How long does it take for the Earth to orbit the Sun?

Obviously, the answer is one year or 365.25 days. It is not so simple though as there are a number of definitions of a year. For example,

* Tropical year, which is from equinox to equinox, that is from the time the Sun crosses the celestial equator from south to north to the next time 365.2425 days.
* Anomalistic year, from the time the Earth is at its closest to the Sun to the next time 365.2596 days.
* Sidereal year, from one time a particular star is in a given position to the next time 365.2563 days.

Why is it necessary to divide by 400 and 100 to check leap year?

A year corresponds to 365.2425 days exactly. (Tropical year)

So for 100 years it has to be 36524.25 days.

We normally have,

36500 days (for 100 years) + 1×24 days ( for the 24 leap years out of that 100 years excluding that 100th year).

So it amounts to .25 days deficit for every 100 years.

That is 1 day deficit for every 400 years.

So if we consider every 400th year to have 366 days we would have compensated that one day deficit.

Hence we consider every 400th year or every 4th century as leap year and not the other centuries.

Now, all the centuries which are multiples of 400 are leap years. So we divide centuries by 400 to check for leap years.