THE FA & KICK IT OUT'S CALENDAR OF RELIGIOUS FESTIVALS 2018-19

KICK IT OUT
25 YEARS OF CAMPAIGNING FOR EQUALITY IN FOOTBALL

The FA
FOR ALL

The Carob Tree Project
MCS
MACCABI GB
For an active Jewish Community
HINDU FORUM OF EUROPE
NSO
3FF
mwsf
CITYSIKHS
www.citysikhs.org.uk
SPORTS CHAPLAINCY UK

KEY RELIGIOUS DATES FOR THE 2018-19 SEASON

	2018 AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	2019 JANUARY	FEBUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY
BUDDHISM							5 CHINESE NEW YEAR			19 BUDDHA DAY		
CHRISTIANITY					25 CHRISTMAS DAY			6 LENT BEGINS	19/21/22 GOOD FRIDAY EASTER SUNDAY/ EASTER MONDAY			
HINDUISM	26 RAKSHA BANDHAN	9 FIRST DAY OF NAVARATRI		7 DIWALI				21 HOLI	6 HINDU NEW YEAR			
JUDAISM		10/11/19 YOM KIPPUR/ ROSH HASHANAH	1/2/21/22 SHEMINI ATZERET & SIMCHAT TORAH/ SUCCOT		23-30 CHANUKAH (HANNUKAH)			21 PURIM	19-27 PASSOVER*		9-10 SHAVUOT*	
ISLAM	21 or 22 EID-AL -ADHA	12/21 AL- HIJRA/ ASHURA								5 May - 4 June/5 June RAMADAN/ EID AL-FITR		
SIKHISM				7 /22 DIWALI/ BANDI CHHOR DIVAS BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK		13 BIRTHDAY OF GURU GOBIND SINGH			14 VAISAKHI			

Some dates are provisional, based on the lunar calendar and/or sighting of the moon. The FA recognise that in the case of most of the faiths concerned there are various ways of spelling the same word. This is because of the range of languages (and alphabets) of the original terms. Some dates may also vary and the date of local celebrations may differ. We therefore recommend anyone using this calendar to arrange fixtures and events only after consultation with local representatives of the faith communities concerned. In this calendar we have only highlighted the six largest faiths in England by population and recognise there will be other faiths not mentioned.

*All these festivals are observed for two days. All Jewish Festivals start the night before.

KICK IT OUT

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GUIDANCE TO GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL AROUND FIXTURES AND RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

As part of The Football Association's commitment to providing equal opportunities for all to participate in football, Rule B5 was amended at the 2005 AGM in order to include all religions.

RULE B5 FOOTBALL & RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

(a) A Participant cannot be compelled to play football on bona fide occasions where religious observance precludes such activity, save where the Participant:
(i) has consented to do so on such occasions;
or
(ii) is registered as a player under written contract, which shall be taken as consent to play on such occasions unless otherwise provided for in the contract.
(b) Annually, when planning programmes, Competitions shall define and notify agreed dates of such occasions.

GUIDANCE

In order to support you with your planning this guidance has been written to provide you with the most significant dates for religious observance together with some information on them. It is not intended that you avoid all these dates, and the list is by no means exhaustive, but you are advised to consult with your clubs and communities as to the most relevant dates to consider for your locality as this will vary considerably.

A calendar of these dates will be provided by The FA annually. You should note that some religions work on a lunar calendar (10/11 months) rather than the Gregorian (12 months) which means dates will vary from year to year. In addition some dates can only be confirmed by the sighting of the moon so are sometimes expressed as two or three dates and confirmed nearer the time of the festival. Some dates also have alternative spellings.

FAITH DATES BY RELIGION

Buddhism

- Chinese New year
- Buddha Day

Christianity

- Christmas Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday
- Sundays unless the League is a Sunday League (membership of or participation in Sunday football shall be taken as consent to play on Sundays, except when Christmas Day be on a Sunday)

Hinduism

- Diwali (or Divali)
- Navaratri – this is nine nights but usually finishes quite late, not ideal when playing matches
- Raksha Bandhan
- Holi – Only for evening fixtures as Holi is celebrated in late afternoon/evenings

Judaism

- Rosh Hashanah
- Yom Kippur
- Passover – the last two days of the festival
- Sukkot – the first two days of the festival
- Friday evening to Saturday evening (Sabbath) unless the League is a Saturday League (membership of, or participation in, Saturday football shall be taken as consent to play on Saturdays)

Islam

- Eid-al-Fitr (occurs at the end of Ramadan)
- Eid-al-Adha
- Al-Hijra/Muharram

Sikhism

- Diwali (Divali or Bandi Chhor Divas)
- Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)
- Birthday of Guru Nanak



EXPLANATION OF KEY RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Al-Hijra/Muharram
Islamic New Year and the first of the month of Muharram, where Muslims celebrate the Prophet Muhammad's migration from Mecca to Medina. For Shi'as the first ten days are a period of mourning culminating in Ashura Day, commemorating the martyrdom of Imam Husayn.

