance? Grab a coat and some boots, and be ready for the sight of your life.

Halloween Feature

Max



Halloween

Halloween. A wonderful time of year. A time for fun and excitement in trick or treating. Varieties of costumes, pumpkin designs, house decorations, the lot. And to celebrate, here are just a few facts about Halloween itself as a tradition:

- ☐ Did you know that the first Jack O’lanterns were actually made from Turnips!
- ☐ Are you afraid of Halloween? If so then that means you have Samhainophobia!
- ☐ In Medieval Europe, the owls (which are a common symbol for Halloween nowadays) were thought to be witches and so if you heard the call of an owl then it meant that someone was going to die! Spooky!
- ☐ The idea of Trick-or-treating evolved from the very old Celtic tradition of laying out treats and food at that time of year to pacify the Spirits who roamed the streets at Samhain! This is a very sacred celebration that marks the end of the Celtic calendar year!
- ☐ Ireland is believed to be the original birthplace of Halloween.
- ☐ The colours black and orange that are so commonly associated with Halloween have a bit of a deeper meaning. The orange symbolises strength and endurance and the brown and gold stands for harvest and autumn. Meanwhile, the black symbolises death and darkness and so acts as a reminder that, at one point in time, Halloween was a festival that marked the boundaries between life and death!

Halloween News

Sara



Halloween Costume Swaps and Donations

Halloween is arriving soon, and many people have already started to decorate their front doors and gardens. There have also been parades worldwide, which are going viral online, and even celebrities joining in the fun!

The Brierly Hill Library in Birmingham have decided to celebrate Halloween by making a program that will help children in need! The program is called the costume swap and it already has about one million people volunteering! The costume swap doesn't only help children in need - it also helps out families who are trying to save money. The people in the library noticed that many families and children are struggling to afford Halloween costumes, which is why they decided to create the costume swap program, allowing people to donate money and costumes to the children in need, so that families on a tight budget can also have a fun Halloween. The staff who created World Book Day have also put their efforts into making the costume swap happen. If you would like to take part in this event you could either donate a costume that you don't want for others to wear, or donate some money to help out. The Costume swap is a free event in the library and you are able to take part in this event until the 31st of October.

The Halloween swap has made many children and adults happy, and the library team managed to create a free opportunity for people who are struggling this year. Many people who have needed this left the library with happy faces saying that "You made Halloween possible for my child"!

Halloween Feature

Anusha and Aashritha



The History and Origins of Halloween

Halloween's roots can be traced back over two thousand years to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, a time when the veil between the living and the dead was believed to be thin. The Celts, inhabiting regions of present-day Ireland, the United Kingdom, and Northern France, marked the end of Summer and the harvest, and the beginning of the dark, cold winter - a time often associated with death.

Samhain was a period of great significance, filled with rituals and beliefs centred around the spirit world. The Celts believed that on the night of Samhain, the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead blurred, allowing spirits, both benevolent and malevolent, to roam freely. To appease these spirits, food and animal sacrifices were offered. Bonfires were lit, not only to provide warmth and light but also to ward off evil entities. People often wore costumes, typically made of animal skins and heads, to disguise themselves from wandering spirits or to mimic and honour them.

As the Roman Empire expanded into Celtic territories, their traditions began to merge. The Roman festivals of Feralia, commemorating the passing of the dead, and Pomona, honouring the goddess of fruit and trees, were gradually integrated into Samhain celebrations. This cultural fusion marked a significant step in the evolution of Halloween. However, it was the impact of Christianity that shaped the holiday into the Halloween we know today. In the eighth century, Pope Gregory IV designated the first of November as All Saints' Day, a day to honour all Christian saints and martyrs. All Saints' Day incorporated some of the pagan traditions of Samhain, and the night before became known as All Hallows' Eve, eventually shortened to Halloween.

Style Feature: Halloween

Emma



Halloween trends

Lately lots of people have started following Halloween 'trends'. By Halloween trends I mean people all following something or multiple people all copying something someone else has done. One of the most recent trends is where someone has decided it is cool or trendy to have Halloween movie marathons. Other people are following a trend to 'unleash their creativity in Halloween decorations' or decorating everywhere, everything, or even everyone.

