

Palindromes ... magical numbers, mystical meanings?

January 12th, 2021 - nothing magical or mystical about that, date is there? Well, look again, and think about the different ways in which we can write it -

12/1/2021

12/01/2021

12.1.2021

12.01.2021

...Or even 12.1.21

This last form of the date shows us something called a **PALINDROME**. This means the numbers are **exactly the same backwards as forwards** - 12121 and 12121

Can you think of some other dates from the past that would also have been palindrome dates? Give some examples, from the year 2000 onwards, eg 1.11.11 - November 1st, 2011

1.

2.

3.

The word 'palindrome' comes from the language that was spoken by the people in Ancient Greece - Greek - 'palin' means back again or return and 'drome' means run, or running - so, numbers that run backwards as well as forwards.



BTW...Can you think of any other words we use in English that end in 'drome'?**

You can also have **palindromes with letters**, where a word reads the same backwards as well as forwards, such as **kayak** or **noon** - or maybe even a whole phrase - **was it a car or a cat I saw?** (This is one time when we don't worry about spaces between words, or punctuation - we just look at the letters!) Another example is - **never odd or even**.

Try to think of some examples of words you know that are palindromes, and keep a list. **One house point will be given for each word you think of that no-one else in the class has on their list! There will also be multiple house points for anyone who can actually come up with a pallindrome sentence, so keep the list in your work pack and bring it to school on our return.**

In the meantime, any Palindrome Day is meant to be a little bit special, a bit magical, so have a magical Tuesday January 12th, and I hope it brings you good luck!

**Try 'velodrome' - an indoor cycling race track, or even 'hippodrome' - a horse ring or indoor track for horses to run in.