Birthday of Guru Nanak
Birthday of founder of Sikhism. This is one of the holiest of the Sikhs which is celebrated over a three day period.

Buddha Day
Buddha Day or Wesak celebrates the Buddha's birth and for some marks his enlightenment and death.

Chinese New Year
The most important day in the traditional Chinese calendar and marks the beginning of the first Lunar month.

Christmas
Celebrates the birth of Jesus who Christians believe to be the Son of God. Christians focus on the incarnation of God becoming a man in this major festival.

Diwali (or Divali) – (Hindu/Sikh)
Festival of Lights. Celebration of good over evil. Victory of Lord Rama over demon Ravana and end of over 14 years of exile of Lord Rama. Prayers are said for Goddess Laxmi for prosperity at the beginning of financial year. For Sikhs this has a special significance because the sixth Guru was released from prison on Diwali.

Easter Sunday
Christians celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead.

Eid-al-Adha
This Muslim festival marks Day Three of Hajj (pilgrimage to Mecca) and also commemorates the Prophet Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his own son Ishmael.

Eid-al-Fitr
This day marks the end of the month of fasting for Muslims (Ramadan). The day is marked with prayers and festivity and presents for children.

Good Friday
This day commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus.

Hindu New Year
Often thought of as more important that Diwali, many Hindus celebrate this in the spring but some on the day following Diwali.

Holi
Spring Festival of Colours for Hindus which symbolises the triumph of good over evil. The event celebrates the death of the evil demoness Holika who was consumed by fire while her nephew Prahlad, who was a devotee of Vishnu, survived. These days the event is signified by burning large bonfires, dancing and spraying coloured powder and water on each other.

Lent
A period of preparation including prayer, fasting and reflection lasting six weeks up to Easter Sunday.

Navaratri
Nine days of dance (Garba) and celebration when the Goddess Laxmi is worshipped by Hindus.



EXPLANATION OF KEY RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES

Passover
A Jewish festival recalling the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt and celebrating the barley harvest. Unleavened bread is eaten with a special meal (Seder), with food, prayers, games and song.

Raksha Bandhan
Sisters tie holy thread onto brothers wrists for protection. Brothers in return give sisters presents and also offer the sisters protection.

Ramadan
The Islamic month of fasting from before dawn to sunset every day, normally 30 days ending with Eid-Al-Fitr.

Rosh Hashanah
Two-day religious observance that marks the start of the Jewish New Year. It is traditionally announced by blowing a shofar, a ram'shorn trumpet. It is the first of the high holy days, or 'days of awe', and celebrates the creation of the world, the repentance of sins, and the renewal of God's relationship with the Jewish people.

Sukkot
Jewish harvest festival commemorating the forty years spent in the wilderness on the way to Israel.

Vaisakhi (Baisakhi)
Founding of Khalsa (Sikhism) order of the Guru by Guru Gobind Singh – he initiated five disciples known as the Five Beloved Ones.

Yom Kippur
Day of Atonement (Jewish). The last day of 10 days of repentance and the holiest day of the year with fasting and prayer.



SUGGESTED FAITH RELATED SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

ISLAM

EID-AL-ADHA

Eid Mubarak to all our Muslim followers!

21-22 AUGUST 2018

Image of moon or lantern

MUHARRAM (ISLAMIC NEW YEAR)

Wishing all our Sh'ia followers well over Muharram

11 SEPTEMBER 2018

Solemn holiday so no appropriate image

RAMADAN

#RamadanMubarak from everyone at ..... to all those preparing to fast during the holy month.

5 MAY - 4 JUNE 2019

Image of a new moon, silver/gold bowl of dates, prayer beads



EID-AL-FITR

#EidMubarak to all our Muslim followers celebrating around the world!

5-6 JUNE 2019

Image of a new moon

JUDAISM

ROSH HASHANAH

Wishing all our Jewish followers a Shana Tova today!

10-11 SEPTEMBER 2018

Image of apple dipped in honey

YOM KIPPUR

Wishing all our Jewish followers well over the fast of Yom Kippur

18-19 SEPTEMBER 2018

Solemn holiday so no appropriate image

CHANUKAH

Happy Chanukah to all our Jewish friends and followers who begin their celebrations today!

