

## R.E.: How do we make moral choices?

St. Mary's Church of England Primary School and Nursery



Be the BEST you can be

### Key Vocabulary

<b>Navratri</b>	Navratri is a Hindu festival that honours the divine feminine, especially the goddess Durga.
<b>deities</b>	a god or goddess.
<b>moral dilemma</b>	a situation in which a difficult choice has to be made between two courses of action.
<b>saints</b>	a person acknowledged as holy or virtuous and regarded in Christian faith as being in heaven after death.
<b>To fast</b>	means "to abstain from all food," or "to eat only sparingly or of certain kinds of food, especially as a religious observance."
<b>divine mother</b>	the feminine aspect of the primal creator of the universe, or the spiritual spark of all life.

Hindus believe that God is neither male nor female but is everywhere in everything and everyone. Thus they believe God can intervene to support righteous living (meaning for universal good) at anytime in any form including as a man, woman, child, animal, river, etc

### Navratri is one of the most important festivals in the Hindu calendar.

It's celebrated all over the world, typically falling between September and October during the month of Ashvin, and lasts for nine days.

Nav means **nine** and Ratri means **nights**.

People come together during Navratri to celebrate Durga, the mother goddess who carries lots of weapons in her arms.

How the festival is celebrated varies depending on where people live but during Navratri some families choose to fast, only having milk, water, fruit and nuts during the day, followed by a full meal after sunset. Some people only have water and a simple meal at night. The celebrations also involve lots of dancing!



### Navratri

### General Knowledge

#### The Three Female Devis

#### Lakshmi – the provider

Lakshmi is the consort of the god Vishnu. She is one of the most popular goddesses of Hindu mythology and is known as the goddess of wealth and purity.



#### Durga- Protector/Powerhouse

Durga is the righteous, fearless, protective mother of the universe. The all-powerful embodiment of shakti - the creative feminine energy who brought the universe into being - Durga wages a war against the corruption of the human spirit.



#### Saraswati- Teacher

Saraswati is the goddess of learning, arts and music. She shows the power of knowledge and pure thought. The prayer beads signify the importance of Meditation while the water shows that Saraswati helps to purify people's thoughts. Saraswati's four arms represent the mind, the imagination, reasoning and self-understanding.