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Dear St Mary's,

Thank you for the lovely letter you sent us it was a lovely gesture. Here is a letter explaining what Rosh Hashanah is all about.

Just to clear up there are no fireworks, no big bonfire and no big clocks ringing. Rosh Hashanah is basically the Jewish New Year, it has lots of items that represent something. There is lots of food which represents something. The pomegranate is because there are loads of seeds and there are loads of mitzvot, (good deeds). You dip apple in honey, which is because the apple is round like the year and the honey is sweet wishing you a sweet new year. The bread (Challah) is round symbolizing the year goes round. All Jews have a fish head on Rosh Hashanah but only some Jews eat it. The fish head symbolizes that it's the head of the year.



There are several reasons why we blow the shofar (a rams horn we blow into)

1. It's loud to awaken you to do mitzvot.
2. It reminds us of how Hashem our god told Abraham to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham was about to do it but Hashem stopped him and said that it was a test to see if he trusted him. Then Hashem told Abraham to sacrifice a ram instead. And a ram is the animal the shofar comes from.

The Jewish calendar is a lunar calendar so the New Year is before the other New Year or after it depending on which way you look at it. The Jewish New Year is always in September and Tishrei, (a Jewish month). A lunar calendar has a new month every new moon.



Some people believe all your good deeds get put into the book of life as well as a set of scales that weighs your bad deeds as well as your good deeds. Whichever side is heavier decides what kind of year we are going to have.



Rosh Hashanah is a time to apologise and ask for forgiveness. Traditionally we ask our friends for forgiveness. Rosh Hashanah is like rubbing out a mistake.

Moshe the Jewish leader went up Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, the Jews who were waiting for him counted one day too short and they thought he wasn't going to come down. The Jews lost their faith in Hashem so they built a golden calf, that was worshipping a different religion. When Moshe came down with the Ten Commandments he was so shocked he dropped the tablets and they broke so he had to go back up Sinai for forty more days and forty more nights. We celebrate getting the Ten Commandments with a festival called Shavuot.



On Rosh Hashanah we hear the shofar 100 times or at least 30.

☆ Yours Sincerely,

Woody ☆