Some people are even saying to 'ditch the orange and go for the spooky'. What they mean by that is people should stop decorating with orange pumpkins and orange lights and instead they should use 'jeweled colours' such as rich green or deep purple. Getting rid of traditional colours is meant to turn your decoration style from haunted house to elegant Halloween. Black is also in style. Multiple people have told us that 'black is chic' and charred branches or black candles are a good way to add it in.

Some stylish ways to celebrate Halloween are to make your decorations work with your home not against it, or to get dried florals in autumn colours. Painting pumpkins, or giving them 'makeovers', is also a brilliant way to be part of it all. Along with painting pumpkins people have started to change the colours of their houses, floors, furniture and maybe even walls. Many people have also started decorating their doors with purposefully broken plant pots and dead trees. People have also started knitting, crocheting and sewing pumpkins to fit the theme. Other ways people are fitting the theme range from turning pumpkins into vases to adding bows on LED candles.

Seasonal Feature - Diwali

Anusha and Aashritha



Diwali: Festival of Light and How it's Celebrated

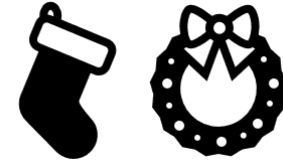
Diwali, the illustrious Festival of Lights, is a radiant and joyous occasion celebrated by millions worldwide. More than just a religious observance, Diwali is a profound and symbolic celebration of the triumph of light over darkness, good over evil, and knowledge over ignorance. Its roots are deeply entwined with the richness of ancient Indian traditions and, over time, Diwali has evolved into a global phenomenon, bridging geographical divides and uniting diverse cultures in a shared spirit of festivity.

The historical narrative of Diwali is richly layered, with a diverse array of legends and deities gracing its origins across different regions and communities. In the northern parts of India, Diwali is often associated with the epic tale of Lord Rama's triumphant return to Ayodhya, his kingdom, after his victory over the demon king Ravana of Lanka. This homecoming is celebrated with immense joy, symbolising the return of righteousness and justice. In contrast, in the southern regions of India, the festival commemorates the valiant victory of Lord Krishna over the demonic Narakasura, who had spread fear and chaos. Despite these varied narratives, the underlying essence of Diwali remains consistent: a resounding affirmation of the eternal battle between good and evil, with light ultimately prevailing and bringing hope to humanity.

In the modern era, Diwali's radiant glow extends far beyond the Indian subcontinent, illuminating homes and hearts in countless countries around the world. Celebrated with immense fervour by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs, and Buddhists alike, the festival is marked by a symphony of vibrant traditions and customs. Homes are decorated with lights, colourful lanterns, and intricate rangoli patterns. The air is filled with the enticing aroma of delicious sweets and savoury dishes, and the exchange of gifts among family and friends. The lighting of diyas (traditional oil lamps) and candles symbolises the dispelling of darkness, ignorance, and negativity, while welcoming prosperity, knowledge, and joy into peoples' lives. Across the globe, Diwali is commemorated with grand cultural extravaganzas, mesmerising firework displays, which paint the night sky with vibrant colours, and community gatherings.

Festive News

Holly



Shops are Stocking Christmas Items Before Halloween!

As many have noticed, shops have already been filled with Santa Claus instead of pumpkins, and there are lots of Christmas chocolates instead of gummy eyes and bat-shaped sweets. There have even been some reports of mince pies in the reduced section already!

Some shops do this with chocolates because they know that people will buy and eat them before Christmas, and then get more so it makes them more money. Speculation is going on about how it may not be a fight between products, but more between the actual holidays themselves, and their popularity. Some Christians and people of other religions don't celebrate Halloween as it possibly has some gruesome origins involving sacrifices to bring people back from the dead. Other reasons may be that not as many people decorate for Halloween even if they celebrate it, causing less stock to be sold and having companies losing money.

Should this keep happening, or should we put out decorations in shops only when it is closer to the holidays being celebrated?