

# Visit to Devi Kamakshi Temple

On Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October Preps visited the Devi Kamakshi Temple. Visits to the different places of worship help children in understanding the rich and diverse culture of our country. In the past few months the children have visited the church and mosque. These visits are a way to explore the positive aspects of religion to develop appreciation and understanding of the different cultures and their beliefs.



# Circle Time

Prior to the visit a 'Circle Time' discussion in every class engages and initiated a dialogue and discussion with the children about the visit and some good practices to be followed.

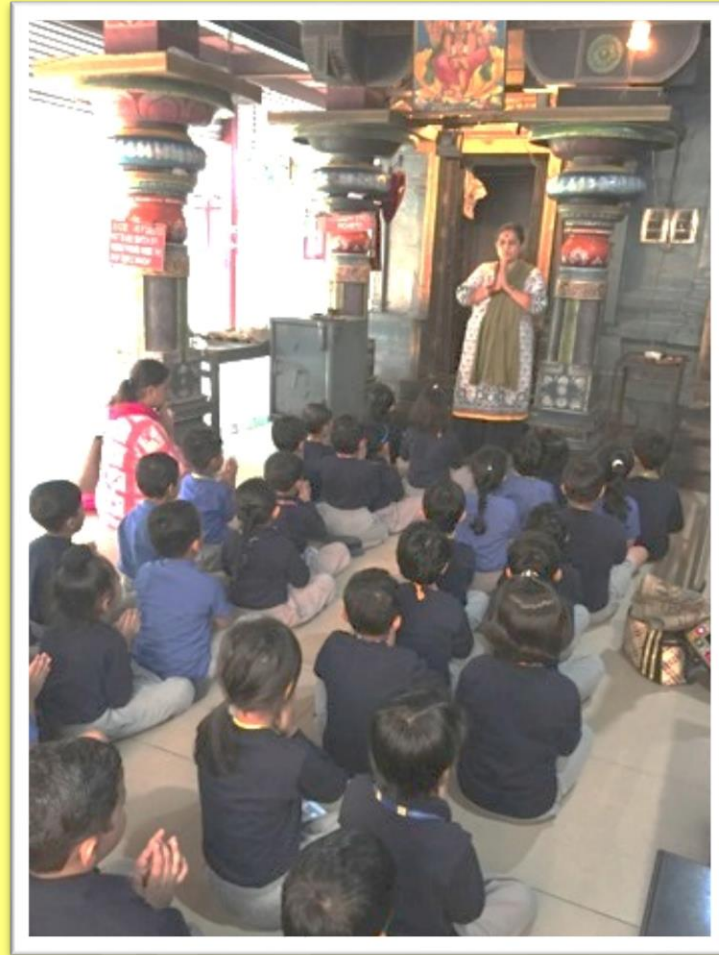
Children responded enthusiastically by saying:-

“We must look and listen carefully.”

How to be sensitive in a place of worship?

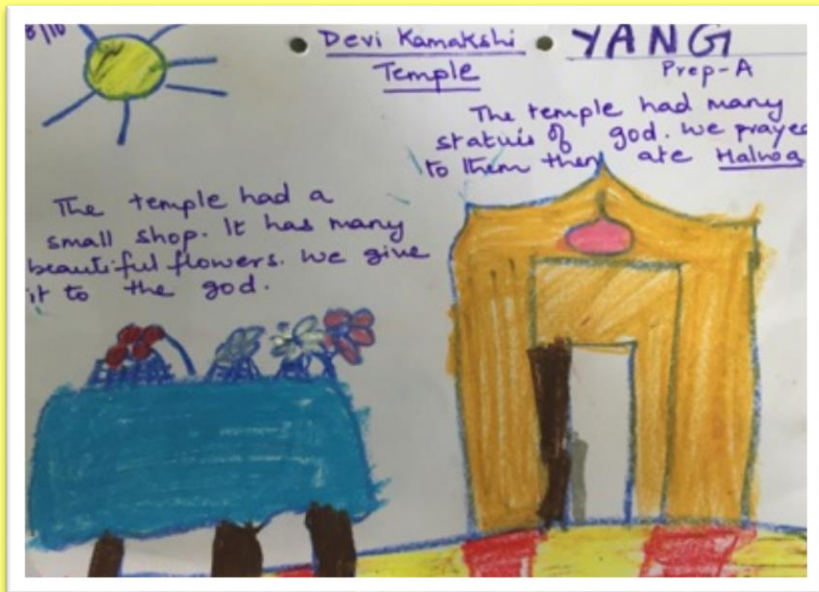
“We must not shout.”

“ We must close our eyes and pray to God.”



# Shops

Upon reaching the temple the children were fascinated to see the shops selling lotus flowers, garlands made of rose and marigold and the other offerings made in the temple like coconut, incense sticks etc.



# Deities at the temple

We received a warm welcome from Mrs. Rashmi a volunteer at the temple and the temple priest.

The children sat down in the main hall and meditated while chanting OM.

This was followed by Rashmi ma'am telling the children about the idols of Lord Ganesha, Devi Saraswati (The Goddess of learning), Devi Kamakshi and Adi Guru Shankracharya. Children sang bhajans and Asitanshu from Prep-A eagerly recited a sanskrit shloka. The children were told about sensitivity and tolerance towards other religions and about the importance of prayer and thanking God for all that we have .



