

○ 授業日(class day) ✕ 休み(closed day)

2023 4 April	2023 5 May	2023 6 June
2023 7 July	2023 8 August	2023 9 September
2023 10 October	2023 11 November	2023 12 December
2024 1 January	2024 2 February	2024 3 March

Free
Japanese
class

Sunday
AM10:00
~
AM11:45

Shiojiri
Sogo
Bunka center
2F
No.204



ようこそ Newsletter 2023.. No.3

Shiojiri city Foreign Residents Consultation Counter
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Shiojiri City Foreign Residents Consultation Counter Newsletter

ようこそ

ようこそ means "welcome" in English

2023.No.3





What is Obon?

Obon is carried out from August 13 to 16 in most of areas in Japan.

Obon is an event in Japan to worship the spirits of ancestors. It is said that ancestral spirits come back to the family in the Obon period. It's time to thank you your ancestors.



Although Obon is not an official holiday, many offices are temporarily closed for business during this period.



Due to this measure, many employees can easily plan and go back to their hometowns for family gatherings.



"Welcoming Fire" and "Farewell Fire"

People get ready to welcome the spirits of ancestors by making 'Welcoming fires' on the 13th of August. We burn the KANBA in front of the grave and in front of the entrance of the house.



KANBA is a dried skin of a birch tree. The welcome fire is to show a sign for the spirits to come back to without getting lost. People light fires again to send the spirits back on the 16th of August. The farewell fire is made as a proof of sending the spirits off.

Bon dance

Bon dance is originally an event to calm the ancestral spirits that came back during Obon. However, it is enjoyed as a recreational event nowadays and the religious meaning has softened. Dancing in YUKATA will be a fun memory of summer.

