

Raksha Bandhan

August

1. As the pupils enter

Have the webpage open. Play music and display the Raksha Bandhan image.

2. Introduction

Begin by asking pupils about their brothers and sisters and gathering the responses. For example:

1. Who here has a brother or a sister - perhaps one who is with us today?
2. When might we celebrate having a brother or sister...and how? (Birthdays; Christmas; by giving presents; other occasions...)
3. Is it always easy having a brother or sister - are there ever squabbles?

Go on to explain that the children are going to watch a short video about a Hindu festival that celebrates brothers and sisters (and refer to the words / names on the image if you wish to).

3. Play the video

Duration: 3' 45". Final words: '...be there, at the right time.'

4. Time to talk

Share the 'Video questions' to consolidate recall of the information.

- What is a *rakhi*?
- How have *rakhis* changed over time?
- Who does the god Vishnu go to live with?
- What does Simran pray for as she ties the *rakhi*?
- Why does Vraj touch Simran's feet?
- Who can you give a *rakhi* to if you do not have a brother / sister?

Then ask pupils to tell the person next to them who they would want to tie a *rakhi* on / give a present to? *If you could choose anybody in the world to give rakhi to / receive rakhi from, who would it be and why? Do we ever make promises that we cannot keep? Do we choose who we are 'there for'? Is this always planned or can we be there for somebody 'spontaneously'?*

5. Opportunity to sing

An opportunity to sing your chosen song. Suggestions on the webpage.



Webpage with video

6. Opportunity to reflect

Sometimes we say to others - or they say to us - 'I'll be there for you'... meaning 'I'll support you'...or 'I'll look after you.'

Who is always there for you..?

How do you know that somebody is there for you..?

How do people behave if they are there for you..? What do they do to show you..? How do they speak to you, what do they say..?

Would anybody say that you are always there for them..?

Is there someone who needs you to be there for them today..?

7. Opportunity for prayer

Use your standard form of address ('Dear God', 'Dear Lord', 'Let us pray', etc) and:

Thank you for our brothers and sisters and families.

Thank you that you are always there for me.

Help me to remember that at my toughest times, you are actually nearest to me...walking by my side.

Amen.