

**NCJPS
St Anns Road North
Heald Green
Cheadle
Cheshire
SK8 4RZ**

DEAR ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL,

I am going to tell you about Rosh Hashanah and what we do on Rosh Hashanah. I will put it under different headings.

ROSH HASHANAH

Rosh Hashanah is a Jewish New Year. Unlike a secular New Year, it starts in September. We call it Rosh Hashanah because in the Jews language (Hebrew) Rosh means head and Shanah means year. Rosh Hashanah is the day of repentance.

APPLE & HONEY

On Rosh Hashanah we dip apple in honey because it represents a sweet New Year. We have an apple because it is round and the year goes round so that is why we don't use a pear or a banana! We have honey because it is sweet and we want a sweet New Year.

SHOFAR

The Shofar is made of a ram's horn. It is a wakeup call. We blow it on Rosh Hashanah. When we hear the Shofar it wakes us up to do good deeds.

FISH HEAD

On the table we have a fish head. We have a fish **HEAD** because Rosh Hashanah is the head of the Year. Some people even eat the flesh of the fish head!

ROUND CHALLAH

Challah is a type of bread. We usually have plaited Challah but on Rosh Hashanah, we have Round Challah because the Year goes round.

Now I am going to tell you about two more very important festivals that the Jews celebrate.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Moshe, the Jewish leader, went up a Mountain called Mount Sinai. He stayed up there for forty days learning Torah which is a scroll like the Bible. When he came down he had some tablets (stones) called The Ten Commandments but to his horror, he saw a golden idol of a calf (a baby cow) which the Jews had built. One of the laws in The Ten Commandments is, "Do not build idols". Moshe was so angry that he dropped The Ten Commandments and they broke! So he went up the Mountain again and stayed there for forty more days. Then he came down again with another set of tablets. We celebrate receiving The Ten Commandments on a festival called Shavuot.

SIMCHAT TORAH

On a festival called Simchat Torah we celebrate finishing the Torah. It is a very happy moment. There are lots and lots of sweets, chocolate, crisps and drinks. Late at night the festival still goes on and when the celebrating is done we start the Torah all over again!

I hope you have learnt a lot about the Jewish religion.

Yours sincerely,

BEN

P.S HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!!!!