The Earth – Day and Night

If you can go to this web page <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clips/zrd9wmn>

Watch the four clips on the site to learn about day and night.

If you can’t access this, then read this passage.

**Daytime is when you can see the sun from where you are, and its light and heat can reach you. Night time is when the sun is on the other side of the Earth from you, and its light and heat don’t get to you.**

We get day and night because the Earth spins (or rotates) on an imaginary line called its axis and different parts of the planet are facing towards the Sun or away from it.

It takes 24 hours for the world to turn all the way around, and we call this a day. Over a year, the length of the daytime in the part of the Earth where you live changes. Days are longer in the summer and shorter in the winter.

**As the Earth moves around the Sun it rotates on its axis, so we have day and night.**The side of the Earth facing the Sun is bathed in light and heat (daytime). The side of the Earth facing away from the Sun, out towards space, is darker and colder (night time).

**It takes just over 365 days for the Earth to travel all the way around the Sun. We call the length of time the Earth's revolution around the Sun takes a year**, but to make life easier, most years have 365 days and every fourth year has 366 days. We call a year with 366 days a leap year. The extra day is February 29th. The years 2012 and 2016 were leap years; 2020 and 2024 will also be leap years.

The further you are from the equator, the longer a day will be in summer and the shorter it will be in winter.  On the longest day of the year in London there are about 16 hours and 39 minutes of daylight, but in Edinburgh, 400 miles north of London, there are 17 hours and 36 minutes of daylight. This is because Edinburgh is further away from the equator than London is.

You should be able to explain how we get day and night and why the amount of daylight changes throughout the year.

When do we in the UK have our ‘longest day? That is the day that has the most daylight?

When do we have our ‘shortest day’?

When are the two days when we have an equal amount of daylight and darkness?

Can you find out the proper names of these four special days?