



## Ramadan

is a holy month for Muslims. During the month of Ramadan Muslims won't eat or drink between dawn and sunset. This is called fasting. It allows Muslims to devote themselves to their faith and become closer to Allah, or God. Fasting is 1 of the 5 pillars of Islam which form the basis of how Muslims live their lives. The other pillars are; faith, prayer, charity and a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca. Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family and friends.

## Eid

Muslims celebrate **Eid** to mark the end of Ramadan. Eid al-Fitr means - 'festival of the breaking of the fast' and is one of the biggest celebrations in the Islamic year. The date depends on the cycle of the moon. The month of Ramadan is a time for spiritual reflection, prayer, doing good deeds and spending time with family & friends. When Ramadan is over Muslims celebrate by praying, giving gifts and having a big feast with their family and friends.



## Rosh Hashanah

is a special festival which celebrates Jewish New Year. It literally means 'head of the year'. The festival lasts for two days. It is always two days in autumn, as it comes from the Hebrew calendar. It is a celebration of the creation of the world and marks making a fresh start. It is a time for people to reflect on the past year and to ask forgiveness for anything wrong they feel they have done. They can also think about their priorities in life and what is important to them. Jewish families will spend some time at a synagogue. Apple and honey are often eaten, symbolising a sweet New Year. One of the traditions is to blow a big horn called a Shofar. It ends with Yom Kippur the holiest day of the year.