

Christmas past and present

How do we celebrate Christmas?

Has Christmas always looked like this?

Toys past and present

Does everyone celebrate Christmas?

Key Vocabulary

Celebration	Gifts
Tradition	Christianity
Nativity	Presents
Jesus	Toys
Mary and Joseph	
Decorations	Past/Present

We will be...

- Sharing the story of The Nativity and Christmas
- Discussing and exploring the traditions and celebrations of Christmas past and present.
- Performing a story e.g. The Nativity
- Decorating the classroom for Christmas
- Exploring gifts and toys from the past
- Writing letters to Santa.



Key Information

Christmas is a Christian celebration – it is celebrated each year on 25th December

There are lots of ways people celebrate Christmas – this can include retelling the story of The Nativity, having turkey for Christmas dinner, decorating the house with a Christmas tree and giving and receiving gifts.

Gifts have changed over the years and the toys children play with now are not all the same as they toys that children played with years ago.

Things to do at home

- What do you do to celebrate? Show us your traditions.
- Show us pictures of your decorations, if you have some.
- Write your Christmas wish list.
- What toys do you have at home? How are these different to ones we have looked at in school?
- Show us your favourite toy and tell us why it's your favourite



Key Texts

Stickman – Julia Donaldson The Nativity Naughty Bus – Jan and Jerry Oke



The toymaker – Martin Waddell and Terry Milne
Stanley's Stick – Neal Layton and John Hegley

Horizons

- Research different toys past and present
- Explore different toys around the world

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Share key events with others – how do you celebrate Christmas? Do we all celebrate the same things?

Think about the perspectives of others – listen to and discuss with other children as you discuss which toys you like and don't like. Vote for our favourite toy.

Invite children to bring in their favourite toy to discuss – some children might want to bring in a baby toy

Talk about how we look after toys in our setting

Physical Development

Wrapping gifts

Decorating the environment or using tools to create our own decorations

Use the woodwork bench/creative areas to make out own toys

Play with a variety of toys that move different muscles – small wind up toys, large bikes

Communication and Language

Using the new vocabulary in context, encouraging whole sentences

Retell key texts and traditional stories

Share key events with others – how do you celebrate Christmas? Do we all celebrate the same things?

Circle time sharing images and artefacts (old toys and new toys)

Literacy

Share key texts linked to the topic

Write a letter to Santa

Write cards to special people

Use topic based vocabulary

Label toys old and new

Stick puppets and story sacks to retell key texts and traditional stories

Maths

Explore calendars, days and months of the year

Explore size and weight of gifts/bags

Create patterns on wrapping paper

Understanding of the world

Invite visitors to talk about their religion and traditions

Explore how electronic toys have changed over time

Visit different places of worship

Where can you buy toys?

Explore non-fiction texts about the different traditions

Explore toys around the world

Explore real toys past and present – what gifts did people used to receive? How are the toys different? Sort them into old and new

Expressive Arts and Design

Design and create cards for different occasions

Use different tools and resources to create decorations to celebrate the different traditions

Design and create a new toy

Santa's workshop role play

Suggested Resources

Decorations for Christmas to decorate the classroom or explore

Non-fiction books relating to Christmas and the traditions

Christmas objects to explore e.g wrapping paper, Christmas tree, gift bags

Old and new toys to explore and discuss (real and images)

Non-fiction books linked to toys

Santa's workshop role play

Junk modelling/woodwork items to design and create new toys