

2024 Cultural and faith days of significance

Tradition	Day of significance	Level of observance A or B	How is study/work effected A: Day of significance on which study and work are effected. B: Day of significance however study and work are unaffected.	2024	2025
<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander spirituality</p> <p>Note for all days listed, cultural sensitivity is required as regional differences apply.</p> <p>All days of mourning are possible triggers of intergenerational trauma.</p> <p>(Information from My Deadly Culture Diary, VACCA and 2023 Aboriginal calendar of significant events- Creative Spirits, retrieved from https://www.creativesp)</p>	Survival Day, Day of Mourning, Invasion Day	A	<p>The anniversary of the arrival of the first fleet. Many Aboriginal people call this 'Invasion Day', 'Day of Mourning', or 'Survival Day'</p> <p>www.songlines.net.au</p> <p>Aboriginal Tent Embassy established 1972</p> <p>Marks the significance of colonialism and the intergenerational trauma from that and remembering the ancestors who have died. Managers and teachers should be sensitive to those who need this day off.</p>	26 Jan	26 Jan
	Anniversary of National Apology 2008	B	This day is marked differently by different people	13 Feb	13 Feb
	National Close the Gap Day	B		21 March	20 March
	National Sorry Day	A	<p>Anniversary of the tabling of the <i>Bringing them Home</i> report to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission which came out of the royal commission into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in custody. Day of mourning. This day impacts people in different ways. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are often made to do extra work educating other people about the ongoing impacts of the stolen generations.</p>	26 May	26 May

irits.info/aboriginalculture/history/aboriginal-calendar#january Protocols-for-Koorie-Education-in-Victorian-Primary-and-Secondary-Schools-2019.pdf (vaeai.org.au)	National Reconciliation Week	B	For all Australians to learn about and explore their contribution to reconciliation Also marks the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum which changed the constitution to allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to be counted in the census and to enable the Commonwealth government to make laws <i>for</i> First Nations people.	27 May- 3 June	2 June
	Mabo Day (part of National Reconciliation Week)	B	Commemorates the 1992 High Court decision recognising native title rights to the island of Mer and the efforts of Eddie Koiki Mabo (Public holiday in the Torres Strait)	3 June	3 June
	National NAIDOC Week	A	Celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Celebration of where Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander people are from and where we are now. Many events run during this week with community participation being key. Eg some workplaces give leave for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to attend events. www.naidoc.org.au	7 July	6 July
	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Day https://aboriginalchildrensday.com.au/	B	Encourages organisations and communities to stand for safety, wellbeing and rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children	4 Aug	4 Aug
	Sorry business Sorry Business: Mourning an Aboriginal death- Creative Spirits	A	Period of mourning marking the death of a community member, duration varies, no study or work undertaken during this period. Family can mean community so this will apply to more than immediate family.	When needed, multiple days plus travel may be required	
Baha'i This section is greyed out as these days were	Naw-Rúz The Bahá'í New Year				
	First Day of Ridván				
	Declaration of the Báb				
	Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh				

not able to be verified by a representative of the community.	Martyrdom of the Báb				
	Birth of the Báb				
	Birth of Bahá'u'lláh				
	Day of the Covenant				
	Ascension of 'Abdu'l-Bahá				
Buddhism	Lunar new year	A*	*As these are not public holidays, temple community groups move their celebrations to the nearest weekend. New Year and Vesak are the closest to being category A, however, most people study and work as usual.	10 Feb	29 Jan
	Theravada new year	B		24 April	13 April
	Losar	B		10 Feb	28 Feb
	Magha Puja Day	B		24 Feb	12 Feb
	Burmese, Khmer, Lao, Sri Lankan and Thai New Year	B		13 April	
	Vesak	A*		12 May	22 May
	Ulambana	B		18 Aug	
	Kathina	B		17 Oct	
Christianity	Maundy Thursday	A	Some people finish work/study early to attend a service	28 March	17 April
	Easter	A	Public holiday	29-31 March	18-20 April
	Christmas	A	Public holiday	25 Dec	25 Dec
Orthodox Christianity This section is greyed out as these days were not able to be verified by a representative of the community.	Theophany				
	Nativity of the Lord				
	Orthodox new year				
	Presentation of the Lord				
	Lent				
	Ash Wednesday				
	Annunciation				
	Palm Sunday				
	Good Friday				
	Pascha				
	Ascension				
	Pentecost				
	Transfiguration				
	Nativity				
Exaltation of the cross					

