



# Bacton and Mendlesham primary pupils take part in colourful Holi celebrations

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**Two John Milton Academy Trust schools became a burst of colour last week – as the pupils took part in vibrant Holi celebrations.**

Pupils from Mendlesham and Bacton primary schools were treated to a visit from choreographer Kalpesh Zalavadiya who showed them a range of Garba and Bhangra dance moves.

After dancing in formation on the playground, the children got the chance to mark each other with colourful powdered paints.

Sarah King, Head of School at Bacton Primary School, said: "This was a wonderful opportunity for the children to learn about a different culture and their celebrations.

"The children had an amazing time dancing and were very excited to be given the chance to get messy with the paint.

"We had invited the parents to join in the fun too, which the children absolutely loved.

"I don't think many escaped getting covered in paint."

Although the Holi Festival is usually celebrated in March, Mr Zalavadiya travels the country the year-round visiting schools to teach pupils about his culture.

The Holi festival, which is also known as the Festival of Colours, celebrates the love of the god Radha-Krishna and marks the arrival of spring in India.

Joe Santy, Head of School at Mendlesham Primary School, said children and parents had a brilliant time.

He said: "The children absolutely loved taking part in the Garba and Bhangra dancing, and their parents looked like they were really enjoying themselves too.

"Once the paint came out, the children got very excited – I think their first targets were their parents and teachers.

"Everyone ended up covered in it – but don't worry, it was all washable.

"It was a brilliant way to end the school day and it was great to have an activity parents could get involved in too.

"Not only was it great fun, our pupils got the opportunity to experience the celebrations of a different culture.

"It was lovely to see so many smiling faces."



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