

*Janmashtami*

## How do we remember things?

1. How do you remember special days?

*Are there things around your home that help you?*

2. How do you remember special people?

*Do you use pictures or items to help remember them?*

## How do we remember things?

We all remember things in different ways and there is no right or wrong way of remembering.

- Some people see images in their heads when they remember
- Some people remember the feelings they have for the special person or date
- Some people can think about the things that happened

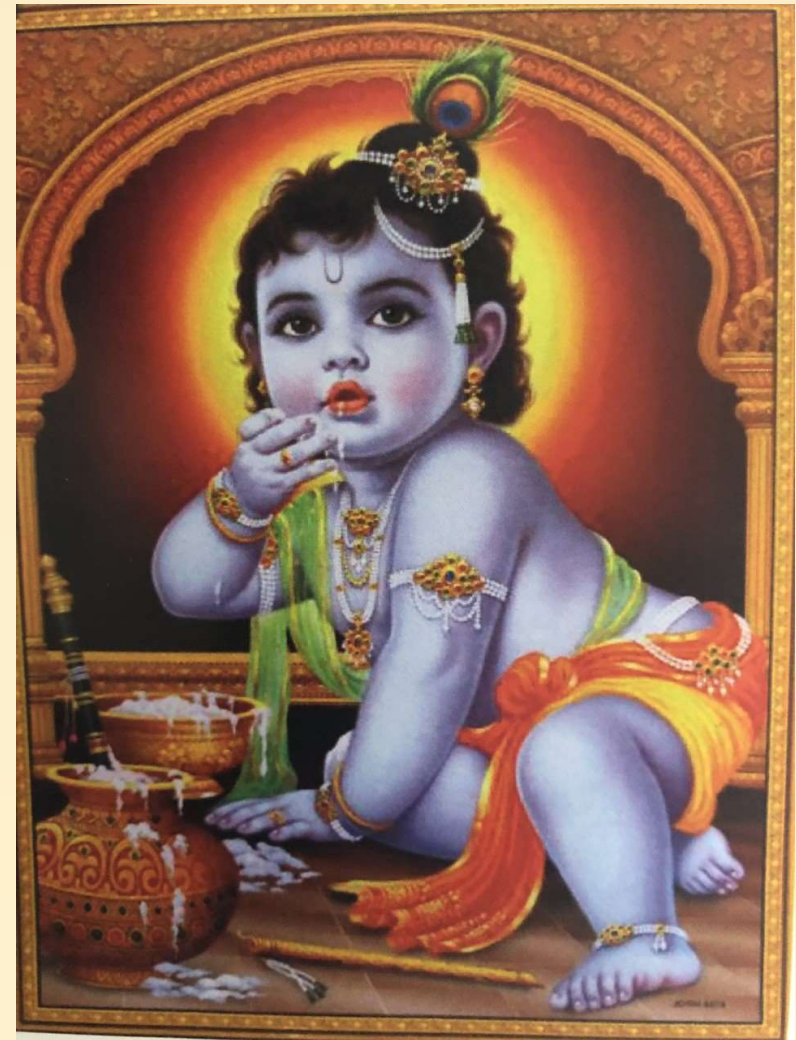
How do you remember things?

*We are going to explore how Hindus remember Krishna's birthday.*

*Have a look at the picture of Krishna.*

- *What do you notice about Krishna?*
- *What colour is he?*
- *What is he wearing?*
- *What about the jewellery?*
- *What do you think he is eating?*

*Hindus use this picture to help them remember Krishna.*



*Retell the story of Krishna's birth.*

*You may want to break this story down and pause at different points to ensure they are understanding what is happening. In class we sometimes act these stories out whilst reading about them, which is something you could try.*

*You may need to tell this story a couple of times.*

Many years ago lived a wicked and evil king called Kansa. He was very mean and cruel, and the people of his kingdom were terrified of him.

One day, a fortune teller told the wicked Kansa that a child would be born who would take over his kingdom. He was furious and demanded to know who would be the mother of this child. "It will be you sister", was the reply.

So Kansa threw his sister and her husband into prison and they stayed there in misery. Several babies were born to this good, kind couple, but the wicked Kansa saw to it that each baby was killed.

Some time passed. One special night, a very special baby was born to this couple. They loved him dearly, and called him Krishna. But they were terrified. The wicked Kansa might find the child and have him killed. So Krishna's father carefully wrapped baby Krishna in rags and placed him gently in a basket and headed for the prison door. Miraculously, the locks undid, the bolts flew back and the prison door opened.

"Be careful of the guards", whispered Krishna's mother. But they need not have feared. The guards were fast asleep.

Across the courtyard, Krishna's father crept towards the huge prison gates. As he approached, the locks undid and the gates slowly opened. Krishna's father and baby Krishna were free! Father ran through the countryside until he came to a river.

He stepped into the river. He needed to cross the river in order to get out of Kansa's kingdom. Deeper and deeper he went, as the waters swirled around him. Krishna's father was really worried and held the baby above his head, as the waters splashed and swirled and he believed that he would drown.

Suddenly, something amazing happened - the little baby Krishna put out his little foot and touched the swirling water. Instantly, the waters calmed and parted, and Krishna was carried safely to the other side by his grateful father.



In the safety of another land, Krishna's father found friends of his who were good and kind. They took baby Krishna into their care and loved him and looked after him until he grew up to be a good, kind, strong, brave young man. And he did take over the kingdom of the wicked Kansa and ruled it with love and kindness.

- *Which parts of the story do Hindus like to remember most do you think? Why?*
- *Which parts of the story will you remember most and why?*