

## The Festival of Miss Smart

- Teacher** Great assembly as always Mrs. Pennyworth. I'd forgotten how many religious festivals were coming up.
- Head** Ah thank you, Miss Smart. Yes, it's so important for children to learn about them all, even if they don't celebrate them.
- Teacher** I couldn't agree more. My class are doing Diwali next week.
- Head** Brilliant! What have you got planned?
- Teacher** Oh, I won't be here. It clashes with my own.
- Head** Your own...?
- Teacher** Festival. I've decided they look so much fun, I've made one of my own.
- Head** I'm not exactly sure that's a reason to be off work, Miss Smart...
- Teacher** But we allow children time off for their religion's festival, don't we?
- Head** Yes... but that's for established festivals, like Hanukkah or Vesak.
- Teacher** Well I've established my own. The Festival of Miss Smart.
- Head** But festivals are celebrated across the world. Millions taking time off at the same time. All part of the same religion.
- Teacher** Mine's probably just me and my cat, I grant you. But it'll have everything else – special food, presents, songs. You know, traditions.
- Head** Don't traditions need to have been around for a bit?
- Teacher** Mine have been around since next week. Traditions must start somewhere.
- Head** I can see that, but where will this end? What if Mr. Boggs the caretaker wants a week off to worship his broom-handles?
- Teacher** Most festivals involve objects. You showed us during assembly.
- Head** But they're a bit more special than broom-handles, aren't they?
- Teacher** Different things are special to different people. And give it time. I bet the first Christmas tree looked a bit odd indoors. This idea has legs, Mrs. Pennyworth.
- Head** I'm not sure you've got a leg to stand on, Miss Smart.