

India News

Happy Pongal!

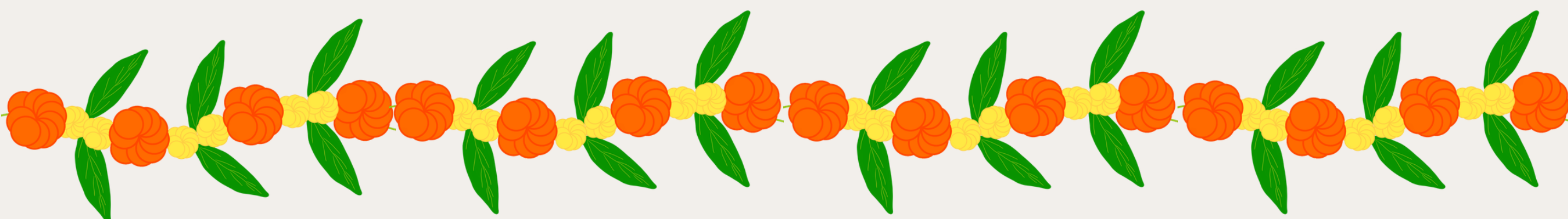


The students and teachers celebrated the yearly harvest festival Pongal from 14th - 17th January. Spanning over 4 days, the first day is for renewal and fresh starts. Families clean their homes, discard old belongings and welcome the new by decorating entrances with colourful rangoli (or 'kolam', in Tamil).

The second day is the main event, honouring the Sun God with a big celebration in which families cook a dish called Pongal, meaning 'to boil over'. Rice is cooked in boiling milk in a clay pot outside, sometimes decorated with fresh flowers and sugar canes. The dish is ready once the pot overflows, and 'Pongalo Pongal!' is cheered.

The third day is dedicated to the farm animals for their role in agriculture. Cattle are bathed and decorated with flower garlands and their horns are painted. They are walked through the towns in processions with music and words of thanks.

The final day is all about togetherness and enjoyment. Families go on outings, visit relatives, share leftovers from the feast, and spend time outdoors. It's a relaxed, happy close to the festival, celebrating bonds, community and the simple joy of being together. During Pongal, students celebrated at school and at home. The teachers had a gathering, making biryani rice, and played games together to celebrate. A dance was also organised for the students, encouraging them to wear bright, colourful clothes and come together to enjoy the festive spirit of Pongal.





On 21st December, we took part in Manor Gym's Winter Solstice celebration. The event featured festive stalls selling Christmas gifts as well as handmade items from the tailoring project. Children had a wonderful time getting creative by making paper lanterns, which they later used to light up the streets of Whitehawk. The celebrations also included a lively disco filled with Christmas music, giving everyone a chance to dance and have fun. To round off the evening, Alanna (trustee) read a story to the children, building excitement and anticipation for Christmas Day.

In different news, we are delighted to share that the tailoring items stocked at Jules Emporium in Brighton raised a fantastic £114 in December, with all proceeds going directly towards supporting our projects in India. This contribution reflects the incredible impact of local support combined with the skill and creativity of the tailoring project. We are extremely grateful to Jules Emporium and everyone who supported by purchasing items for Christmas gifts or for themselves.

Spain News

Every ticket makes a difference



The Euroaula students hosted their annual Christmas raffle at the university to raise funds for Indian Futures, and it was a huge success. They secured an impressive range of high-quality prizes, which sparked plenty of excitement and encouraged many people to purchase multiple tickets in the hope of winning one of the fantastic rewards on offer. The enthusiasm and generosity shown throughout the raffle highlighted the students' dedication and creativity, and raised £1,560.