# Parikrama observations

We all went on a 'parikrama' of the temple. The children keenly observed the colorful statues of Gods on the temple roof. They were extremely observant and made interesting observations like

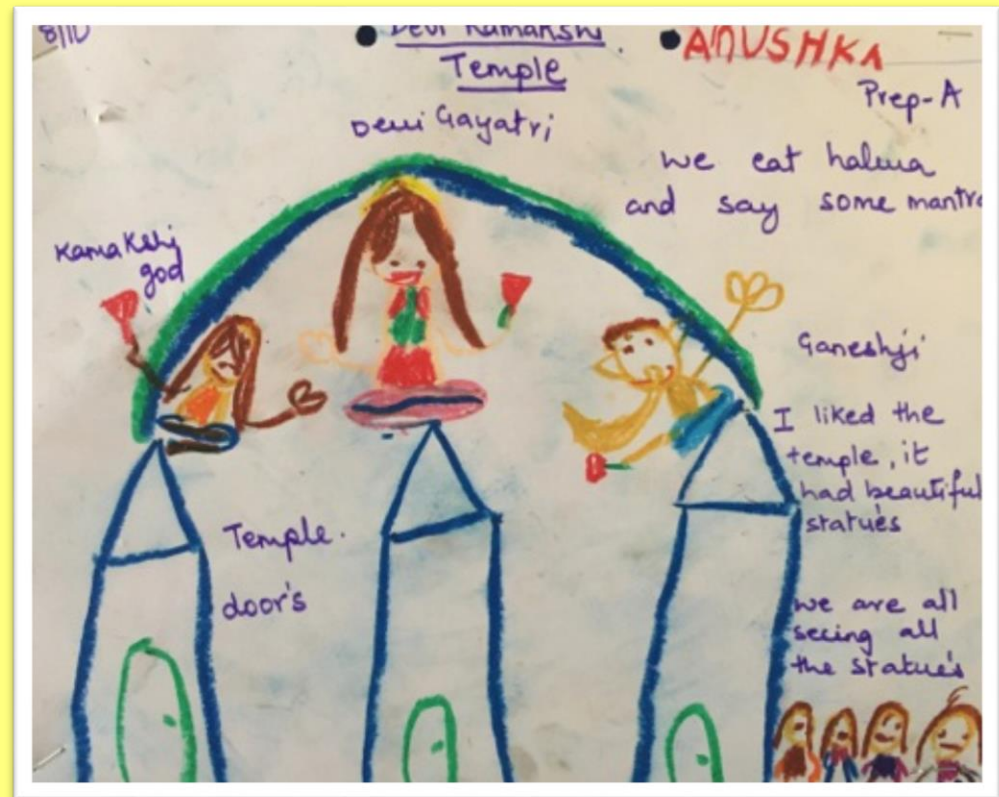
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Dean said "ma'am the top of the temple is semi-circle shape."

Joy said "the God is sitting on a lotus flower."

Tanishka said "That is lord Ganesh he is called the elephant god because he has the head of a elephant."

Jianna said "Ganesh ji loves to eat modhak and the rat is his friend."



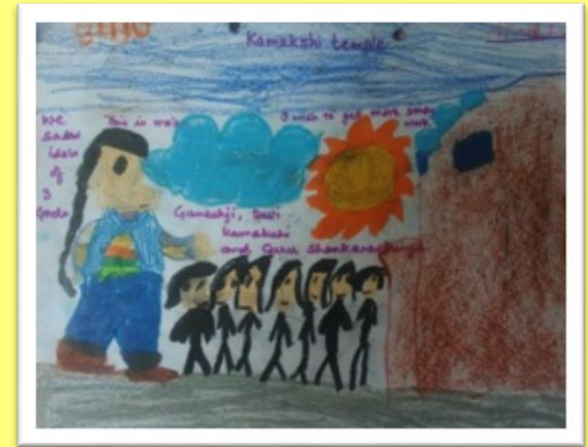
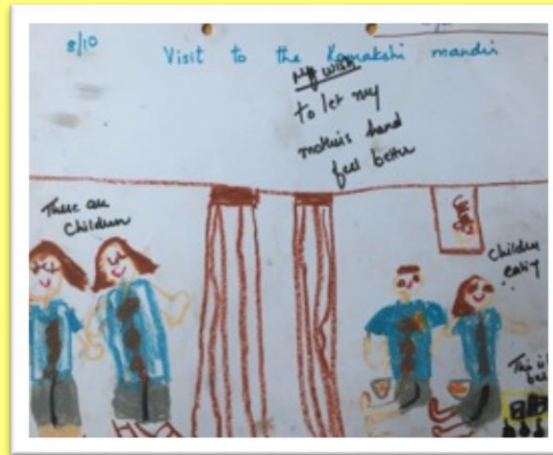
# Enjoying the prasad

The children were offered 'prasad' by the temple staff . They were mindful not to waste and shared the prasad with their friends .  
Anjay – was excited to eat the prasad and said “ maam mujhe halwa bahut acha lagah. Meineh kabhi bhi orange halwah nahi khayah”  
Aradhya – “The prasad was very tasty but I have not eaten all of it . I will take some for my family.”



# Illustrative Recall

After coming back children shared their experiences and spoke about the wishes they made. They were able to appreciate and capture the beautiful statues and carvings they had seen on the Temple walls through their vibrant illustration.



# Thank You

“I love you when you bow in your mosque, kneel in your temple, pray in your church. For you and I are sons of one religion, and it’s the spirit.” -Kahlil Gibran



**SANTA MARIA INTEGRATED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**