	All saints day				
	1 st Sunday of Advent				
	Presentation of Theotokos				
	Saints Day				
Hinduism	Makarsankranti / Pongal	B		15 Jan	14 Jan
	Thaipusam	B		25 Jan	11 Feb
	Vasant Panchami	B		14 Feb	2 Feb
	Maha Shivaratri	A	When celebrating this festival, the person is awake throughout the night and will be fasting	8 March	26 Feb
	Hindi New Year	B		20 March	29 March
	Holika Dahan	B		24 March	13 March
	Holi	A	This is an important festival when food and dress are distributed among family and friends. This might cause disruption to studies.	25 March	14 March
	Ugadi / Gudi Padwa / Telugu New Year	B		9 April	30 March
	Vaisakhi / Baisakhi / Vishu	A	When celebrating this day, the person wakes up early in the morning to do rituals.	13 April	14 April
	Tamil New Year	B		13 April	14 April
	Bengali New Year / Bihu	B		14 April	15 April
	Ramanavami	A	Important day when family celebrates together	17 April	6 April
	Hanuman Jayanti	B		23 April	12 April
	Akshaya Tritiya	B		10 May	30 April
	Savitri Pooja	B		6 June	26 May
	Puri Rath Yatra	B		7 July	27 June
	Guru Purnima	A	During this day teachers or scholars are remembered and prayed to.	21 July	10 July
	Nag Panchami	B		9 Aug	29 July
	Varalakshmi Vrat	B		16 Aug	8 Aug
	Raksha Bandhan	A	A significant day where universal brotherhood is celebrated	19 Aug	9 Aug

	Krishna Janmashtami	A	Very auspicious day for family to celebrate together	26 Aug	15 Aug
	Ganesh Chaturthi	A	The main day is celebrated with family and community	6 Sept	26 Aug
	Vishwakarma Puja	B		16 Sept	17 Sept
	Onam	A	State festival of Kerala where the main day is celebrated with family and community	5 Sept-17 Sept	26 Aug-7 Sept
	Mahalaya Amavasya	B		2 Oct	21 Sept
	Navaratri	A	The main day is very important for students. There will be disruption to studies as books and pens will be kept for worshipping symbolically	3 Oct-12 Oct	22 Sept-2 Oct
	Dussehra	B		12 Oct	2 Oct
	Sharad Purnima	B		16 Oct	6 Oct
	Karwa Chauth	A	Married women will be fasting the whole day, hence there could be disruption to studies	20-21 Oct	9-10 Oct
	Dhan Teras	B		29 Oct	18 Oct
	Diwali	A	Celebration of lights and knowledge	1 Nov	20 Oct
	Bhai Dooj	B		3 Nov	23 Oct
	Chhath Puja	B		7 -10 Nov	27 Oct
	Kartik Poornima	B		15 Nov	5 Nov
	Geeta Jayanti	B		11 Dec	1 Dec
	Dhanu Sankranti	B		15 Dec	16 Dec
Islam	Lailat al Miraj	B		6/02 (tentative)	6/02 (tentative)
	Lailat al Bara'ah	B		25/02 (tentative)	14/02 (tentative)
	Ramadan	A	Fasting for over 15 hours for 30 consecutive days during warmer months can be both mentally and physically strenuous for certain people. It can affect their ability to concentrate on work due to sleep being disrupted. Students also commonly	9/03-8/04 (tentative)	27/02-29/03 (tentative)

