

# **JUMPING INTO LEAP YEARS:**

## **Why February 29th is Extra Special**

Have you ever heard of leap years? They're pretty cool! Leap years help our calendar stay in sync with how long it takes for the Earth to go all the way around the Sun.

Think of it like this: normally, we have 365 days in a year, right? But did you know that it actually takes about 365.25 days for the Earth to complete its journey around the Sun? That's a bit more than our calendar counts!

So, every four years, we add an extra day to the calendar. That day is February 29th, and it's called a leap day! It's like a special bonus day that helps us catch up with the Earth's trip around the Sun.

Without leap years, our calendar would get all mixed up with the seasons. Can you imagine having winter in July? Brrr, that would be chilly! But thanks to leap years, our calendar stays on track, and we can enjoy the right seasons at the right time. So, next time you see February 29th on the calendar, remember, it's a leap day, and it's there to keep our calendar hopping along smoothly!

1. What is a leap year, and why do we have leap years?
2. How often do we have leap years?
3. What happens during a leap year to our calendar?
4. Why is it important to have leap years?