

Hey, welcome back. Did you have a good vacation? Mine was eventful<sup>1</sup>. I am very excited about the New Year and I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again. 2016 is going to be an amazing<sup>2</sup> year. You are all going to do and try so many new things and I hope you are excited too. It is also a leap year<sup>3</sup>. That means the year is divisible by 4<sup>4</sup> and February will have 29 days instead of<sup>5</sup> 28. Do any of you have a birthday on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February? If you do, come and see me on that day and I'll buy you an ice cream! Have a wonderful year.

## Something You Didn't Know (Leap Years)

- 1. A leap year is necessary<sup>6</sup> because it takes 365.2422 days for the Earth to orbit the sun<sup>7</sup>. If we didn't have a leap year our days would slowly go out of sync<sup>8</sup> with the seasons<sup>9</sup>.
- Before Julius Caesar<sup>10</sup> the year was 355 days long and there was an extra 22 day month once every two years. This didn't work and festivals (like our Christmas) ended up<sup>11</sup> in the wrong seasons. Caesar told his astronomer<sup>12</sup>, Sosigenes, to fix<sup>13</sup> it, and he invented<sup>14</sup> our current<sup>15</sup> system.
- 3. We know that if a year is divisible by 4 it is a leap year, but that isn't completely<sup>16</sup> true. A year is 365.2422 days, not 365.25. That means even a leap year system goes out of sync. So, we need to lose 3 leap year days every 400 years. If a year is divisible by 100 but not by 400, then it is not a leap year. For example, 2000 is but 1900, 1800 and 1700 are not.

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<u>Announcements</u> To be honest, I have left my diary at school, so I can't remember. There is an opening assembly, and some ski classes, and maybe some other things.

## <u>News</u> David Bowie and Alan Rickman Both Die at 69

This news was going to concentrate<sup>17</sup> on the death<sup>18</sup> of David Bowie last week. He is a legend<sup>19</sup> and his death was a great shock<sup>20</sup>. But then, as I was typing, Alan Rickman died, and he is one of my favorite actors so I need to<sup>21</sup> write about him as well. This was a very sad week. I'm hoping that you will have all heard of David Bowie but I am certain<sup>22</sup> you will know Alan Rickman.





David Bowie died at the age of 69, last week. He was a singer and he was hugely successful<sup>23</sup> in every decade<sup>24</sup> since the 1960s. He constantly<sup>25</sup> reinvented himself<sup>26</sup>. He was loved by many generations<sup>27</sup> and his music will live on long after him. If you have never heard of him, then please, do yourself a favor<sup>28</sup> and spend thirty minutes on youtube.



**1.Eventful** 多事多端 2.Amazing 素晴らしい 3.Leap year うるう年 4. Divisible by 4 4 で割り切れる 5. Instead of の代わりに 6.Necessary 必要 7.Orbit the sun 太陽を周回する 8.Out of sync 同期していな い 9.Season 季節 10.Julius Caesar ユリウス・カエサル 11.End up になる 12.Astronomer 天文学者 13.Fix 直す 14.Invent 発明する 15.Current 現在 16.Completely 完全に 17.Concentrate 集中 18.Death 死亡 19.Legend 伝説 20.Great shock 大きな衝撃 21.Need to~するのは必要 22.Certain 必ず 23.Hugely successful 大成功を収めた 24.Decade 十年間 25.Constantly いつも 26.Reinvent oneself 自分自身を再び創造する 27.Generation 世代 28.Do yourself a favor 自分に何かをしてあげなさい、 これをやらないと 29.Generally ほとんど 30.Villain 悪い役 31.Excellent 素晴らしい 32.Sympathetic hero 同情的なヒーロー33.Definitely 間違いなく



Alan Rickman also died at the age of 69. He was a wonderful actor and generally<sup>29</sup> played villains<sup>30</sup> but he was also excellent<sup>31</sup> as a sympathetic hero<sup>32</sup>. You may not know his name but you will definitely<sup>33</sup> know the character he played in the Harry Potter movie series. They will both be missed.