

Is it important to celebrate the New Year?

Year 2

Spring Term 1

Key Questions

How do you celebrate the New Year?

Do you know anyone who makes New Year's resolutions?

How do Jews, Muslims and Sikhs celebrate the New Year?

Is it necessary to celebrate New Year?

Is it important to you and your family to celebrate the New Year? Why?

In this unit the children will learn:

- To explore and identify key features of festivals
- The story of the creation of Adam and Eve and the sacrifice of Isaac
- About Rosh Hashanah, Shofar and the New Year celebrations



Key content:

- The western new year, starting in January is named after the Roman god Janus, with two heads – looking to the past and the future.
- The Jewish new year of Rosh Hashanah (Head of the Year) is about leaving their old shortcomings behind and look forward to a sweet new year.
- At Rosh Hashanah, the Shofar, a ram's horn is sounded both as a call to repentance and as a celebration of the coronation of a King – God as King of the Universe.

Key content:

- The Islamic calendar began with the migration – or Hijra – of the Prophet Muhammad and his followers from Mecca to Medina.
- Baisakhi, celebrated on 14th April each year, remembers the founding of the Khalsa in 1699 by Guru Gobind Singh, but is not actually the Sikh New year, which is actually the 13th March and remembers the birthday of Guru Har Rai, so is a more traditional Gurburb with the reading of the Guru Granth Sahib.

Key Vocabulary

Adam: the first man

Eve: the first woman

Rosh Hashanah: the Jewish New Year

Abraham: the Hebrew patriarch

Yom Kippur: the most solemn religious fast of the Jewish year

Hijra: Muhammad's departure from Mecca to Medina in ad 622

Mecca: the holiest city of Islam

Khalsa: a community that considers Sikhism as its faith