23-30 DECEMBER 2018

Image of Menorah

PURIM

We would like to wish a #HappyPurim to all those celebrating this evening!

21 MARCH 2019

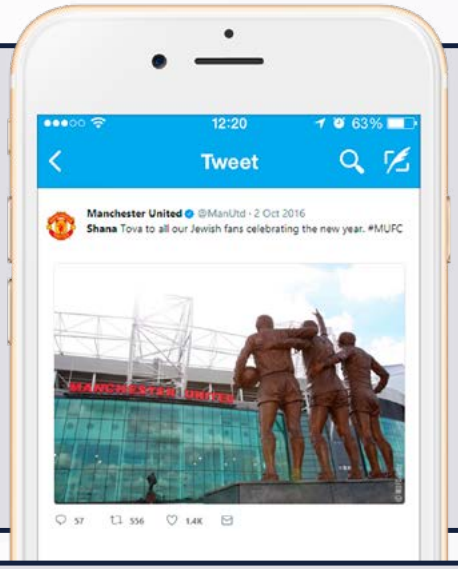
Image of Hamantaschen, traditional pastry

PASSOVER

Chag Kasher Vesameach! We would like to send our best wishes to everyone in the Jewish community as #Passover begins this evening.

19-27 APRIL 2019

Image of Matzvah, wine, crackers



CHRISTIANITY

CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas to all our followers!

25 DECEMBER 2018

Image of Christmas tree, snow, nativity scene

EASTER

Happy Easter to everyone celebrating over the extended weekend!

19-22 APRIL 2019

Image of Easter Eggs, Easter Bunny, Christ Resurrection or related imagery

KICK IT OUT

The FA FOR ALL

SUGGESTED FAITH RELATED SOCIAL MEDIA MESSAGES

SIKHISM

DIWALI

Happy Diwali and Bandi Chhore to all our Hindu, Sikh and Jain followers!

7 NOVEMBER 2018

Image of people celebrating with light or fireworks. If Sikh specific, an image of the Golden Temple with fireworks

BIRTHDAY OF GURU NANAK

Happy Guru Nanak Gurpurb to all our Sikh followers. We hope you enjoy the festivities!

22 NOVEMBER 2018

Image of Ik Onkar, a Sikh symbol

BIRTHDAY OF GURU GOBIND SINGH

Happy Guru Gobind Singh Gurpurab to all our Sikh followers – he stood for the universal values of freedom, equality and justice for all!

or

Wishing Sikhs everywhere a very happy Guru Gobind Singh Gurpurb. Gurpurb di lakh lakh vidaye! (The last part of the message means "Many many good wishes for the gurpurb")

13 JANUARY 2019

Image of Anandpur Sahib (the birthplace of the Khalsa) or the Takht Sri Patna Sahib (Gurdwara where he was born) or A Khanda (Sikh symbol)

VAISAHKI

We'd like to wish a #HappyVaisakhi to everyone from the Sikh community celebrating over the next couple days!

14 APRIL 2019

Image of the triangular flag with the Sikh insignia of the Khanda

BUDDHISM

CHINESE NEW YEAR

Happy #ChineseNewYear to all our followers who this weekend celebrate the start of the Year of the Pig!

5 FEBRUARY 2019

Image of a pig

BUDDHA DAY/VESAK

Happy Buddha Day. Best wishes for Vesak to all those celebrating across the world!

12 MAY 2019

Image of the Dharma Wheel or a silhouette of the Dharmader

HINDUISM/JAINISM

DIWALI

Happy Diwali to all our followers celebrating today!

7 NOVEMBER 2018

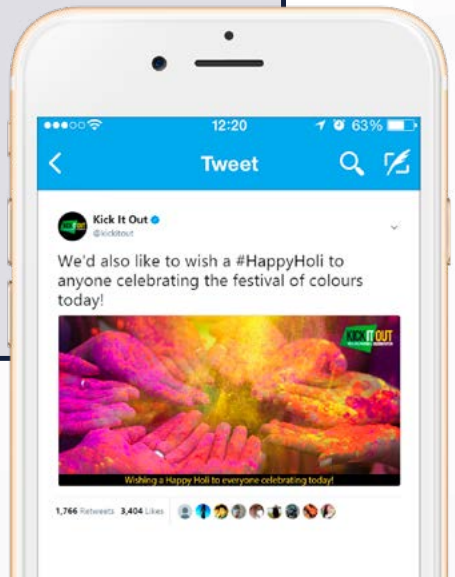
Image of people celebrating with light or fireworks

HOLI FESTIVAL

We'd like to wish a #HappyHoli to anyone celebrating the festival of colours today!

21 MARCH 2019

Image of people celebrating the festival with lots of colour



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