			struggle with time management, struggling to find balance between studies and personal worship they aim to increase during the Holy Month.		
	Laylat al Qadr	A	This is the period during the last 10 nights of Ramadan, when many Muslims engage in long periods of worship overnight. This, along with fasting during the day, can affect levels of concentration for many students, especially when they are working on assignments.	30/03-8/04 (tentative)	20/03-29/03 (tentative)
	Eid al-Fitr Festival	A	Many students or those in the workforce may feel forced to choose between going to class or work on time, or attending the Eid prayer in the morning. Many Muslims also have several family commitments to look after, which can add to the stress at the end of Ramadan.	9/04-11/04 (tentative)	30/03-2/04 (tentative)
	Waqf al Arafa- Hajj	A	This is a day of non-obligatory fasting coinciding with the Hajj pilgrimage during the first 10 days of the month of Dhul Hijjah. Many Muslims choose to fast on all 10 days, and may be affected in much the same way as during Ramadan.	6/06-15/06 (tentative)	26/05-5/06 (tentative)
	Eid-al-Adha	A	Much the same as Eid-al-Fitr	16/06-19/06 (tentative)	6/06-9/06 (tentative)
	Hijra- Islamic New Year	B		7/07 (tentative)	26/06 (tentative)
	Day of Ashura / Muharram	A	Fasting for 1-3 days could be fatiguing for some Muslims	16/07 (tentative)	5/06 (tentative)
	Milad un Nabi	B		15/09 (tentative)	4/09 (tentative)

Judaism For info on duration of observance and detail on activities not permitted see further explanation below.	Shabbat/sabbath: Every Friday from sunset until Saturday night	A	Friday evening to Saturday night No work	Times change weekly	
	Ta'anit Esther	B	Minor fast day	21 st March	
	Purim	B		24 th March	
	Pesach	A and B	2 days of festival with no work allowed, 4 days work is permitted, 2 days festival	Night of 22 nd – 30 th April	
	Yom HaShoah	B	1 day	Sunday night – Monday 6 th May	Wednes day night – Thursday 24 th April
	Yom HaZikaron	B	1 day	(night) 12 th – 13 th May	
	Yom HaAtzma'ut	B	1 day, right after Yom HaZikaron	13 th (night) – 14 th May	
	Lag BaOmer	B	1 day	25 th (night) - 26 th May	
	Shavout	A	2 days, no work	11 th (night) – 13 th June	
	Fast of Tammuz	B	Minor fast day	23 rd July	
	Tisha B'Av	B	Major fast day, work allowed after noon	12 th (night) - 13 th Aug	
	Rosh HaShanah	A	2 days, no work (Jewish New Year)	2 nd (night) – 4 th Oct	

		Fast of Gedaliah	B	Minor fast day	6 October	
		Yom Kippur	A	1 day, no work, major fast day (Holiest day in Jcal)	11 th (night) – 12 th October	
		Sukkot	A and B	See note	16 th (night) – 25 th October	
		Shmini Atzeret	A	No work, 1 day	24 th October	
		Simchat Torah	A	No work, 1 day	25 th Oct	
		Chanukah	B	8 days	7 th (night) -15 th December	
Sikhism	Perkash	Guru Gobind Singh Ji (10 th Guru)	A*	*Most people who celebrate these festivals go to the Gurdwara after work in the evening. This varies with individual practices and families and so some students and staff may take the day off.	17 January	Dates in the Sikh calendar will be released closer to the new year
	Perkash	Sri Guru Har Rai Sahib ji (7 th Guru)	B		22 February	
	Festival	Sikh New Year	A*	14 March		
	Guruship	Sri Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji (7 th Guru)	B	Guruship- When Guru's title was given. Joti Jyot- Immersion in Eternal Light- God (Death anniversary)	07 April	
	Guruship	Sri Guru Amar Das Ji (3 rd Guru)	B	Perkash- Birth	09 April	
	Joti Jyot	Sri Guru Angad Dev Ji (2 nd Guru)	B		12 April	
	Joti Jyot	Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji (9 th Guru)	B		13 April	
	Festival	Vaisakhi – Perkash of Khalsa	A*		13 April	

	Guruship	Sri Guru Tegh Bahadir Sahib Ji (9 th Guru)	B		21 April	
	Joti Jyot	Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji (8 th Guru)	B		22 April	
	Perkash	Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib ji (9 th Guru)	B		29 April	
	Perkash	Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji (5 th Guru)	B		30 April	
	Perkash	Sri Guru Angad Dev Ji (2 nd Guru)	B		09 May	
	Perkash	Sri Guru Amar Das Ji (3 rd Guru)	B		22 May	
	Guruship	Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji (6 th Guru)	B		31 May	
	Joti Jyot	Shaheedi Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji (5 th Guru)	B		10 June	
	Perkash	Sri Guru Hargobind Sahib Ji (6 th Guru)	B		22 June	
	Perkash	Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji (8 th Guru)	B		29 July	
	1 st Perkash	Aad Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Living Guru)	B		04 Sept	
	Guruship	Sri Guru Arjan Dev Ji (5 th Guru)	B		05 Sept	
	Joti Jyot	Sri Guru Ram Das Ji (4 th Guru)	B		06 Sept	
	Guruship	Sri Guru Ram Das Ji (4 th Guru)	B		16 Sept	
	Joti Jyot	Sri Guru Amar Das Ji (3 rd Guru)	B		18 Sept	

	Guruship	Sri Guru Angad Dev Ji (2 nd Guru)	B		22 Sept	
	Joti Jyot	Sri guru Nanak Dev Ji (1 st Guru)	B		27 Sept	
	Perkash	Sri Guru Ram Das Ji (4 th Guru)	B		19 Oct	
	Joti Jyot	Sri Guru Har Rai Sahib Ji (7 th Guru)	B		25 Oct	
	Joti Jyot	Sri Guru Harkrishan Sahib Ji (8 th Guru)	B		25 Oct	
	Historical	Bandhi Chor Diwas	A*		01 Nov	
	Guruship	Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji (Living Guru)	B		03 Nov	
	Joti Jyot	Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji (10 th Guru)	B		06 Nov	
	Perkash	Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji (1 st Guru)	A*		15 Nov	
	Guruship	Sr Guru Gobind Singh Ji (10 th Guru)	B		04 Dec	
	Joti Jyot	Shaheedi Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib Ji (9 th Guru)	B		06 Dec	

Judaism

On Category A days:

The festival starts at sunset the night before (like how the Sabbath starts on Friday evening) and typically ends at nightfall.

In this instance, students who observe these rules will not

- Attend classes, in person or online
- Use technology
- Do any sort of 'work' in person or online
- Writing
- Cutting
- Lighting or extinguishing fires
- Sorting things
- Discuss or conduct business or trade

See this [link](#) for more info

A and B: this is an 8 day festival split into 2 days, 4 days, and 2 days. On the first and last days, it is in the A category, if it is the middle 4 it is B.

Note: for Sukkot, it is 2 A festival days followed by 4 B days before the festivals of Shmini Atzeret and Simchat Torah happen immediately after. Usually, all 3 festivals can be lumped under the umbrella of Sukkot due to it happening within the same week/period of time

There are 2 lengths of fast days, minor and major. Major fast days, like most festivals, start the night before and end at nightfall the next day, lasting 25 hours. Minor fast days begin that day, before the sunrises and end at nightfall, typically lasting 12 hours.

In both instances, no food or water is permitted (unless one has medical conditions and is unable to do so) as well as other minor things that may depend on the student (see [here](#))

Note: on many info sheets, some holidays say they are 1 or 2, or 7 or 8 days. In Israel, they celebrate 1 or 7 days, but in the diaspora, we add an extra day.